

THE CORONADO NEWS

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Coronado calls for accountability and funding from Mexico in the new year

A city representative gave testimony about the decades-long sewage pollution in December

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The city of Coronado faces a pervasive reality with the start of a new year: more beach closures.

From the Silver Strand shoreline to North Island, Coronado beaches were closed at the start of 2026 due to bacteria levels exceeding health standards resulting from transborder sewage pollution emanating from Mexico.

Water data by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission shows the Tijuana River's flow peaked on Jan. 1 in the aftermath of a storm.

According to Frank Fisher, the

agency's public affairs officer, the South Bay plant is performing well and handling the increased flows.

"Everything that flows into the plant is treated or recycled," he said, noting most of the river flows were stormwater not raw sewage.

These beach closures happened in the weeks after the city adopted a revised resolution for continued advocacy to resolve the crisis, renewed its local emergency resolution and identified eliminating cross-border

water pollution in a discussion about its 2026 priority legislative goals.

The city's proposed goal to "impose defined accountability measures" on Mexico for the future degradation, lack of maintenance or upscaling of treatment infrastructure is further outlined in its legislative guidelines which encourage advocacy for Mexican wastewater infrastructure proj-

» Continued on Page 9

Editor's picks: The Coronado News' best of 2025

BY SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

By now you are probably tired of seeing the yearly roundups, the "wrapped" versions of every music, fitness and social media site you are a part of.

But sitting down to reflect on the stories our paper has covered over the past year, I realized that it's actually a very important exercise to take inventory of yearly events in our town.

I am reminded of just how engaged and invested this community is, and how important it is for us to cover the daily

news of Coronado with fair and accurate journalism.

So, thank you so much for reading our content and inviting us into your stories.

Here is our take on the top four storylines this year -- those that had the most community impact and highest level of engagement:

Port ends lease with ferry landing

In October, the Port of San Diego made a closed-door decision to not extend its lease to the operators of the Coronado Ferry Landing. For 40 years, Port Coronado Associates has managed the property which is home

to 19 businesses. A termination of the lease, which is now under consideration for a one-year extension, leaves local businesses owners questioning their future.

This is a decision that has significant ramifications for many people in this community. It is a controversy that, for me, reinforces how important journalism is in shedding light on an issue that, at face value, lacks clarity.

Vermin in local businesses

Rats and roaches have quite literally been pestering local restaurant owners for a long time. A story we published in August looks

» Continued on Page 8



The Coronado News presents 2025 in stories. File photo by Madeline Yang.

Police officers hired after new labor contracts between CPD and the city

After negotiations were made between the police department and the city, Keisha Llarenas was one out of two new officers hired in Coronado

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

When Keisha Llarenas pinned on her badge with the Coronado Police Department in September, it marked the beginning of new contracts signed between the city and its law

enforcement officers.

The new labor agreement, which increased salaries and benefits for officers, helped the department stay competitive. And Llarenas, a 9-year officer who previously worked for the California Department of Insurance Fraud Division, became one of

two new officers brought on board following the agreement.

For Llarenas, the timing and the location felt right.

"I only applied for Coronado," Llarenas told The Coronado News. "I have a bunch of friends that work here ... There's a lot of room for

growth because so many people are retiring."

Llarenas, 35, grew up in Guam but moved to the mainland in 1994. She got her bachelor's degree from Cal State San Marcos in criminal justice

» Continued on Page 8

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★ ★ ★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

Opinion/Letters 4
Local News 5-9

Navy
Sports

10
12-15

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

this week

10 • Saturday

KMAC Foundation for Accessible Sailing is starting its winter season on Jan. 10 at the Coronado Yacht Club at 11:30 a.m. Sailors and new volunteers are welcome. Visit kmacfoundation.com for more information.

10 • Saturday

The Avanti Flute Choir will present its annual winter concert on Jan. 10 at 3 p.m. in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library, featuring works by J. S. Bach, Percy Grainger, Daniel Cueto, F. J. Gossec, some movie music and even a pop medley. There will be a reception to follow.

14 • Wednesday

Registration opens on Jan. 14 for non-Coronado residents to join a spring youth musical with the Coronado Junior Arts League. Youth performers ages 8 to 16 can audition for "The Jungle Book," which is slated for performances in May. Registration opened for Coronado residents on Jan. 7, and audition prep workshops begin Feb. 17.

14 • Wednesday

The Coronado Soroptimist club invites the community to the Live Your Dream award ceremony, where scholarships will be awarded to women who have faced significant challenges but are still pursuing a two or four-year degree. The ceremony is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Coronado's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

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

Jessica Secrest to unveil new cookbook on Jan. 13

Coronado News staff

On Jan. 13 at the Coronado Performing Arts Center, Jessica Secrest is scheduled to unveil her first cookbook, "Of Course It's Good!"

Secrest will discuss her book, filled with non-nonsense recipes, with Coronado's own Melissa D'Arabian, winner of The Next Food Network Star.

Secrest's cookbook includes recipes designed for real life, like tater tots and slow cooker meals. Tickets for the 7 p.m. event are \$10. To receive a copy of the book for one person, tickets are \$31.60. For two people sharing one book, tickets are \$39.83.

The event is in partnership with Warwick's and serves as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Coronado Public Library. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jessica-secrest-of-course-its-good-tickets-1935593816209>.



Jessica Secrest will be in conversation with Melissa D'Arabian on Jan. 13 at the Coronado Performing Arts Center.

Photo provided by Coronado Public Library.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Goldman

PAWS of Coronado

Goldman 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 Goldman is a gentleman with a heart of pure gold.

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 Goldman or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.

Call us at:
(619)
435-8247

Meet Goldman, 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.

Get Vaccinated Close to Home



Protect yourself against COVID-19 and the flu. Staying up to date on vaccines is the most important step you and your loved ones can take to be safe.

The Sharp Coronado Community Pharmacy offers COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Located next to Sharp Coronado Hospital, the pharmacy is open 7 days a week. We accept almost all health insurance, including TRICARE.

Visit sharp.com/coronado or call 619-522-3996 for more information.



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OPINION

What role does the new minute play in solving the sewage crisis?

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD
The Coronado News

This year has seen many developments in the Tijuana sewage crisis – expedited timelines, memorandums of understanding, attempts at Superfund designation. And the most recent: a new agreement signed by the U.S. and Mexico called Minute 333.

Before your eyes glaze over at the mention of another unintelligible bureaucratic term, let’s break down what this agreement really means, and where it puts us enroute to a final solution to this decades-long problem.

We saw a memorandum of understanding, or a “firm handshake,” between the U.S. and Mexico come through in July. This agreement, not legally-binding, promised funding and expedited timelines for expanded sewage treatment and infrastructure. It also promised the signing of Minute 333, which was officially adopted Dec. 15.

The dates are important here because they are evidence that U.S. and Mexican officials are meeting deadlines and following through on their promises – so far.

