

THE CORONADO NEWS

ONLINE 24/7 @ THECORONADONEWS.COM • FRIDAY, MAR. 6, 2026 • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 03

Human error blamed for jet crash following Navy investigation

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Last February, a Navy jet practicing at Naval Air Station North Island crashed into San Diego Bay and two crewmembers ejected from the plane due to human error, according to a new report from the Navy.

According to the San Diego Union Tribune, accident in-

vestigators ruled out mechanical failure. They were unable to pinpoint an exact cause, but concluded that human error was responsible for the crash, and listed several contributing factors. Among them: The aircraft was operating on software that was unfamiliar to the pilot and crewmember; conditions on the runway were less than ideal as the plane touched down; and a

problem occurred with the jet's fuel transfer during the exercise.

Investigators were challenged by total destruction of the aircraft, according to the report. However, they concluded, human error was compounded by a "confluence of factors, including severe weather, poor crew management and a lack of

» Continued on Page 10



Navy investigators determined that human error was the primary factor in a Navy jet accident last February. Crew members were able to eject before the aircraft crashed into San Diego Bay, pictured here during recovery efforts. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

Naval Air Station North Island increases security measures as war in Mideast expands

The USS Abraham Lincoln was involved in the first wave of attacks

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Editor's note: Due to print deadlines, this story reflects information as of March 3. For immediate coverage, visit thecoronadonews.com.

Naval Base Coronado, which includes Naval Air Station North Island, announced on March 1 that it has increased security measures at all nine installations as the war between Israel-U.S. and Iran spreads through the Middle East.

Coronado-based aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln is on the front lines, launching the first attacks on Feb. 28, and several other North Island units are involved.

Over the weekend, President Donald Trump approved a large-scale airstrike on Iran – a joint attack with Israel – killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a move the U.S. military described as cutting off the "head of the snake."

Khamenei ruled for almost 40 years, becoming the longest reigning head-of-state in the Middle East at the time of his assassination – a control Trump said was a dictatorship.

» Continued on Page 10



U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) commenced Operation Epic Fury, Feb. 28, at the direction of the President of the United States. Photo taken from CENTCOM.

"The United States military is undertaking a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this very wicked, radical, dictatorship from threatening America and our core, national security interests."

- U.S. President Donald Trump



The former mayor of Coronado moved out of the island and into Point Loma and is now running for San Diego City Council. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Former Coronado mayor Richard Bailey announces run for San Diego City Council

After taking a break from politics and saying that he had no plans to get back into it, Bailey has now made the big announcement that he will be campaigning for a spot on San Diego City Council

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

He's back in business – or politics, it seems.

Richard Bailey, the former Coronado mayor who recently said he had "no desire" to get back into politics once he left office, has announced that he is running for City Council – in San Diego.

In a video post on Instagram last week, Bailey said: "If you want to see

a nonpartisan, policy-focused, back-to-basics approach for local government ... then I'm asking you to sign up at richardbailey.com to pledge your support."

Bailey served two consecutive terms as the youngest mayor of Coronado, ending his leadership in November 2024 when he did not seek re-election. City Council member John Duncan won the mayoral race that year.

"I never intended to run for office

after leaving Coronado," Bailey explained to The Coronado News, but he said he was approached by several people across the political spectrum who "were concerned about the direction of the city and wanted a different leadership."

Bailey (who is a member of The Coronado News' editorial board, which operates independently of the paper's news coverage) said he

» Continued on Page 9

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★ ★ ★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

Opinion/Letters
Local News

4
6-10

Military
Sports

10
12-15

this week

7 • Saturday

Have something in need of repair? Stop by the Fix-It Clinic at the Coronado Public Library on March 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will not only try to fix your item, but will teach you how to as well. This event is free to attend, and walk-ins are accepted. Registered attendees will be helped first. Register at events.humanitix.com/sdfixitclinic_coronado.

8 • Sunday

The Coronado Ferry landing is slated to host a free weekend concert from 2 to 5 p.m. featuring Hugh Gaskins & The Geoff Corey 5.

10 • Tuesday

The John D. Spreckels Center is hosting “Line Dancing Through the Decades” on March 10 at 2 p.m. Instructors will lead easy line dances for participants to follow, and light refreshments will be provided. Register by March 6 at coronado.ca.us/civirc, or call (619) 522-7343.

12 • Thursday

The Coronado Public Library is scheduled to host a Community READ event featuring Phil Unitt from the San Diego Natural History Museum. Unitt will share the history and modern applications of the museum’s bird collection at 6 p.m. in the Winn Room.

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

SOMETHING TO DO

Free documentary screening and panel discussion on March 8

Coronado News staff

Soroptimist International of Coronado and Coronado Island Film Festival are scheduled to host a free screening and panel discussion of “Three (Extra)Ordinary Women,” a documentary highlighting three women climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. The screening, on March 8 at 2 p.m. in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library, tells the personal stories of three women of color who have collectively overcome poverty, abuse, systemic racism and political occupation. As they trek up Africa’s tallest peak through arctic temperatures, they discover they still have emotional hurdles to climb. RSVP at coronadofilmfest.com/



“Three (Extra) Ordinary Women” is a documentary telling the story of three women climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. Photo provided by Coronado Soroptimist Club.

three-extraordinary-women/. Seating is first-come, first-served when doors open at 1:30 p.m.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Porkchop

PAWS of Coronado



Call us at: (619) 435-8247

Meet Porkchop, 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.

