

THE CORONADO NEWS

ONLINE 24/7 @ THECORONADONEWS.COM • FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026 • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 20

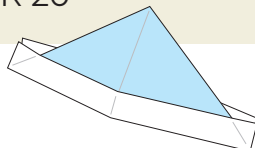
SPECIAL COVERAGE INSIDE THIS EDITION



CORONADO
FOURTH OF JULY

• Parade map, schedule
of events & more.
PAGE 8-9

• Visit our web page at
[thecoronadonews.com/
fourth-of-july](https://thecoronadonews.com/fourth-of-july) for more.



See **Page 10** for
instructions on how
to turn this paper
into your own hat!



Onlookers observe the Fourth of July parade entries in Coronado. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Rotary Club of Coronado commemorates

‘America the Beautiful’

From committee meetings to decorating, the club is dedicating over 100 hours to its July 4 parade entry

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

In the weeks leading up to the 77th Coronado Fourth of July parade, the Rotary Club of Coronado built a 9.5-foot-tall star surrounded by two large shooting stars to mount on its annual float entry.

“As we put together our float, we want to celebrate the holiday, try to tie it into the theme that the Coronado Fourth of July committee has assigned for the year, but also to highlight some of the key things that Rotary does and brings to Coronado,” said Mark Fleming, chair of the Rotary’s 4th of July committee.



A young parade attendee celebrates the Fourth of July in Coronado. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Fleming, councilman for the city of Coronado, said the committee will bring forward a float that is “very red, white, and blue, very patriotic,” recognizing the theme of “America the Beautiful.”

According to Fleming, the pa-

rade entry will feature a ‘M-A-S-H’-inspired golf cart, replicating an army Jeep from the late-1900s American war comedy-drama about a Mobile Army Surgical

» Continued on Page 8

A Q&A with this year's 4th of July grand marshal, Vice Adm. Douglas Verissimo

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Fourth of July parade’s grand marshal this year is Vice Adm. Douglas Verissimo, also known by his call sign, V8.

Verissimo assumed his duties as Commander, Naval Air Forces and Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in February 2026. Previously, he was executive officer aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), and commanding officer of the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70).



Vice Adm. Douglas Verissimo.
Photo taken from Navy.mil.

He also was assigned to Fighter Attack Squadron (VFA) 25, was catapult and arresting gear officer aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and was a demonstration pilot for the Blue Angels for one of his shore tours.

This was an email exchange between The Coronado News and Verissimo.

Q: Why did you decide to join the Navy?

Verissimo: As a kid growing up in Massachusetts, I was a “gear head.” I was interested by anything with an engine, or anything that could go fast – cars, tanks and planes. I was shaped by the space program, a visit to the National Air and Space Museum and movies about flying. At some point I got it into my head that I wanted to become a Navy pilot. It seemed unattainable, but a recruiter convinced me that it was possible, and I am grateful for her and that conversation.

Q: What kept you in the Navy for all these years?

Verissimo: It remained, and remains, enjoyable. I’m the kind of person who likes coming through a new front door every two or three

» Continued on Page 6

Navy Band Southwest returns to 77th annual Coronado Fourth of July Parade

The band will perform two Navy favorites at this year’s parade

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

When Coronado’s Independence Day parade rolls down Orange Avenue this July 4, about 30 sailors in the Navy Band Southwest are scheduled to provide the patriotic sound track. And Petty Officer Haley Bryla-Cameron has been tabbed to lead the way – us-

ing a ceremonial baton known as a “mace” to signal instructions to her fellow musicians.

“Our connection with San Diego and Coronado has been here for years,” said Bryla-Cameron, a musician first class. “Continuing to show up and connect with the community with music is always something we’re excited about and something we really value.”

Bryla-Cameron, who marched the parade as a flute player in 2025, returns this year as the drum major of Navy Band Southwest.

“I love the tradition of the Coronado 4th of July parade,” said Bryla-Cameron. “It’s so awesome that it has been going on

» Continued on Page 12



(L-R) Musician First Class Sam Detweiler, Musician Third Class Vincent Friedel, and Musician Second Class Emily Duff play saxophones alongside members of Navy Band Southwest. Photo by Musician Third Class Malaysia Billman.

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★ ★ ★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

Opinion
Local News

4
6-10

Navy
Sports

12
14-15

this week

5 • Sunday

Nate Nathan and The MacDaddy-O's are scheduled to perform in Spreckels Park on July 5 at 6 p.m. as part of Coronado Promenade Concerts' summer series.