Through a series of “minutes,” commissioners within the International Boundary and Water Commission record the decisions they make for planning, construction and maintenance of cross-border water-related issues – the sewage crisis



Minute 333 was adopted on Dec. 15. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

next door being one of them.

Once approved by the U.S. and Mexico, the minutes become binding obligations for both countries. Instead of needing a massive overhaul to the 1944 Treaty with Mexico, minutes act as amendments, each one reflecting adaptations to the treaty over the years.

Minute 328, is still being implemented, but its project timelines were accelerated under the MOU.

This new agreement reconfirms commitment to those actions from the MOU – installing an ocean outfall, expanding treatment capacity at the Tijuana plant from 18 million gallons per day (mgd) to 43 mgd, and updating a water master plan, to name a few.

Essentially it’s another way to say, “We’re still working on it.”

There is one addition that had been missing from previous agree-

ments though: making sure Tijuana’s water infrastructure accounts for future population growth.

What we’re seeing in this new pact is a commitment to actions that were already identified in the MOU. But now, those commitments have more teeth as a “binding obligation.”

What we aren’t seeing yet is insurance that Mexico won’t repeat the failures that got us to this point.

Maybe the best vehicle to do so is through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Coronado leaders seem to think so. In November, the city sent a letter to Jamieson Greer, the U.S. Trade Representative, asking to incorporate more enforcement mechanisms for Mexico when the USMCA is reviewed in July.

In the letter, city officials say they strongly support “any mechanism to ensure that Mexico stops sending raw sewage and toxic waste to the United States.”

The letter claims incentives alone have been ineffective. It’s time for real, measurable consequences. These could include economic, trade, and monetary penalties.

The train has left the station in terms of forward-moving progress – the adoption of Minute 333 is evidence of that. But we still need more commitment and enforcement to make sure our local beaches aren’t getting infiltrated with sewage 30 years down the road.

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

LISA BENSON



JACK OHMAN



The PROSTITUTION MYTH

Sex trafficking? Not in America's Finest City.

The UGLY TRUTH

According to the FBI, traffickers are exploiting people here every day.

The underground sex trade in San Diego prostitutes as many as 8,100 local women and girls every year, generating over 800 million dollars in annual revenue. And because prostitution and sex trafficking can occur at private homes, hotels, casinos and fake massage parlors, it's happening more often than you think. And doing more damage than most of us can imagine.



Get the facts at TheUglyTruthSD.org

For help call 1-888-373-7888 or text "BeFree" (233733)

CORONADO

New state law requires rear reflectors on e-bikes

A 2026 mandate reinforces safety while operating electric bicycles

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

A new state law is requiring all e-bikes be equipped with back lights, such as a red reflector on the rear that is visible from a 500-foot distance during all hours of operation, and not just during darkness as the law previously required.

Assembly Bill 544, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2025, now mandates a red reflector or a solid or flashing red light with a built-in reflector on the rear of electric bicycles during the day.

The assembly bill, authored by Assemblymember Laurie Davies, took effect on Jan. 1, 2026 and mandates the equipment at all times. Failure to comply with equipping an electric bicycle would be an infraction.

Coronado council member Amy Steward, a bicycling advocate, said a lot of bicycles are already equipped with reflectors and compliance for e-bikes is "just a matter of letting people know" about the state law through city outreach.

According to Steward, Coronado was the first city to adopt an e-bike ordinance under Assembly Bill 2234, a 2025 statute that prohibits a person under 12 years of age from operating a class 1 or 2 electric bicycle through Jan. 1, 2029. AB 2234 did not require a red reflector during the day.

AB 544 also waives \$25 helmet infraction fines if a parent or guard-

ian can prove their child has a helmet that meets specific standards and has completed a bicycle safety course, which the specialized electric bicycle safety course developed by the Department of the California Highway Patrol satisfies.

Coronado's e-bike rules

Coronado's regulations for e-bikes and other motorized mobility devices, including electric scooters, skateboards, and hoverboards, took effect on Jan. 3, 2025. It provides for fines of up to \$25 if violated.

According to the city's website, children under 12 years old are prohibited from operating e-bikes in Coronado. E-bikes and other motorized mobility devices, except ADA mobility devices, are prohibited on all city sidewalks, beaches and parks.

In December, the city reviewed its guidelines prioritizing e-bike regulations in the next year.

The city's 2026 legislative policy guidelines concerning public safety call for supporting legislation allowing city-established parameters for electric bicycles to promote safety for vehicle operators and the community.

Steward said she plans to discuss the bill, AB 544, with Coronado City Manager Tina Friend and potentially add it to a future agenda.

"I'm all for everything that we can enact regarding e-bikes," said Steward in late December, noting safety features beyond reflectors are needed to prevent catastrophes. "Everybody on the council has concerns about e-bikes."

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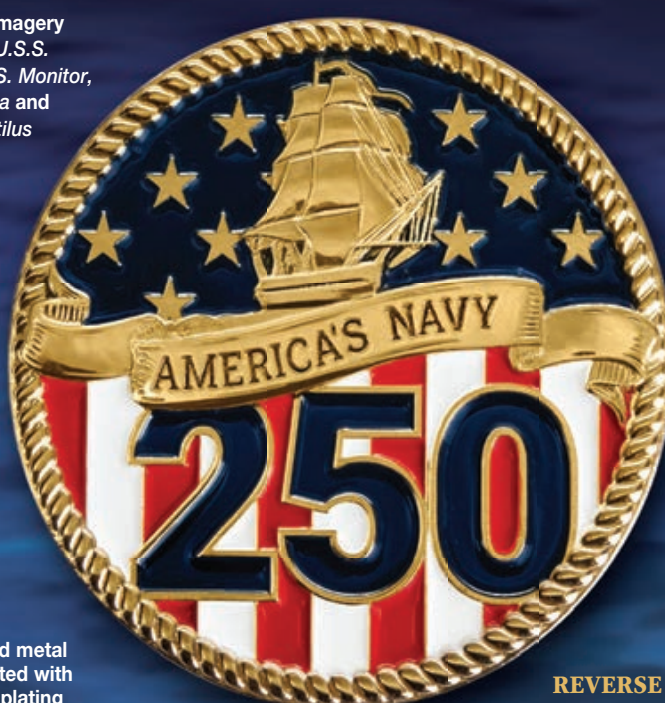
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San Diego Zoo wins award at Rose Parade



The San Diego Zoo's Rose Parade float won top honors this year. Photo provided by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Coronado News staff

The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance received the Grand Marshal award, given for most outstanding creative concept

and float design, at the 137th annual Rose Parade.

The float, "Giant Strides Together," transported viewers to the all-new Denny Sanford Elephant Valley, which will open on March 5 at the San Diego Zoo

Safari Park.

The float featured intricate designs of a few members of the African savanna elephant herd: matriarch Swazi and her daughter Qinisa, as well as Umngani and her daughter Mkhaya.