Porkchop is up for adoption at PAWS of Coronado. Staff members at the non-profit, which provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Porkchop is goofy and lovable, and would thrive in a home that offers consistency. 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 Porkchop or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



New Year, Healthier You

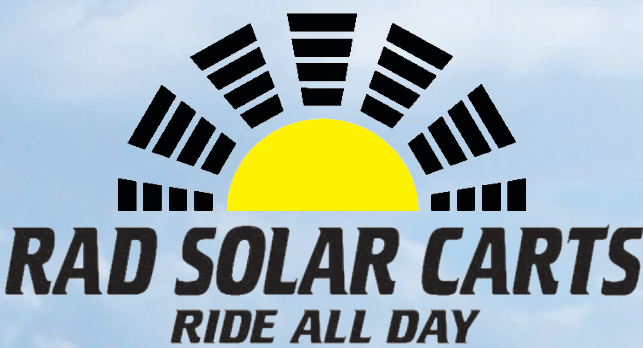
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OPINION

Grab-and-go parking: Why the issue is really a business district discussion

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD
The Coronado News

Orange Avenue is not your run-of-the-mill street. It's the island's main street dripping in character, peppered with funky mom-and-pop establishments and coastal art. It can also be a parking nightmare.

The boutique shops make Coronado unique, but it's getting harder and harder for them to stay afloat, and more common for chains to swoop in.

City Council member Mark Fleming recently proposed a policy change that he says would make it easier for grab-and-go restaurants, like Everbowl or Subway, to open.

The change, discussed by Coronado's City Council at its Jan. 20 meeting, would apply the retail parking standards to grab-and-go restaurants with less than 250 square feet of customer serving area. The reason is that a grab-and-go style restaurant has a similar parking demand as a retailer, since customers complete their shopping within minutes versus a sit-down restaurant where guests may sit for hours. Currently both grab-and-go and sit-down style restaurants need to provide one parking spot for every 100 square feet, even if they are take-out locations with no tables or chairs.

Right now, retail shops have the best deal when it comes to parking requirements – one space per 500 square feet. The change would bring grab-and-go restaurants on the same level.

It's common sense in theory. Changing one sentence would lessen the burden on take-out businesses up and down Orange Avenue already dealing with high rent, inflation, and a myriad of other challenges.



Coronado leaders discussed grab-and-go parking requirements at a recent meeting. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Sure, the change would encourage more carryout food establishments to fill the empty vacancies sprinkled down the city's main street. But without a change, are we ironically creating more businesses – such as tourist-centered retail shops – that aren't actually catering to residents? Do locals benefit more instead from say, the Chipotle on the corner of Orange and Ocean Boulevard, or the souvenir shop next door?

That's exactly the question we need to answer. Before diving head-first into a policy change that seems like common-sense – an easy fix, on the surface – we need to think long and hard about what we want the

heart of Coronado to look like. Arguably, residents have no interest in saturating Orange Avenue with restaurants, let alone stop-in places. But they also have an interest in filling vacant store fronts.

The boutique stores, retail shops and mom-and-pop eateries are worth protecting to keep Coronado's charm. But if the retail stores that can pay the high rent are mostly souvenir shops that Coronado residents don't patronize, is it "better" to have more grab-and-go style restaurants that Coronado residents actually shop at?

City officials need to consider what they are trying to accomplish

with this policy, and if lessening requirements for grab-and-go restaurants will consequently push other small businesses out of the market or respond to a changing business environment.

This is not just a parking discussion. This is a business district discussion. It's a decision that has implications for how Coronado will look in the years to come.

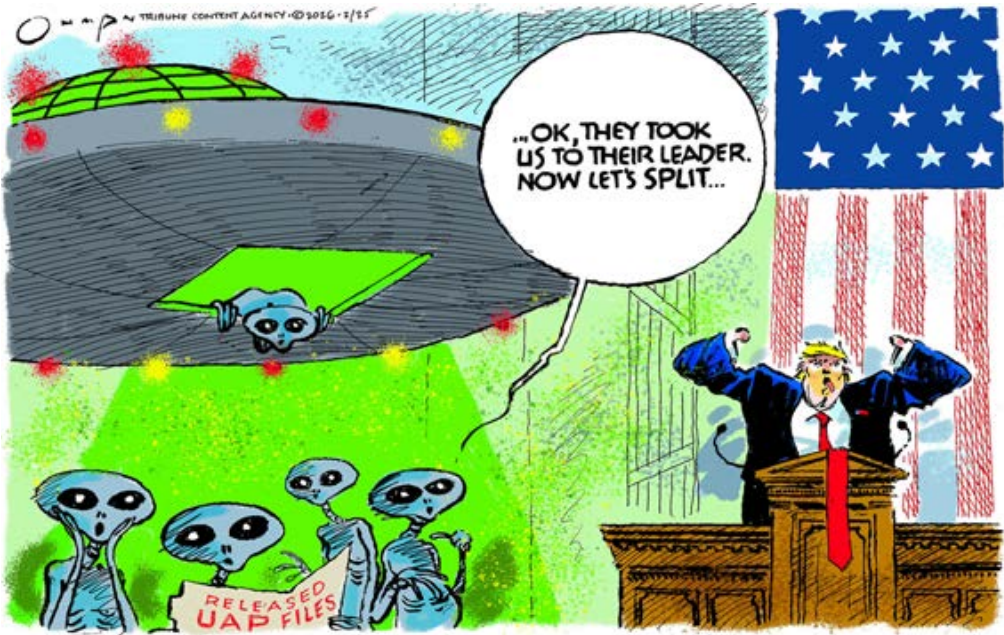
We want to hear from you. If you have input on what the business district of Coronado should look like, or a response to this editorial, send a letter to the editor – 500 words or less – to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com.

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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CORONADO

MOUTHFUL!