5 • Sunday

On July 5, Coronado's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2422 will serve a picnic dinner of a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw and a chocolate chunk cookie.

7 • Tuesday

Learn brush calligraphy at a workshop hosted at the Coronado Public Library on July 7 at 5 p.m. Participants will learn how to write letterforms with brush pens. The program is for adults over the age of 18. Space is limited, and registration is recommended at coronado.librarycalendar.com.

8 • Wednesday

Join the Coronado Public Library for an evening of comedy and storytelling with Gus Constantellis, a Greek American stand-up comedian and writer known for his sharp, fast-paced humor inspired by his Brooklyn upbringing, family, and dating life. In this program, Constantellis will share stories from his debut book, "My Greek Mom's Recipes: She Died," a heartfelt and hilarious tribute to his larger-than-life mother. The event, at 6:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

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



Pictured here are the new buses Coronado will be using for its free summer shuttle program. They will be wrapped by Discover Coronado. Photo from staff report.

Coronado adds fourth bus to free summer shuttle program for July 4 weekend

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Coronado's popular free summer shuttle with San Diego's Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) will run through Sept. 7 for its 14th year after seeing a record season in 2025.

Costs for the program are projected to be around \$147,000 with some tweaks to the operations.

The city opted for smaller 35-foot mini buses instead of the typical 40-foot buses. The shuttle service started on June 6 and will go through Sept. 7. Three wrapped Coronado buses will run every 20 minutes all week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For the busy Independence Day weekend, the city will add a fourth bus to the schedule. The shuttle service to the Village will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 4.

The shuttle buses run along the bus route from the Shores and City Hall to downtown and to the ferry landing and the Marriott Resort & Spa.

For the Fourth of July service to the Cays, buses will run from the northeast corner of Grande Caribe Causeway and Coronado Cays Boulevard, stopping at Liberty Military Housing, and ending at the southeastern corner of Avenue de las Arenas and Silver Strand Boulevard, where passengers can connect with the regular Village route.

On July 4, bus services will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. in 30 minute intervals for Cays residents.

There will also be 300 PRONTO passes available for Coronado Cays residents. These passes are standard MTS day passes that can be used on any route, allowing Cays residents to connect with the service in the Village area.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Shiba

PAWS of Coronado

Shiba, a five-year-old rottweiler, is up for adoption at PAWS of Coronado.

Staff members at the non-profit, which provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Shiba is a gentle dog who thrives as the main attraction in a home.

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 Shiba or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



Meet Shiba, the pet of the week. She's at PAWS of Coronado and is looking for her forever home. See all adoptable animals: Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap on the link. Graphic/photo provided by PAWS of Coronado.



Revitalize Your Emotional and Physical Wellness

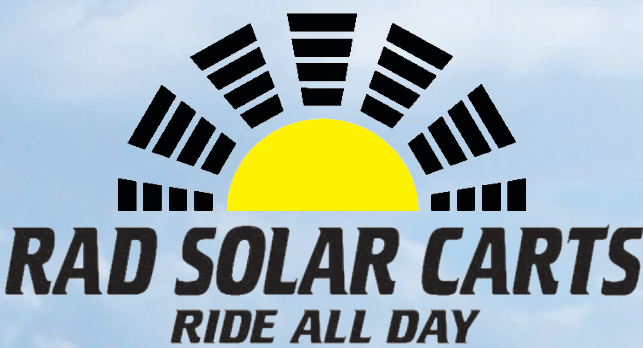
At the Sewall Healthy Living Center at Sharp Coronado Hospital, we provide treatments for over 40 conditions, including arthritis, back pain and headaches — in a tranquil, spa-like destination.

- **Spa therapies** — We offer Swedish, hot stone, deep tissue and sports massages, as well as acupuncture. Certified massage therapists and acupuncturists incorporate clinical aromatherapy in their treatments.
- **Cosmetic services** — Board-certified nurse practitioners perform Botox and dermal filler injections.
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OPINION

LISA
BENSON



JACK
OHMAN

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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www.coronadofilmfest.com



CORONADO



Participants celebrate at the finish line of the 2025 Crown City Classic Run. Photo by @rvwbmultimedia-63.