California drops lawsuit seeking to reinstate federal funding for the state's bullet train

Associated Press

California dropped a lawsuit officials filed against the Trump administration over the federal government's withdrawing of \$4 billion for the state's long-delayed high-speed rail project.

The U.S. Transportation Department slashed funds for the bullet train aimed at connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles in July. The Trump administration has said the California High-Speed Rail Authority had "no viable plan" to complete a large segment of the project in the farm-rich Central Valley.

The authority quickly filed a lawsuit, with Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom calling the federal government's decision "a political stunt to punish California."

The authority said this week that it would focus on other funding sources to complete the project, which is estimated to cost more than \$100 billion.

"This action reflects the State's assessment that the federal government is not a reliable, constructive, or trustworthy partner in advancing high-speed rail in California," an authority spokesperson said in a statement.

The Transportation Department did not respond to a request for comment. President Donald Trump and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy have both previously criticized the project as a "train to nowhere."

"The Railroad we were promised still does not exist, and never will," Trump said on his social media platform Truth Social in July. "This project was Severely Overpriced, Over-



FILE - The Cedar Viaduct, designed to take high-speed trains over Cedar and North avenues and State Route 99, is shown in an aerial view, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, in Fresno, Calif. AP Photo/Godofredo A. Vásquez, File.

regulated, and NEVER DELIVERED."

The authority's decision to drop the lawsuit comes as the group seeks private investors to support the bullet train. The project recently secured \$1 billion in annual funding from the state's cap-and-trade program through 2045.

The program sets a declining limit on total planet-warming emissions in

the state from major polluters. Companies must reduce their emissions, buy allowances from the state or other businesses, or fund projects aimed at offsetting their emissions. Money the state receives from the sales funds climate-change mitigation, affordable housing and transportation projects, as well as utility bill credits for Californians.

The rail authority said its shift in focus away from federal funding offers "a new opportunity."

"Moving forward without the Trump administration's involvement allows the Authority to pursue proven global best practices used successfully by modern high-speed rail systems around the world," a spokesperson said in a statement.

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CORONADO

California delays revoking 17,000 commercial driver's licenses until March after immigrants sue

Associated Press

A week after immigrant groups filed a lawsuit, California said Tuesday it will delay the revocations of 17,000 commercial driver's licenses until March to allow more time to ensure that truckers and bus drivers who legally qualify for the licenses can keep them.

But U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said the state may lose \$160 million if it doesn't meet a Jan. 5 deadline to revoke the licenses. He already withheld \$40 million in federal funding because he said California isn't enforcing English proficiency requirements for truckers.

California only sent out notices to invalidate the licenses after Duffy pressured the state to make sure immigrants who are in the country illegally aren't granted the licenses. An audit found problems like licenses that remained valid long after an im-

migrant's authorization to be in the country expired or licenses where the state couldn't prove it checked a driver's immigration status.

"California does NOT have an 'extension' to keep breaking the law and putting Americans at risk on the roads," Duffy posted on the social platform X.

The Transportation Department has been prioritizing the issue ever since a truck driver who was not authorized to be in the U.S. made an illegal U-turn and caused a crash in Florida that killed three people in August.

California officials said they are working to make sure the federal Transportation Department is satisfied with the reforms they have put in place. The state had planned to resume issuing commercial driver's licenses in mid-December, but the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration blocked that.

"Commercial drivers are an im-

portant part of our economy — our supply chains don't move, and our communities don't stay connected without them," said DMV Director Steve Gordon.

The Sikh Coalition, a national group defending the civil rights of Sikhs, and the San Francisco-based Asian Law Caucus filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of the California drivers. They said immigrant truck drivers were being unfairly targeted. The driver in the Florida crash and the driver in another fatal crash in California in October are both Sikhs.

Immigrants account for about 20% of all truck drivers, but these non-domiciled licenses immigrants can receive only represent about 5% of all commercial driver's licenses or about 200,000 drivers. The Transportation Department also proposed new restrictions that would severely limit which noncitizens could get a license, but a court put the new rules on hold.

Mumeeth Kaur, the legal director of the Sikh Coalition, said this delay "is an important step towards alleviating the immediate threat that these drivers are facing to their lives and livelihoods."

Duffy previously threatened to withhold millions of dollars in federal funding from California, Pennsylvania and Minnesota after audits found significant problems under the existing rules like commercial licenses being valid long after an immigrant truck driver's work permit expired.

He dropped the threat to withhold \$160 million from California after the state said it would revoke the licenses because the state was complying.

Trucking trade groups have praised the effort to get unqualified drivers who shouldn't have licenses or can't speak English off the road. They also applauded the Transportation Department's moves to go after questionable commercial driver's license schools.



The Port of San Diego will consider a one-year lease extension with the operator of the Coronado ferry landing. *Staff photo.*



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



The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson conducts a vertical replenishment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility on July 4. *Official U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Kenneth Ostas.*

Editor's picks: The Coronado News' best of 2025

» Continued from Page 1

deeper at just how problematic vermin have become for many businesses. In many ways, it's a problem that does not have an easy solution.

The story brings attention to an unspoken issue in Coronado, while recognizing the tough spot that small business owners are in.

Continuing coverage of the Tijuana sewage crisis

This year saw big announcements in regards to the ongoing cross-border contamination, more commonly known as the Tijuana sewage crisis. Nearly a century of broken promises from U.S. and Mexican officials have resulted in millions of gallons of raw sewage flowing into the Pacific Ocean.

The Department of Defense's Inspector General's report at the start of the year found that Navy SEALs have been getting sick training in the polluted waters. In April, EPA administrator Lee Zeldin visited San Diego to see the issue in person. A memorandum of understanding between the two countries was established in July identifying expedited timelines for key projects. And just a few weeks ago, the U.S. and Mexico signed a new minute agreement (a sort of pact) resolving to overcome the problem.

Yet, county leaders are asking for more to be done through designation of the Tijuana River Valley as a Superfund site. So far, the EPA has denied their requests.

We also investigated the track record of Veolia, the mega-corporation

operating the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. The piece examines the two ways Veolia can be viewed — as an international company putting profits over public health, or as an enterprise whose mission is to protect the planet.

Navy news

The Navy is an integral part of Coronado's identity. With so many active-duty, retired, and Navy veterans in Coronado (not to mention all of the family members who call this town home), it is a priority of ours to focus coverage on Navy news.

In February, a Navy jet crashed into San Diego Bay after its two-person crew ejected. This prompted an investigation into what exactly went wrong.

The USS Carl Vinson, a Coronado-based aircraft carrier, was deployed to the Middle East and combated Houthi attacks. And, NASCAR announced Naval Air Station North Island will be home to street race this year.

With both the topics of the Navy and the sewage crisis, it is clear that national events are connected to us at a local level. And that's the beauty of community journalism. It is our responsibility to highlight those stories and recognize how neighbors are being affected by what's happening on a larger scale.

So, thank you again for engaging with our news coverage in 2025. Here's to a new year, and new storylines to follow.