A little glamour, a lot of personality at Nado Republic

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

BY MICHELLE ARMAS
The Coronado News

Situated on C Street, tucked into the corner of a small commercial plaza, sits Nado Republic, owned by Chef Gorgio Cortelli. From outside, the sectioned-off terrace gives the impression of two separate restaurants, but inside feels like someone's living room.

In the spacious bar, stacks of wine, champagne and liquor bottles backdrop the bartender. A disco ball showers light onto velvet, Old Hollywood-style stools in patinas of teal and deep red. A retro checkered floor, faux roses and gothic-style lamps arouse a playful feeling, arguably a brilliant mess.

It's the kind of place where you imagine yourself lingering at the bar, sipping an espresso martini and chatting with the bartender — which, aside from the espresso martini, is exactly what I did. I even discovered that one of the servers was from Naples in southern Italy, which made the experience feel all the more authentic.

The playful and homey theme continues onto the terrace, where more roses and an Italian-style stone fountain defines the patio.

The server offered recommendations and told me how the pasta is made in house. According to him, Cortelli's acclaim has even led to supplying pasta to restaurants in Little Italy, and his opening of a second restaurant, Decore, in San Diego's Gas Lamp Quarter.

The menu offers many options: pastas, pizzas and meat and fish dishes. The server's recommendation — rigatoni with the pink vodka



Gnocchi Asiago Truffle was served at Nado Republic Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026. Photo by Michelle Armas.

sauce — tempted me, but once I saw the truffle gnocchi stuffed with asiago cheese, the decision was easy as I had never seen such a combo. I also ordered the veal wrapped in prosciutto and paired with a sage and butter sauce.

The gnocchi came out on a chinoiserie-style plate holding the pool of creamy white sauce and round dumplings perfectly. One bite revealed strong black truffle notes complemented by buttery Asiago all bathed in a creamy white sauce. The texture, which can be tricky in gnocchi — teetering like a seesaw between mushy and chewy — was

perfect: pillow-soft.

Flavors from the veal “saltin-bocca,” which means “jumps in the mouth,” jumped in my mouth — a complex of sage butter with notes of tarragon and prosciutto layered around the juicy veal. It sat in tandem with a bed of broccolini which paled in comparison to the meat. It was a bit overcooked and mushy which disappointed me.

And regular readers know I don't have inhibitions about dessert — in this case a coin toss between limoncello cake and tiramisu, I chose the limoncello. It was presented on a plate with silver antique spoons — a

small slice topped by white chocolate shavings, delicate, with a subtle undertone of lemon zest. The cake was light and fluffy, paired with the silky white chocolate that added a firm texture that melts quickly in your mouth.

Nado Republic is open 4 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Friday, noon to 11:30 p.m. Saturday and noon to 10:30 p.m. Sunday. It is located on 1007 C Ave, Coronado, CA 92118.

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Looking for a job in Coronado? Annual job fair returns April 22

Discover Coronado invites the community to learn about jobs available across the city

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Discover Coronado welcomes anyone seeking employment to attend its third annual Coronado Job Fair this spring.

Every year Discover Coronado, the destination marketing organization for the city of Coronado, intends to connect local residents with jobs close to home.

The Coronado Job Fair is scheduled from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Winn Room inside the Coronado Public Library at 640 Orange Ave. on April 22.

Discover Coronado has accommodated hours to welcome students from the local high school to its job fair, meaning the upcoming job fair will begin in the afternoon, rather than in the morning.

The organization says this year's event comes at a time when numerous residents are looking for work following government downsizing and amid rising costs for housing, food, utilities and healthcare.

“Whether someone is looking for their very first job, returning to the workforce, or looking to stay active in retirement, the Coronado Job Fair



Representatives from the city of Coronado's recreation department will return to the annual job fair, presented by Discover Coronado, at the Coronado Public Library in April.

Photo provided by Discover Coronado.

connects our community with real opportunities right here at home,” said Claudia Ludlow, interim chair of Discover Coronado.

Opportunities for all

The Coronado Job Fair is a four-hour event open to the public.

The fair welcomes job seekers of all ages and experience levels including local youth, retired residents and seniors.

“We want this event to open doors

for residents at every stage of life,” said Ludlow.

According to the organization, Ludlow began her work career at the Hotel del Coronado in 1991 and became the general manager of the Glorietta Bay Inn in 2002.

Discover Coronado says the number of open jobs at the local resorts increases between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The event is expected to include hiring representatives from Corona-

do Island Marriott Resort, Hotel del Coronado, and Loews Coronado Bay Resort.

Other representatives from businesses in the city will also be available to discuss current openings and collect resumes, of which attendees should bring multiple copies.

For more information, visit: DiscoverCoronado.com.

Contact:
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CORONADO

California must let immigrant truck drivers keep their licenses, judge rules

Associated Press

More than 20,000 immigrant truck drivers will be able to keep their licenses in California, at least temporarily, despite efforts by the Trump administration and the state of California to revoke them, according to a tentative ruling Wednesday in Alameda County Superior Court.

The decision puts the state of California in a bind. The U.S. Department of Transportation already has repeatedly pushed the California Department of Motor Vehicles to rescind these licenses, which belong to many asylum seekers and other immigrants with temporary legal status, after the federal government found alleged clerical issues regarding the expiration dates on their licenses. The California DMV complied with the transportation department's demands and sent letters to more than

20,000 drivers last fall, telling them that their California licenses would expire in the next 60 days.

But after a law firm and two legal advocacy groups, the Asian Law Caucus and the Sikh Coalition, sued on behalf of truckers, saying that the state didn't follow the proper process for rescinding their licenses, the state extended the expiration dates to March 6. The transportation department said in January that it will withhold \$160 million in federal highway funds from California as punishment for extending the expiration dates.

While immigrant drivers in the courtroom celebrated today's tentative decision, attorneys for the state of California said the judge's ruling could hurt many more people. The Trump administration has threatened to rescind California's ability to grant commercial licenses altogether

if the state doesn't comply with its orders regarding immigrant truckers.

Forcing the DMV to keep these 20,000 licenses intact "will risk the ultimate harm that California is trying to avoid," said Barbara Horne-Petersdorf, an attorney with the California Department of Justice. "DMV is not insulated from any retaliatory action." All told, about 700,000 drivers in California have commercial driving licenses, which are required to operate everything from big rigs to school buses.

Later this week, the judge will issue a final decision and the attorneys representing California will explain the process they will use to give the 20,000 truckers a chance to keep their licenses while also appealing the federal government's demands.

Even though the roughly 20,000 immigrant drivers will be able to keep their licenses in the short

term, they have more limited long-term prospects. The transportation department created a rule in February preventing states from issuing or renewing licenses to certain immigrants, including many if not all of the 20,000 drivers affected by the judge's tentative decision. Two major unions, the AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Teachers, and a consumer law group, Public Citizen, are suing the federal government to stop that rule from taking effect next month.

The state of California is also suing the transportation department over its threats to withhold the \$160 million in funding and to stop the state from issuing trucking licenses in the future.

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

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CORONADO

Wave of California teacher strikes ‘is no coincidence’

Associated Press

If your child’s teacher hasn’t threatened to go on strike recently, they probably will soon.

Thousands of California K-12 teachers have walked off their jobs or voted to strike in the past few months, as part of a strategic, statewide effort by the California Teachers Association to boost salaries and benefits — and get the public’s attention.

“All these districts going out on strike — it’s not a coincidence at all,” said David Goldberg, president of the California Teachers Association, the state’s largest teachers union. “Everywhere in the state there are people with unmet needs. The conditions have been ripe for a long time.”

San Francisco teachers went on strike for four days this month. West Contra Costa teachers went on strike in December. San Diego, Woodland, Apple Valley, Duarte and Madera teachers planned to strike in the past few months but reached a settlement at the last minute. Teachers in Los Angeles, Oakland, Dublin, West Sacramento, Twin Rivers and Natomas have voted overwhelmingly to strike. In Berkeley, Soquel and other districts, teachers are holding rallies and appear headed for strike votes.

Ten local teachers unions under the umbrella of the California Teachers Association worked for years to align their contracts so they’d expire at the same time: June 30, 2025. The idea, Goldberg said, was to trigger a wave of negotiations and potential strikes to garner public attention and flex political muscle. Teachers unions from at least a dozen other districts have also joined the effort, even though they weren’t part of the original cohort.

“We’re a strong union with a lot of resources, and we’re taking advantage of that,” Goldberg said, whose union represents about 310,000 teachers. “Teachers are learning from each other, and getting some clarity on how to win resources for public schools.”

Public and political priorities

Teachers in expensive cities like San Francisco often can’t afford to live near their jobs, she said, noting that starting teachers in San Francisco Unified earn about \$80,000. San Francisco’s starting police officers, by comparison, make about \$120,000.

It’s been a frustration for the teaching profession for decades, she said. But districts don’t have much control over their revenues and substantial increases in spending would have to come from the state, she said.

“To be sure, the issue of marshaling sufficient resources is a district conversation about teacher worth,” Koppich said. “But, ultimately, it’s a state discussion about public and political priorities.”

District financial hardships

At the same time that teachers are demanding more money, school districts are facing financial hardships. Declining enrollment, especially in urban districts, has meant half-empty classrooms and less money from the state, which funds schools based on how many students show up every



Camilla He, a teacher at Commodore Stockton Early Education School, leads chants in Chinese across the street from the Rose Pak Station as teachers, students and parents participate in the SFUSD Teachers Strike on its third day at Washington and Stockton in the Chinatown District, in San Francisco, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026. *Yalonda M. James/San Francisco Chronicle via AP.*

day. Closing schools is the obvious answer, but that’s proven to be deeply unpopular and few school boards appear willing to take that step.

Another financial challenge has been the end of pandemic relief money. California schools received more than \$23.4 billion in one-time grants intended to help students recover from pandemic-related learning loss.

State and federal authorities advised schools to spend the money on temporary tutors, after-school and summer programs and other short-term expenses. But some districts, including Los Angeles Unified, San Diego Unified and San Francisco Unified, used some of their funds to increase teacher pay or hire permanent staff, which they’re now struggling to pay for after the grant money ended.

So even though the state has increased K-12 school funding the past few years, some districts are financially strapped. It’s unclear whether they can afford teachers’ demands for higher salaries or more generous benefits, said Marguerite Roza, director of the Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University.

The California Teachers Association initially coordinated with 10 district unions to align their contracts to expire on the same date:

Los Angeles Unified, for example, gave its teachers 5% raises plus a \$2,000 one-time stipend and a \$500 bonus. The district’s nurses, who are also represented by the union, got \$5,000 stipends.

“The unions are saying, ‘We know you have an ATM back there. If you were nice, you’d push the buttons,’” Roza said. But districts’ money is tight, she said, “so we’re at a stand off.”

If districts agree to teachers’ demands, cuts will have to come from somewhere — most likely from programs considered non-essential, such as sports, electives, advanced placement classes and other offerings, she said.

It could also mean staff layoffs. Tutors, classroom aides and newer teachers would be the most vulnerable.

Those cuts would harm low-income students the most, Roza said, because they’re more likely to rely on special school programs and attend schools with newer teachers. Low-income students are also more likely to be affected by a strike, she said, because families typically have fewer options for child care and those students are more likely to suffer from academic disruptions.