Contact: sofie@thecoronadonews.com

Police officers hired after new labor contracts between CPD and the city

» Continued from Page 1

studies. She said there was a "blink in time" where she was working full time in business marketing but she knew she wouldn't be there long.

She ended up quitting her job and attending Southwestern Police Academy where she completed a 10-month training program.

Before coming to Coronado, Llarenas spent eight years working in white-collar crime investigations for the state as an auto theft expert.

Llarenas said the expertise she developed working auto-theft cases translates naturally to her new role, but she's also hoping to learn new skills.

"I just was looking for more room for growth, and more room to, kind of, maneuver through different roles," Llarenas said. "Where I was at, I think the only thing left for me to really do is to promote, and I'm not ready to do that yet."

She could have been promoted to detective sergeant at her state

job, moving more into administrative duties and paperwork, she explained, adding that she is not ready for an office role because, "I love being more hands on."

Llarenas knew she wanted to be a cop because of her father, who served in the U.S. Navy and completed an assignment as military police.

"I remember him having the patrol car and the uniform," she said. "I knew ultimately that I wanted to be a cop."

Now, she's the one in uniform, learning the unique rhythms of policing a small community. Since starting in Coronado, Llarenas has been settling into patrol work, getting to know the streets, her colleagues and the people who call the city home.

"I pretty much know everybody here and I've only been here for three months," Llarenas said. "The sergeants ... the lieutenants ... and our captain and our police chief, they all know everybody by first

name which is so cool.

"Just makes it more family oriented," she added.

And the community of Coronado is important to her as a cop as well.

"The people that live here are super supportive of the police department," she said. "I wanted to find a home for me that I would be giving back more to the community."

Llarenas feels like the best part of her job is having conversations with folks in the community, and being relatable.

"Having that empathy and remembering people have feelings," she explained. "For me, I like to remember to bring it down to being normal, being friendly, being outgoing."

"When people see me, I want them to respect me not because of my badge or because I'm a police officer. I want them to know me as, 'Hey, she was cool.' She respected me, I respected her," Llarenas said.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com



Keisha Llarenas when she was sworn in as a police officer in Coronado. *Photo provided by Keisha Llarenas.*

Coronado calls for accountability and funding from Mexico in the new year

» Continued from Page 1

ects progress and “the inclusion of defined accountability measures.”

The revised resolution also calls for the implementation of those measures as changes to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

The resolution calls on city representatives to “...advocate for changes to the USMCA that establish expectations for the prohibition of cross-border water pollution and defined consequences for future pollution to assure that treatment and proper management of wastewater continues and keeps pace with industrial and population growth.”

The resolution was approved on Dec. 2 after a City Council discussion about ongoing advocacy efforts.

Coronado’s pollution testimony

The city submitted a letter to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) ahead of the joint review of the USMCA on July 1, 2026.

In that letter, Coronado Mayor John Duncan calls on the federal government to impose “enforceable controls” in the renegotiated agreement “so that if Mexico does not abide by its obligations, there will be real, measurable consequences.”

“Such controls could include economic, trade and monetary penalties that provide impactful consequences for a failure to maintain infrastructure in Mexico that causes pollution in the United States,” writes Duncan in the Nov. 3 letter. “The city is generally supportive of any controls, but is especially interested in further discussion with USTR on how to most effectively incentivize Mexico to continuously monitor and improve its infrastructure’s capacity and treatment capability over the long term – for the benefit of their citizens and ours.”

According to the letter, there are a



Beachgoers visit Coronado after sewage flows prompted the county to issue beach closures stretching the city’s entire shoreline in September. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

variety of ways to achieve the desired outcome.

“If implemented, they would strengthen North American economic security and competitiveness, and more importantly, protect our community from future public health crises,” it says.

The U.S. trade representative is an office within the executive branch. This is not the first time Coronado has asked the White House to consider more drastic measures for Mexico. In May, the council unanimously voted to amend the city’s resolution on the sewage crisis with similar language to an Imperial Beach resolution urging restrictions on water exportation and cross-border traffic.

As of Dec. 2, the city’s updated resolution on the crisis requests: “that President Donald J. Trump execute an executive order declaring water pollution at the United States-Mexico border a national emergency and continue to prioritize and send all

available resources to expedite solutions.”

During a USTR public hearing on the first joint review of the USMCA in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 5, Andre Monette, partner at Best Best & Krieger LLP, testified on behalf of Coronado, stressing the urgency in the city’s position.

Monette said population and economic growth in Tijuana beginning in the 1990s accelerated rapidly with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the massive increase in trade and cross-border development continues under the USMCA.

“Between 1994, the year NAFTA was signed, and 2024, population in the city of Tijuana more than doubled and grew by almost 1.3 million people,” said Monette. “The growth and prosperity generated by NAFTA and USMCA are undeniable and very clear. Unfortunately, Mexico has not kept up with the basic infrastructure and sanitation demands that were necessary to manage population growth that came with it.”

Monette said lack of infrastructure and failure to maintain existing collection and treatment systems has created a public health crisis on the U.S. side of the border resulting in millions of gallons of raw sewage and industrial waste flowing north into San Diego, Imperial Beach and Coronado.

“It has caused noxious fumes to enter homes and schools in communities near the international border,” he added. “It has caused illness in recreational ocean users in Imperial Beach and Coronado.”

Monette said the \$300 million allocated by the USMCA for infrastructure projects in the U.S. falls short of the estimated \$1 billion needed for the crisis.

“The city strongly supports renewal of the USMCA and free trade,” said Monette. “However, the city asks USTR to ensure the impacts of free trade and economic prosperity are not borne by communities in the United States. There must be enforceable mechanisms for compliance to protect communities like Coronado.”

Monette proposed permanent infrastructure funding mechanisms in both the U.S. and Mexico and said revenue could be generated by having Mexico dedicate toll road funds from the new cross-border port at Otay Mesa to infrastructure work south of the border.

“...Financial incentives are one of the biggest drivers for environmental improvements in Mexico,” he added.

Following the hearing in December, Ambassador Jamieson Greer reported to Congress on the operation of the USMCA in advance of the 2026 review.

In his report, Greer identified “Increasing funding for trade, labor, and environment enforcement activities” among concerns being addressed with Mexico.

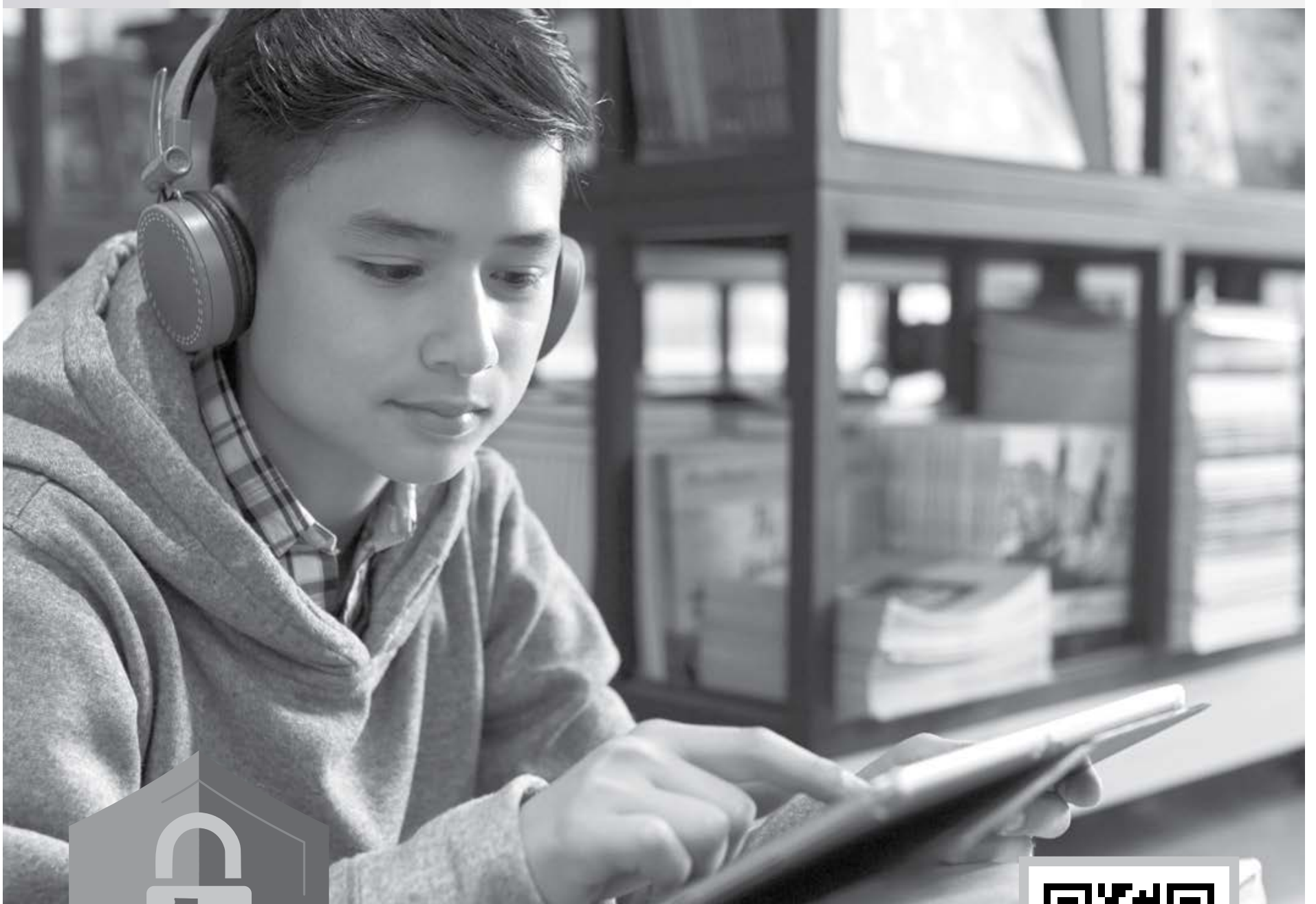
“That work remains ongoing and covers not only trade, but border and national security as well,” said Greer during a hearing held Dec. 16 and 17.

“...I want to stress that the success of the Joint Review will depend on a variety of factors, including the ambition of our USMCA partners. In addition, we must achieve outcomes that meet President Trump’s expectation,” he added.

Trump has highlighted the crisis online with a post, on Dec. 10, urging Mexico to manage its water and sewage problem calling it “a true Threat to ... the United States of America!”

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NAVY

New Navy report gauges training disruption of Hawaii's marine mammals

Associated Press

Over the next seven years, the U.S. Navy estimates its ships will injure or kill just two whales in collisions as it tests and trains in Hawaiian waters, and it concluded those exercises won't significantly harm local marine mammal populations, many of which are endangered.

However, the Navy also estimates the readiness exercises, which include sonar testing and underwater explosions, will cause more than 3 million instances of disrupted behavior, hearing loss or injury to whale and dolphin species plus monk seals in Hawaii alone.

That has local conservation groups worried that the Navy's detailed report on its latest multi-year training plan is downplaying the true impacts on vulnerable marine mammals that already face growing extinction threats in Pacific training areas off of Hawaii and California.

"If whales are getting hammered by sonar and it's during an important breeding or feeding season, it could ultimately affect their ability to have enough energy to feed their young or find food," said Kylie Wager Cruz, a senior attorney with the environmental legal advocacy nonprofit Earthjustice.

"There's a major lack of consideration," she added, "of how those types of behavioral impacts could ultimately have a greater impact beyond just vessel strikes."

The Navy, Cruz said, didn't consider how its training exercises add to the harm caused by other factors, most notably collisions with major shipping vessels that kill dozens of endangered whales in the eastern Pacific each year. Environmental law requires the Navy to do that, she said, but "they're only looking at their own take," or harm.

The Navy, in a statement earlier this month, said it "committed to the maximum level of mitigation measures" that it practically could to curb environmental damage while maintaining its military readiness in the years ahead. The plan also covers some Coast Guard operations.

Federal fishery officials recently approved the plan, granting the Navy the necessary exemptions under the Marine Mammal Protection Act to proceed despite the harms. It's at least the third time that the Navy has had to complete an environmental impact report and seek those exemptions to test and train off Hawaii and California.

In a statement on Dec. 29, a U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesperson said the Navy and fishery officials did consider "reasonably foreseeable cumulative effects" — the Navy's exercises plus unrelated harmful impacts — to the extent it was required to do so under federal environmental law.

Fishery officials didn't weigh those unrelated impacts, the statement said, in determining that the Navy's activities would have a negligible impact on marine mammals and other animals.

Limited Protections

The report covers the impacts to some 39 marine mammal species, including eight that are endangered, plus a host of other birds, turtles and other species that inhabit those waters.

The Navy says it will limit use of some of its most intense sonar equipment in designated "mitigation areas" around Hawaii island and Maui Nui to better protect humpback whales and other species from exposure. Specifically, it says it won't use its more intense ship-mounted sonar in those areas during the whales' Nov. 15 to April 15 breeding season, and it won't use those systems there for more than 300 hours a year.

However, outside of those mitigation zones the Navy report lists 11 additional areas that are biologically important to other marine mammals species, including spinner and bottlenosed dolphins, false killer whales,



FILE - The U.S. Navy destroyer, USS Howard, sails off the coast of Hawaii during sonar exercises, on Wednesday, May 28, 2008.
AP Photo/Hugh E. Gentry, File.

short-finned pilot whales and dwarf sperm whales.

Those biologically important areas encompass all the waters around the main Hawaiian islands, and based on the Navy's report they won't benefit from the same sonar limits.