School boards need to stand up for those students, she said, and do a better job negotiating with teachers unions. That entails more transparency about finances and a willingness to close under-used schools.

“It’s so irresponsible to erode services for vulnerable students because you don’t have a spine,” Roza said.

‘Kids as leverage’

Lance Christensen, vice president of education policy at the California Policy Center, said California should get rid of teachers unions altogether. Teachers deserve higher salaries, he said, but the teachers union does not always act in the interests of students.

The union devotes too much time to defending incompetent teachers, he said, and strikes are harmful to students and families. He also said the California Teachers Association has a political stranglehold on Sacramento that “overshadows every con-

versation in the Legislature, even if it’s not about education.”

He noted that charter schools and private schools are rarely unionized, and sometimes have better outcomes than traditional public schools. A handful of other states don’t allow teachers to collectively bargain, and at least 35 don’t allow teachers unions to strike.

“The union uses kids as leverage,” said Christensen, who ran for state superintendent of public instruction in 2022. “Right now, CTA is the biggest evil in California education.”

Next steps in San Francisco

In San Francisco, parent Meredith Dodson said she’s relieved the strike is over. Although most parents support teachers and believe they deserve better compensation, the strike was stressful for families and disrupted learning for thousands of students.

The \$183 million settlement includes raises and improved benefits for teachers, which the district plans to pay for by draining its reserve funds.

Parents now are bracing for the inevitable cuts. The district’s finances remain shaky, and aren’t likely to improve any time soon.

“What comes next? Layoffs? Increased class sizes? State intervention?” said Dodson, who is executive director of the San Francisco Parents Coalition, a parent advocacy group. “There’s going to be some hard questions for the board, and they’re going to have to ask themselves, what’s best for kids?”

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

US offers \$10 million for capture of brothers said to lead Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel

Associated Press

The U.S. State Department said on Feb. 26 that it would pay up to \$10 million for information leading to the arrests or convictions of two brothers identified as leaders of Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel in the state of Baja California, which includes Tijuana.

The reward offer came the same day that authorities announced a new indictment against Rene Arzate Garcia, 42, known as “La Rana” (“The

Frog”). He was initially charged with drug crimes in San Diego. The superseding indictment includes charges of conspiracy, narcoterrorism and material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

The U. S. is offering \$5 million each for information on Rene Arzate Garcia and Alfonso Arzate Garcia, 52, known as “Aguiles” (“Achilles”). Their whereabouts are unknown.

“As controllers of a critical trafficking node in Tijuana at the U.S. bor-

der, the Arzate-Garcia brothers have become key essential components of the cartel’s command-and-control structure,” the State Department said.

“Their control of the Tijuana Plaza offers the Sinaloa Cartel a tactical advantage in maintaining dominance over rival organizations, ensuring no interruption to the busiest border crossing in the Western Hemisphere.”

California’s border with Mexico has been a battleground between the

Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels.

The rewards were announced four days after the Mexican army killed the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, “El Mencho,” decapitating what had become Mexico’s most powerful cartel. The drug lord was the Mexican government’s biggest prize yet to show the Trump administration in its efforts to crack down on the cartels.

Richard Bailey announces run for San Diego City Council

» Continued from Page 1

wanted to keep an open mind, but had other priorities at the time, like continuing his mountaineering hobbies and summiting Mount Vinson in Antarctica.

However while pursuing other goals, he launched a social media campaign on city governance and led tours that focused on “Policy Over Politics” in San Diego.

While he told The Coronado News in December that he had no plans to run anytime soon, Bailey discussed what he calls “common sense policies” on issues such as taxation, city

services and budgets during his tours.

The former mayor said he saw a desire for more policy-focused conversation as opposed to the “performative political theatre we regularly see.”

“It seems nearly everyone is disappointed with the current direction of the city of San Diego, so I hope to provide much needed balance and perspective,” Bailey said.

Pushing for nonpartisanship

Bailey moved from Coronado to Point Loma in 2025 and started building his social media presence, reaching over 24,000 followers in just

several months and focusing on non-partisanship.

In a recent interview with the Voice of San Diego, Bailey said he re-registered as of Feb. 19, listing no party affiliation. In the interview, Bailey declined to express opinions on the Trump administration because he is focused on local issues. However, his declination included comment on policies that affect San Diego, such as immigration raids, border tariffs and offshore oil drilling.

“I think the partisanship of politics is exhausting, and also just a very unproductive way to live your life, if your self-identity is tied up in your

party affiliation,” Bailey said.

Bailey ran for Congress as a Republican in 2022 but did not appear on the ballot for the primary in June 2022.

In 2020 and 2021, Bailey donated to the Republican Party of San Diego County, and in 2024 he contributed to a few Republican congressional candidates, according to the Federal Election Commission.

“I decided to launch a campaign based on commonsense policies,” Bailey told The Coronado News.

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MILITARY

Crowd honors Medal of Honor recipient Royce Williams



Medal of Honor recipient, retired U.S. Navy Capt. Royce Williams, waves at audience members during his arrival at Jet Center Palomar Airport in Carlsbad, California on Feb. 26. Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor on Feb. 24 for his heroic actions during the Korean War. Williams is a native of California. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Anamile Arce.

Naval Air Station North Island increases security measures

» Continued from Page 1

“The United States military is undertaking a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this very wicked, radical, dictatorship from threatening America and our core, national security interests,” Trump announced in a video posted to Truth Social on Feb. 28, just hours before it was confirmed that Khamenei had been killed.

Operation Epic Fury

The war, officially named Operation Epic Fury, was characterized by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth as “the most lethal, most complex, and most-precision aerial operation in history.”

Many elected Democrats and some Republicans assailed the U.S. action, contending that Trump launched a war without congressional approval and that the conflict threatens to damage security not just in the Middle East, but worldwide.

In the aftermath of the initial attack, Iran retaliated with missile and drone launches against Israel, also targeting U.S. military bases and civilians in at least a dozen locations, including the Port of Dubai and residential areas in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Trump said in the video that the objective behind Operation Epic Fury is to “defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats from the Iranian regime.”

USS Abraham Lincoln in the front lines

The Lincoln took part in the attack’s first wave of war after it was relocated to the Arabian Sea just about a month ago amid tensions over Iran’s nuclear weapons program.

According to U.S. Central Command (CentCom), the United States and Israel began striking targets on Feb. 28 to dismantle the Iranian regime’s security apparatus.

The Lincoln launched jet attacks while the USS Spruance, an escort ship, fired Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iranian targets, CentCom reports.

“The President ordered bold action,

and our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, guardians, and coast guardsmen are answering the call,” said Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of CentCom.

Carrier Air Wing 9 is also on the front lines aboard the Lincoln, including three squadrons from North Island: VRM 30, a fleet logistics multi-mission squadron; HSM 71, a helicopter maritime strike squadron; and HSC 14, a helicopter sea combat squadron.

Central Command updates

As of 7:30 a.m. ET March 2, four U.S. service members were killed in action, CentCom announced on its Facebook page.

It also denied claims by the Iranian regime that the carrier had been damaged by ballistic missiles. “The Lincoln was not hit. The missiles launched didn’t even come close,” CentCom wrote.

The command released a list of U.S. assets that are deployed in the combat arena, including stealth bombers, guided missile destroyers, fighter jets and another nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford.

Rep. Scott Peters, a Democrat who represents San Diego, released a statement calling the war “unwise and dangerous.”

“Like many Americans, I did not see an imminent threat to the United States that required immediate military action,” Peters wrote. “This makes me deeply concerned about the risk of American lives being lost in someone else’s war.”

President Trump encouraged Iranians in his video to take over their government now that the supreme leader had been killed.

“To the great, proud people of Iran, I say tonight that the hour of your freedom is at hand,” Trump said. “When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be, probably, your only chance for generations.”

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Human error blamed for jet crash following Navy investigation

» Continued from Page 1

proficiency with the recently updated H18 software.”

The jet, an EA-18G Growler, was based out of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington and was conducting a joint training exercise in Coronado. It went down at 10:15 a.m. on Feb. 12 during a “go-around” maneuver, which is when the plane lands but then immediately takes off without stopping.

The Growler had taken off from North Island when it crashed into the bay between Kellogg Beach and the tip of Shelter Island.

Naval Air Forces public affairs officer, Beth Teach, confirmed last March that the jet had already taken off and was attempting the go-around when the pilots safely ejected just seconds before the crash.

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SPORTS

CHS ROUNDUP

Islander sporting events this week

BY CADE MICHAELSON
The Coronado News

This week is a busy one for Coronado athletics, with the baseball and volleyball teams leading the way. The track team ends the week for the Islanders, competing in the second meet of the season, the Viking Sunset Relay in La Jolla.

9 • Monday

Varsity girls' lacrosse gets the week started for the Islanders with a home game against Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. The game starts at 4 p.m.

The freshman baseball team is at home facing Cathedral. First pitch is at 4:30 p.m.

Islander boys' volleyball starts the week against La Jolla High School. The games are at home, starting at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

10 • Tuesday

Girls' beach volleyball starts the day for Coronado with a road game against Clairemont. The game starts at 3:30 p.m.

The boys' volleyball teams are also on the road, but against Mater Dei. Games start at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

JV and varsity baseball are facing Christian, with JV at home and varsity on the road. Both games start at 4 p.m.

CHS boys' lacrosse is at home for a pair of games against San Dieguito Academy, with start times of 5 and 7 p.m.

11 • Wednesday

Islanders' freshman baseball plays Cathedral for the second time this week, this time on the road. First pitch is at 4:30 p.m.

CHS softball plays its first game of the week against Valley Center High School. JV is at home, varsity is on the road. Both games start at 4 p.m.

12 • Thursday

Both baseball teams are facing La Jolla Country Day, with varsity at home and JV on the road. The JV game starts at 3, varsity at 4 p.m.

CHS swim is competing against Scripps Ranch on the road. Start time TBA.

Girls' beach volleyball is at home to face Our Lady of Peace. The game starts at 3:30 p.m.

Boys' tennis is also on the road to play against Clairemont. Matches start at 4 p.m.

13 • Friday

CHS baseball closes their week with games against Santa Fe Christian Schools. JV is at home, varsity is on the road. First pitch is at 4 p.m. for both.

Islanders boys' lacrosse is at home for a game against Brophy Prep. Start time is 7 p.m.

14 • Saturday

The CHS track and field team is competing in the Viking Sunset Relay, hosted at La Jolla. Events start at 8 a.m.

Varsity softball is at home for a morning game against San Dieguito Academy. First pitch is at 9 a.m.

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San Diego FC signs GM Tyler Heaps

Associated Press

Tyler Heaps has agreed to a multi-year contract extension after an impressive first season as the sporting director and general manager of San Diego FC.

The Major League Soccer club announced the extension on Feb. 24.

San Diego was an immediate championship contender in its MLS debut in 2025, setting league records for an expansion club with 63 points and 19

victories. The team earned the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs and advanced to the conference final before losing to Vancouver.

Heaps hired coach Mikey Varas and built the roster headlined by Danish forward Anders Dreyer, who became one of the best players in MLS in his first stateside season. San Diego also signed Hirving "Chucky" Lozano as its first designated player, but then gave up on the Mexican star last month after just one costly season

amid reports of dressing room tension.