For the Hawaii bottle-nosed dolphins, the Navy estimates its acoustic and explosives exercises will disrupt that species' feeding, breeding and other behaviors more than 310,000 times, plus muffle their hearing nearly 39,000 times and cause as many as three deaths. The report says the other species will see similar disruptions.

In its statement on Dec. 29, U.S. Pacific Fleet said the Navy considered the extent to which marine mammals would be affected while still allowing crews to train effectively in setting those mitigation zones.

Exactly how the Navy's numbers compare to previous cycles are difficult to say, Wager Cruz and others said, because the ocean area and total years covered by each report have changed.

Nonetheless, the instances in which its Pacific training might harm or kill a marine mammal appear to be climbing.

In 2018, for instance, a press release from the nonprofit Center For Biological Diversity stated that the Navy's Pacific training in Hawaii and Southern California would harm marine mammals an estimated 12.5 million times over a five-year period.

This month, the center put out a similar release stating that the Navy's training would harm marine mammals across Hawaii plus Northern and Southern California an estimated 35 million times over a seven-year period.

"There's large swaths of area that don't get any mitigation," Wager Cruz said. "I don't think we're asking for, like, everywhere is a prohibited area by any means, but I think that the military should take a harder look and see if they can do more."

The Navy should also consider slowing its vessels to 10 knots during training exercises to help avoid the collisions that often kill endangered whales off the California Coast, Cruz said.

In its response, U.S. Pacific Fleet said the Navy "seriously considered" whether it could slow its ships down but concluded those suggestions were impracticable, largely due to the impacts on its mission.

Hawaii-based Matson two years ago joined the other major companies who've pledged to slow their vessels to those speeds during whale season in the shipping lanes where dozens of endangered blue, fin and humpback whales are estimated to be killed each year.

Those numbers have to be significantly reduced, researchers say, if the species are to make a comeback.

This story was originally published by Honolulu Civil Beat and distributed through a partnership with The Associated Press.

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SPORTS

CHS ROUNDUP

Islander sporting events this week

BY CADE MICHAELSON

The Coronado News

It's a jam-packed week for Coronado sports this week, specifically for the soccer and basketball teams, with both the boys and girls' squads playing at least two games. The baseball team kicks off the season with a game against La Costa Canyon.

10 • Saturday

CHS baseball plays La Costa Canyon at Silver Strand Elementary. First pitch is at 10:30 a.m.

12 • Monday

Girls' JV water polo heads to Francis Parker for a match at 4 p.m.

13 • Tuesday

Islanders boys' basketball is at home for a game against Canyon Hills, their second conference game of the season. JV tips off at 4, varsity at 5:45 p.m.

Girls' basketball hits the road to face Canyon Hills with games at the same time: 4 and 5:45 p.m.

CHS girls' soccer heads to Cathedral Catholic High for their first game of the week. The varsity game starts at 4, JV follows at 6 p.m.

Girls' varsity water polo is at Francis Parker for a match starting at 6 p.m.

14 • Wednesday

Islanders boys' soccer is the only team playing on Wednesday. JV starts at 4, varsity plays at 6 p.m. Both games are at home against University City High.

15 • Thursday

Girls' water polo plays their last game of the week at Mission Bay High School. Varsity plays at 5 and JV at 6 p.m.

Girls' soccer closes out their week with a game against Patrick Henry. JV is on the road and plays at 4 p.m. Varsity is at home for a game at 6 p.m.

16 • Friday

CHS boys' soccer heads to Kearny High School. JV plays at 4 and varsity follows at 6 p.m.

JV boys' basketball is at home for a 5:45 p.m. game against Herbert Hoover High School. Varsity is on the road, also facing Hoover, for a 7 p.m. tip off.

Girls' basketball plays against Hoover. JV is at home for a 4 p.m. tip. Varsity is on the road; the game starts at 6 p.m.

17 • Saturday

Varsity boys' basketball closes the week with a game against Temecula Prep, hosted at French Valley. Tip off is at 12:30 p.m.

CHS baseball is on the road for a game against Canyon Hills. Varsity plays at 10:30 a.m.; JV follows at 1:30 p.m.

Contact: cade@thecoronadonews.com



Junior forward Aiden Roberts has been a force on the boards, grabbing 8.8 rebounds per game. Photo by Kelly Moore.

Boys' basketball team wins two of four games in Holiday Classic

BY CADE MICHAELSON

The Coronado News

Before the season started, Coronado High School boys' basketball coach Anthony Ott said the goal for the season was to win CIF and, along the way, win the Holiday Classic tournament hosted by Torrey Pines. Though the Islanders couldn't achieve the latter, the former goal still remains.

Coming off the holiday break and nearing league play, the Islanders are at 9-6 overall; they went 2-2 in the holiday tournament.

Coronado narrowly beat Ramona High School in their first game of the tournament, 61-59. Junior forward Aiden Roberts led the way, notching 16 points, 12 rebounds and three steals. Roberts floated between varsity and JV last season and has become a major contributor to the varsity squad this season. Standing at 6'4 on a shorter Coronado team, the group has relied on his rebounding, as he leads the Islanders with 8.8 per game.

"I've been telling him since he was a freshman that his time's going to come and he's going to make a really big impact on this program and help us win games," Ott said. "And that's being a force on the inside, running the floor, making good passes, taking open shots when available."

Ott also cited senior forward Derrick Ritter as one who had a quiet but extremely impactful game, only scoring four points but grabbing 10 rebounds and coming through with two big assists in which he "threw it down court like a football."

The Islanders followed the two-point win with a seven-point victory over Rancho Buena Vista. Junior Austin Brown and sophomore Ah'Mahn Oliver scored 19 and 17, respectively, and Oliver and Ritter grabbed a combined 19 rebounds while Brown added seven assists.

After pulling out two close wins, the Islanders dropped two more close games, losing by six to Po-

way and by one to Army and Navy Academy in overtime. Though Ott's goal was to sweep the Governor's Division, that goal has shifted, and the hope is that the team uses the last two games as motivation. The Poway loss was a reminder that the team can hang with the No. 1-ranked Division 2 team in San Diego, per MaxPreps.

"A point of emphasis coming into practice this year before our league play is going to be, 'Can we be consistent in practice with our focus, our effort, our communication, our energy, our enthusiasm, all those things that we can control, right?'"

- Anthony Ott, Coronado High School boys' basketball coach

"I think the last two games we had should be a wake-up call for us," Ott said. "It was a good preview to what could be in the playoffs, in the championship."

As for the Army-Navy loss, the reason for motivation is inverse.

"I think that game proved to me - and I hope it proves to our players - that when you don't come in with the enthusiasm and desire to be competitive for four quarters, you're going to lose games to teams

you shouldn't lose to," Ott added.

In terms of what the Islanders have done well thus far, the ferocity of the defense has been a revelation for Ott. He expected a good defense, and as a smaller team, a speed advantage. But the half-court man-to-man defense has exceeded expectations and, according to Ott, it's mainly due to the pride the team carries itself with.