San Diego opened its second MLS campaign last weekend with a 5-0 home victory over Montreal.

Heaps was the youngest sporting director in the league when San Diego hired him at 33 years old in August 2024. The Minnesota native previously worked for Right to Dream, the multinational soccer academy by San Diego FC owner Mohamed Mansour.

Padres reliever Matsui out of WBC for Japan and uncertain for MLB opener because of groin strain

Associated Press

Padres reliever Yuki Matsui's will not pitch for Japan in the World Baseball Classic and the left-hander's status for San Diego's season opener in a month also is unclear because of a left groin strain.

Matsui was still throwing off flat ground a week after cutting short a batting practice session because of the groin.

"Right now, I'm just continuing the throwing progression, getting intensities and distances of (playing) catch back up," Matsui told reporters through a translator. "Once it's good enough, then I'll start throwing off the mound. But as to when, we don't know yet."

The 30-year-old Matsui, who is 7-3 with a 3.86 ERA in 125 appearances in two seasons since signing a \$28 million, five-year with Padres, also said he wasn't sure yet about opening day. San Diego's opener is March 26 at home against Detroit.

Defending WBC champion Japan opens against Taiwan on March 6 at the Tokyo Dome. Matsui was replaced on Japan's roster by left-hander Yumeto Kanemaru of the Chunichi Dragons.

"I was looking forward to playing with them," Matsui said. "I think the



San Diego Padres pitcher Yuki Matsui throws during spring training baseball practice Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, in Peoria, Ariz. AP Photo/Charlie Riedel.

Tokyo games, because of the time differences, I don't think I can watch in real time. But I believe they're going to make it to the round in Miami. And I think that's when I'll be able to watch live, and cheer for them."

Before the 5-foot-8 Matsui joined the Padres, he had a 2.40 career ERA, 236 saves and a 1.11 WHIP over 10

seasons in Nippon Professional Baseball. He was the youngest pitcher in the Japanese major leagues to reach 200 saves. He made his Japanese big league debut at age 18 in 2014 and became a five-time All-Star for the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles, leading the Pacific League in saves in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Denis Bouanga agrees to multiyear contract extension with Los Angeles FC after Fluminense interest

Associated Press

High-scoring forward Denis Bouanga has agreed to a multiyear contract extension with Los Angeles FC.

The club announced the deal on Feb. 25 with Bouanga, who is now signed as a designated player through 2028 with an option through the 2029-30 Major League Soccer season.

Bouanga has been one of the best players in MLS ever since he arrived from Ligue 1's St-Etienne in August 2022, and he became LAFC's top career goal-scorer last season. He has 101 goals and 42 assists in 152 appearances for LAFC.

"I'm grateful to LAFC for the trust they've shown in me," Bouanga said in a statement. "From the beginning, my family and I have felt at home in Los Angeles. It's an honor to represent this club and our supporters every time I put on the jersey. I believe in what we are building here, and I'm motivated to keep improving, winning more trophies, and helping this club reach even higher."

The 31-year-old Bouanga was previously signed only through 2027, and he had received significant offseason interest from Brazilian power Fluminense, with multiple media reports suggesting a deal was imminent in recent weeks.

Instead, LAFC has locked down its key counterpart to superstar Son Heung-min, preserving their dynamic scoring duo at the start of a season in which the club expects to contend for titles.

"Denis has delivered at an elite level with historic consistency since the day



Los Angeles FC forward Denis Bouanga, left, dribbles against Inter Miami defender Ian Fray (17) during the first half of an MLS soccer match, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, in Los Angeles, Calif. AP Photo/Jessie Alcheh.

he arrived, and he has helped us win multiple trophies," LAFC general manager John Thorington said. "This new contract reflects that. We're proud of what he's accomplished here and are motivated to continue building on that success together."

Bouanga began to score big goals almost immediately after he arrived in 2022, playing a major role in LAFC's march to a Supporters' Shield trophy and its only MLS Cup.

The Frenchman who represents Gabon internationally tied LAFC's franchise record with 38 goals across all competitions in 2023 while earning his first of three straight MLS Best XI selections. Bouanga then finished 2024 as the runner-up for the Golden Boot with 20 goals while earning his second straight MLS All-Star selection.

Bouanga scored a career-high 24 goals in the regular season last year, again finishing second in the Golden Boot race while becoming the first MLS player to get 20 goals in three straight seasons. LAFC became an offensive dynamo after the midseason arrival of Son, with the duo combining for a jaw-dropping 25 goals and eight assists in their brief partnership — including 18 consecutive goals scored by the duo for LAFC over nearly two months of matches.

Bouanga is off to another strong start this season, recording a hat trick in CONCACAF Champions Cup play last week in Honduras before getting another goal and an assist in LAFC's dominant 3-0 victory over defending MLS Cup champion Inter Miami to begin the MLS regular season.



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SPORTS



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Blake Snell (7) works out during spring training baseball on Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, in Phoenix. AP Photo/Brynn Anderson.

Dodgers don't expect Snell to be ready on opening day, Yamamoto tunes up for World Baseball Classic

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Dodgers do not expect two-time Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell to be ready for opening day as he works on coming back from a shoulder injury that has lingered since last season.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts told reporters that the lefty has been throwing on flat ground, not the mound, and is making progress.

Snell was limited to 11 games last year in the regular season, going 5-4 with a 2.35 ERA. He was 3-2 in six postseason starts and helped the Dodgers repeat as World Series champions.

In a spring training game against San Francisco, right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto gave up two runs and five hits while striking out five over three innings. Yamamoto will head to Japan for the World Baseball Classic with Dodgers teammate Shohei Ohtani.