"I knew we could speed teams up and press teams and force turnovers that way," Ott said. "But we have proven to be a team that has the ability to slow things down and make things very difficult for our opponents in the half court ... You've got to take some pride in being able to stay in between your man and the hoop."

The Islanders did a better job at taking care of the ball during the tournament. Before the Holiday Classic started, Coronado turned the ball over around 18 times per game. Following the four-game set, that number is closer to 16.

A pleasant surprise for Ott thus far has been the offense's ability to play in a more freelance style, not needing specific plays or sets to be successful. Oliver and Brown lead the team on the scoring front, averaging 15.1 and 12.1, respectively.

There's a specific attribute that Ott wants the team to get better at as the season progresses: consistency.

"We have points in the game where we fluctuate too much in our competitiveness and focus," Ott stated. "A point of emphasis coming into practice this year before our league play is going to be, 'Can we be consistent in practice with our focus, our effort, our communication, our energy, our enthusiasm, all those things that we can control, right?'"

The Islanders go up against La Jolla Country Day on Jan. 6 before starting league play on the 9th against Patrick Henry.

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Registration open for spring recreation programs

Coronado News staff

Coronado's Recreation and Golf Services' spring programs are open for registration to city residents. Offerings include bingo, musical theater, aquatic programs, skate classes, music classes and more.

Online-only registration for residents begins Jan. 7 at 9 a.m. In-person, over-the-phone, and non-resident registration begins Jan. 14 at 9 a.m. Programs begin Monday, Jan. 26. Visit the Recreation website for more details or to register.

son, over-the-phone, and non-resident registration begins Jan. 14 at 9 a.m. Programs begin Monday, Jan. 26. Visit the Recreation website for more details or to register.

SPORTS

Broncos secure AFC's top playoff seed with 19-3 win over Chargers

Associated Press

Ja'Quan McMillian goofed up the play in practice, got an earful from Denver defensive coordinator Vance Joseph and then made good when given another chance when it mattered most.

The Denver Broncos secured the AFC's top playoff seed with a 19-3 win over the Los Angeles Chargers' bevy of backups, a victory fueled by McMillian's 45-yard interception return for a touchdown.

"We actually ran that play in practice against that same exact (formation) and I messed it up, so we had to redo it. And VJ gave me the coaching point on it," McMillian recounted. "Then it so happened they we ran the exact same play. I was coming down on the ball to make a tackle, it was a tip, he dropped it, got a pick and just ran it in for the touchdown."

Los Angeles had two turnovers and had two drives end with a turnover on downs, as Denver stopped the Chargers on 11 of their 12 drives.

Wil Lutz was 4-for-4 on field goals and the Broncos (14-3) tied their franchise record for most victories in a season and earned their first No. 1 playoff seed since 2015, which they parlayed into a third Super Bowl title.

"And now the season truly starts, right?" Denver cornerback Riley Moss said. "You win or you go home, and so the stakes are high and we're going to be ready to roll in two weeks."

That's when they host their first playoff game in a decade, which could be against these same Chargers (11-6) if L.A. beats the Patriots (14-3) at New England in the wild-card round.

"Yeah, New England. Focus on New England," Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh said. "That's where our focus will be."

Broncos quarterback Bo Nix had one of his worst games of the season, throwing for just 38 yards in the first half and 141 overall, but he tied Russell Wilson's record of 24 wins in his first two NFL seasons by helping Denver grind out yet another tough win.

"We've been fortunate this year to play a lot of close games and we've won a lot of close games," Nix said. "It hasn't been the pretty ones that you want, the flashy, big-time wins, the ones you get to go there and rest a little bit in the fourth. But ... it's put us in a position to see what winning football is like."

With no chance to win the division, the Chargers treated this game much



Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Trey Lance passes against the Denver Broncos during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, in Denver. AP Photo/David Zalubowski.

"And now the season truly starts, right? You win or you go home, and so the stakes are high and we're going to be ready to roll in two weeks."

- Riley Moss, Denver cornerback

like a bye week as they prepared to hit the road for the playoffs in the wild-card round. Harbaugh sat several of his starters, most notably quarterback Justin Herbert, safety Derwin James and OLB Tuli Tuipulotu.

QB Trey Lance made his sixth career start and first with the Bolts. His fourth pass went off the hands of KeAndre Lambert-Smith and into the arms of McMillian, who raced down the Broncos' sideline for a 45-yard touchdown and a 10-0 first-quarter lead. Lambert-Smith later left the game with a hamstring injury.

After five fruitless drives, Cameron Dicker's 30-yard field goal with 3 sec-

onds left in the second quarter pulled the Chargers to 10-3 at halftime.

The Broncos had four sacks, none bigger than Nik Bonitto's strip-sack at the Los Angeles 20-yard line early in the fourth quarter. Denver finished the season with a franchise-record and NFL-best 68 sacks, four shy of the 1984 Chicago Bears' NFL-record.

The Broncos again earned no style points, not that it mattered.

"A win is a win," Courtland Sutton said after catching just one pass for 5 yards. "I don't care if it's 3-2. It doesn't have to be exciting. At the end of the day you have to have more points than the other team and you get the dub. I know all the fantasy people and all the gamblers they probably get upset with us ...

"Our defense was incredible. Wil will probably ice his leg later today because we wore him out. But man, a win is a win and it was exciting to share that moment with this team," Sutton added. "There's a lot of guys on this team who have seen some darker days ... so to be able to come away with this victory was a lot of fun."

Incentives

The game was profitable for at least one Chargers player — wide receiver Keenan Allen, whose seven catches for 36 yards allowed him to

reach contract incentives worth \$1 million in bonuses. Allen may be buying Lance dinner — maybe even a car — for helping him reach those incentives.

"We'll talk about it," Allen said with a laugh.

Allen credited offensive coordinator Greg Roman, too, for calling several early screen plays to help him reach the mark. Allen needed six catches to reach 80 receptions for an extra \$750,000 and 9 yards to achieve 750 yards for another bonus of \$250,000. He had the yards before halftime and the catches in the third quarter.

"We set the incentives knowing we could get to them," Allen said.

Injuries

Chargers: CB Donte Jackson (ankle), Lambert-Smith (hamstring) and S Kendall Williamson (ankle) got hurt.

Broncos: S P.J. Locke (leg) was injured in the second quarter. He has been starting in place of injured S Brandon Jones.

Up next

Chargers: visit the No. 2 seed Patriots in the wild-card round.

Broncos: get next weekend off before hosting their first playoff game in 10 years.

Versatile safety Quentin Lake agrees to a 3-year contract extension

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Rams have agreed to a three-year contract extension with Quentin Lake, the do-it-all defensive back who has become a key component of their defense over the past four seasons.

The Rams announced the deal on Jan. 1 with Lake, an Orange County native and a sixth-round pick out of UCLA in 2022. The team simultaneously designated Lake to return from injured reserve after a six-game absence with an elbow injury.

"It's something that you dream of," Lake said after practice. "I think the coolest thing about it was seeing the reaction from my teammates. When you have people yelling and screaming, congratulating you, coming up saying, 'Well deserved,' it makes you feel good."

The son of former Pittsburgh Steelers star Carnell Lake seized a prominent role on the Rams' defense in 2023, and he currently serves as a team captain and defensive signal-caller. Depending on the situation, Lake can be seen lining up as a slot cornerback, a run defender in the



FILE - Los Angeles Rams safety Quentin Lake (37) jogs back to the locker room before an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, in Inglewood, Calif. AP Photo/Kyusung Gong, File.

box or a patrolling safety at the back of the defense.

In perhaps the greatest measure of the Rams' esteem for Lake, he has become the first defensive draft pick to get a contract extension with the Rams since retired superstar Aaron Donald, who was drafted in 2014.

"I'm glad everything worked out,"

Lake said. "It's been in the works a long time, but I didn't want that to be any type of distraction for me going on the field and playing."

Lake has 160 tackles, four sacks, one fumble recovery and one interception over four seasons in Los Angeles.

Lake still didn't expect to play

when the Rams (11-5) hosted the Arizona Cardinals (3-13), but the team is optimistic he will return for the postseason. He returned to practice to get an extra week of conditioning and acclimation to the Rams' current defensive setup.

Lake had surgery on his dislocated elbow in November, and his steady presence has been missed by the Rams' defense, which had been one of the NFL's best this season. Los Angeles has ranked just 28th in scoring defense, 29th in yards allowed per play and 26th in big plays allowed over the past five weeks.

The Rams are headed to the playoffs for the third straight season despite losing back-to-back games for the first time this year. Lake has 23 tackles in three career playoff games.

Lake is the second key player on the Rams' defense to sign a three-year extension during the season. Linebacker Nate Landman, the free-agent signee who has seized a leadership role with a standout effort in his first season with Los Angeles, was rewarded with a \$22.5 million deal in November.

SPORTS

Riqui Puig undergoes ACL surgery, expected to return for 2027 season start in MLS

Associated Press

Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Riqui Puig has undergone anterior cruciate ligament reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

The team said that Puig is expected to make a full recovery and be ready to rejoin the Major League Soccer team for the start of next season in July 2027. The surgery was done in Barcelona, Spain, and it occurred just over a year after a

similar procedure in late 2024, which caused him to miss the entire 2025 season.

Puig originally got hurt in the 2024 Western Conference Final in Carson, California, where he had the game-winning assist in a 1-0 victory over the Seattle Sounders. The Galaxy went on to win its sixth MLS Cup title without him playing.

Puig, who is from Spain, had 17 goals and 20 assists in 36 matches for the Galaxy in 2024.



FILE - Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Riqui Puig (10) celebrates after scoring a goal in the second half of the second match of an MLS Cup opening-round playoff series, Nov. 1, 2024, in Commerce City, Colo.

AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File.



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SPORTS

Tiger Woods at 50: Players recall one shot they can't forget

Associated Press

Memories from players who competed against Tiger Woods and the shots that stand out in honor of Woods turning 50 on Dec. 30:

Padraig Harrington, 2009 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, Firestone

"I would think the shot he hit into Bridgestone on the 16th as one of the greatest shots I've ever seen, one of the craziest shots I've ever seen, one of the most spectacular shots I've ever seen, and pretty close to the only shot I feel in my career that got into my head."

(Woods was on the slope of a bunker and hit 8-iron to 2 feet on a brick-hard green. Harrington from the fairway hit a shot that one-hopped over the green).

"It was the only shot that really went deeply ... it wasn't just his good shot, it affected my next shot. I went long and chipped it in the water. And then I didn't realize I should have dropped it where I was. It panicked me. That's how good that golf shot was."

Stewart Cink, 1998 BellSouth Classic, TPC Sugarloaf

"I was in the last group with him in Atlanta on a par 5. We both had 265 to the hole, and this was one when they were wound balls. I laid a 3-wood right of the green on the 10th at TPC Sugarloaf. And from the same distance — and I wasn't short — Tiger hits 2-iron straight up in the air, and it was like the same shape as a 7-iron for me, flew onto the green and released like this far (indicating 2 feet).



FILE - Tiger Woods hits his second shot on the 18th hole from a fairway bunker during completion of his second round of the PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club, in Chaska Minn., Saturday, Aug. 17, 2002.
AP Photo/Doug Mills.

And it was then I was like, 'OK, he just hit his 2-iron as far as I hit my 3-wood, and it flew as high as my 7-iron and it stopped like a pitching wedge.' This is a skill set I don't have."

Matt Kuchar, 1998 Masters, opening hole

"I could not have been more nervous ever in my life. Both of us hit good drives. The pin was middle back — I remember it clear as can be. I hit it 20 feet short of the pin where you had to hit it. He hit it and one-hopped over the green. I looked at my dad like, 'I can't believe he hit it there.' You can't get up-and-down. It's a bogey right off the bat. And he hit the most amazing chip. It had more spin than

I've ever seen on a short chip. That thing was a foot from the hole when it finished. I'd never seen anybody pull off a shot like that. I didn't know that was even possible."

Tom Lehman, 2007 Memorial, Muirfield Village

"The 17th hole got redone every other year. This was a new green, the green was rock-hard and the pin was front left. We hit our tee shots right next to each other — hit 3-wood, I hit driver. I hit this 5-iron as hard and as high as I could. It lands by the hole and bounds 25 feet by the hole. He hits this shot way up in the air and it was coming down like a parachute, lands by the cup and bounces 2 feet

and stops. I figure he must have hit a 7-iron. I said, 'Tiger, what club was that?' He said, 'That was a little, three-finger 5-iron.' He just filleted it in there. When I think of him, that's what I think of. Only one guy could hit that shot."

Nick Price, 2005 Match Play Championship, La Costa Resort

"He's in grass I promise you is this deep," Price said, holding his hands about 6 inches apart. "It was 230 yards to the flag. I was in the fairway and I hit a hybrid just on the front edge of the green. He hit 5-iron out of there and pitched it on the green, and I have no idea ... in a million years, I couldn't hit that shot. The ball came out like it was in the fairway and pitched in the green about 12 feet. The guy was never in trouble."

Jim Furyk, 2005 Presidents Cup, Robert Trent Jones Golf Club

"We were paired together and he hit a shot to a downhill, long, skinny green with a little tail in back left, and the pin was back there over a bunker. I hit this pretty 5-iron, it hit hard and took a big tumble and just trickled through the green. He took 6-iron and hit this high cut against a little breeze, and it came down soft and hit it to 3 feet. I just laughed. I couldn't hit that shot. I immediately looked at the two guys we were playing (Vijay Singh and Stuart Appleby) and I'm sure I had the biggest grin on my face because I was like, 'Well, we know you can't hit that shot so what are we going to do now?' I couldn't hit it, they couldn't hit it, just my partner."



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