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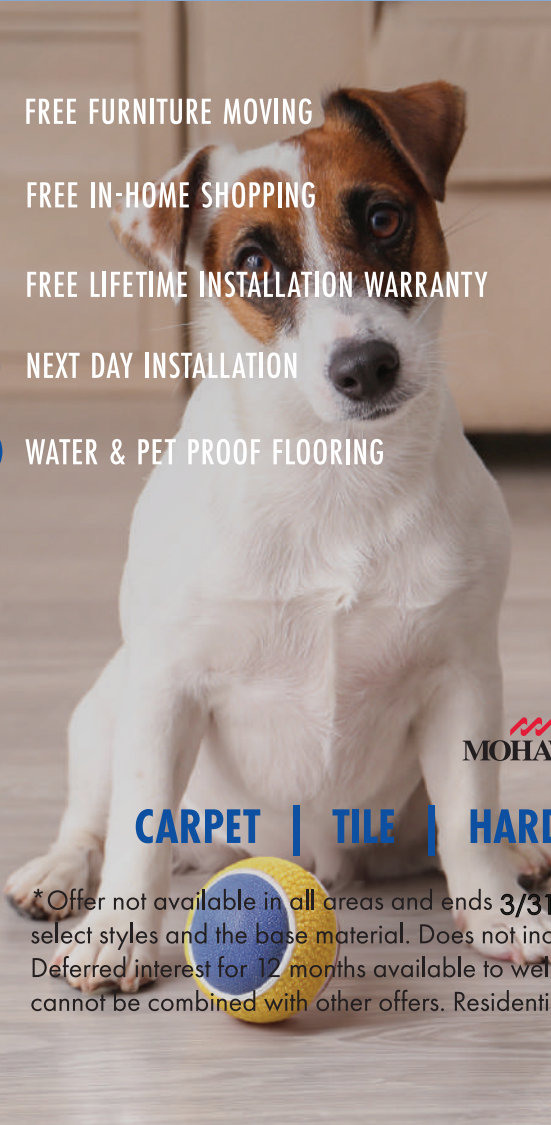
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SPORTS

Durant’s LA 2028 hopes land on Spoelstra’s desk, and the US Olympic coach is listening

Associated Press

If Kevin Durant ultimately decides to chase more Olympic gold, Erik Spoelstra seems interested in coaching him.

Spoelstra, the Miami Heat coach who will lead the U.S. men’s basketball team at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, said he’s aware of Durant’s recent comments about the potential of playing for what would be a fifth gold medal.

And the concept is clearly intriguing.

“Just him saying that is incredible,” Spoelstra — an assistant on the 2024 Olympic team — said before the Heat beat Durant and the Houston Rockets 115-105. “You know, that’s the culture of USA Basketball. You just want the best American players to raise their hand and say, ‘I want to do this.’”

When the 2024 Games were complete, Durant said he wouldn’t rule out a chance at playing in the Olympics again. And Durant told ESPN in a recent interview that he “would love to” play in the Los Angeles Games, adding that he wants his level of play between now and then to convince USA Basketball managing director Grant Hill, national team director Sean Ford, Spoelstra and anyone else involved in the selection process that he’s worthy of a spot.

“Hopefully I get that chance,” Durant said. “I’ve got to stay on top of my game. I keep saying that. I want to earn my spot on the team. Got to stay on top of my game and hopefully I’m out there with Coach Spo and his staff.”

Durant gave his time with Spoelstra at the Paris Games rave reviews.



Houston Rockets forward Kevin Durant, right, goes to the basket against Orlando Magic center Wendell Carter Jr. during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, in Orlando, Fla. AP Photo/John Raoux.

“I’ve always been impressed with Coach Spo from afar, but to be in the same locker room with him, to see his intensity, his scouts just made me want to run through a wall,” Durant said. “He was so enthused about being an assistant coach on Team USA and he understood that we wanted to make a statement out there as a team and he backed us.”

Durant’s place in USA Basketball

lore was secured long ago.

He’s the only four-time gold medalist in men’s Olympic basketball history, after winning golds in London 2012, Rio de Janeiro 2016, the Tokyo Games that were delayed a year until 2021, then Paris in 2024. In Paris, he became the career leader in points for the U.S. in Olympic competition, passing Lisa Leslie for that mark.

“You can feel his passion for representing the country and having the USA on the jersey,” Spoelstra said. “He’s been incredible in those competitions.”

Durant said one of the big takeaways from his time with Spoelstra in Paris was how someone who is a head coach — an NBA champion head coach, at that — serve as an assistant. As part of Golden State coach Steve Kerr’s staff in Paris, Spoelstra was on the floor after practices and before games to work with players individually, throw them passes in warm-ups, even rebound for them.

“Just doing the dirty work. Spo was great at that,” Durant said. “He made it exciting to come into work every day.”

Spoelstra says the 37-year-old Durant’s game is timeless — proven by the fact that the No. 6 scorer in NBA history, who is on pace to pass Michael Jordan for the No. 5 spot in the coming weeks, is still putting up numbers almost unheard of for someone at that age. At 26.2 points per game this season — 32 of them coming on Saturday — Durant could pass Jordan in about 10 games, or sometime around the third week of March.

“He’s an absolute tactician in terms of his work ethic and how he drills,” Spoelstra said. “It’s a great lesson for all the young players coming into the league. There’s one thing to get up shots and there’s another thing to really work player development and I think that’s a takeaway that we all had, watching him work during the summer, those six weeks.

“After practice, before practice, the days in between, he’s going in there with intention to try — even at this age — to get better and improve. What a beautiful mindset that is.”

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