Crown City Classic returns to Coronado in 2026

Coronado News staff

On July 4, 2026, the Crown City Classic celebrates its 53rd year, inviting runners of all ages to start their holiday with purpose, patriotism and panoramic views along San Diego Bay. The event features a 12K (7.4 miles), a fast-paced 5K, and the kids half-mile race.

Participants will start in Tidelands Park and run along Glorietta Boulevard. All finishers receive a race t-shirt, chip-timed results, a medal and access to the Crown City Classic Expo.

“The race is a symbol of patriotism for runners, a chance for all to come together and celebrate America, especially this year as we mark the nation’s 250th birthday,” said Jamie Monroe, Race Director of the Crown City Classic. “It’s a great day that combines athleticism and national pride into an opportunity to support the Coronado community and our local youth.”

Through race proceeds, the event contributes over \$20,000 annually to help fund resources for the Islander Sports Foundation, according to organizers.

Races begin at 7 a.m. For more information at to register, visit crowncityrun.com.



Participants run into the water for the Open Water Swim. Photo by Donald Miralle Photography.

Continue Independence Day festivities with Open Water Swim

Coronado News staff

On July 5 in Glorietta Bay, one of Coronado’s longest-running Fourth of July weekend traditions will return with the 2026 Open Water Swim.

Formerly known as the Coronado Fourth of July Rough Water Swim, the event will feature a one-mile and half-mile race, along with a 250-meter youth sprint swim.

“The Crown City Open Water Swim represents an exciting new chapter for a tradition that has meant so much to the Coronado community over the years,” said Megan Allen, marketing manager at Easy Day Sports. “While

the event has a new name, participants can expect the same atmosphere and memorable race experience that have made it a holiday weekend favorite.”

New for 2026, swimmers can also participate in the Crown City Challenge by completing both the Crown City Classic on July 4 and the Crown City Open Water Swim on July 5. Participants who complete both events will earn a Crown City Challenge medal in addition to their individual finisher medals.

The event begins at 7 a.m. on July 5. To register and for more information, visit crowncityrun.com/crown-city-open-water-swim/.

Q&A with this year’s 4th of July Grand Marshal Vice Adm. Douglas Verissimo

» Continued from Page 1

years: starting a new but similar adventure and finding ways to have a positive impact in the lives of the sailors who safeguard our freedom. My father was a mason, and the lessons I learned from working alongside him showed me the importance of working hard and working for those around you.

Q: How was flying with the Blue Angels for shore duty? Any fun tidbits about doing that as an assignment?

Verissimo: Flying with the Blue Angels was a dream come true. It was an incredibly rewarding but also challenging assignment and helped me understand the importance of trusting the work of those around you. The expectations for everyone on that team are so high. Because you fly just inches between you and the planes around you, there is no room for error. Flying with the Blue Angels honed my flying and instilled in me the importance of precision.

Just as important, however, was the assignment I had after flying with the Blues, which was becoming a “shooter” (a catapult officer, responsible for launching aircraft from carriers) on the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). When I began the tour, it wasn’t the job that I wanted, but it’s probably the job that taught me some of the foundational principles that are still important to me today: ownership, accountability, and leadership at all levels in a very large organization.

Q: For you personally, what has been the most important part of your job?

Verissimo: In February, I became the head of Naval Air Forces; a position that is colloquially referred to as the “Air Boss.” In this role, I’m responsible for preparing the totality of the Navy’s airplanes and aircraft carriers (nearly 100,000 sailors, marines and

“To me, service means deliberately making choices to positively affect those around you. Military service is the path I’ve chosen, but there are so many ways to serve others, and make a difference in your corner of the world.”

- Vice Adm. Douglas Verissimo

civilians and nearly 3,000 aircraft) to operate across the globe to keep our country safe. This is a massive undertaking, and I certainly do not do any of this alone. I’ve followed and led at many levels during my 39 years in the Navy, and I use these experiences to give me the perspective to make the best decisions I can to generate combat-ready Naval Aviation forces for our nation’s leaders.

Q: What does service mean to you?

Verissimo: To me, service means deliberately making choices to positively affect those around you. Military service is the path I’ve chosen, but there are so many ways to serve others, and make a difference in your corner of the world.

Q: Is there a moment or experience that has stood out to you in all your years that has changed how you view your job, the military, your life?

Verissimo: I think that our aircrew (the pilots, naval flight officers and enlisted personnel that operate the systems inside of the aircraft) get a lot of notoriety and praise because you can see them when they step out of the aircraft. But the work done by the aircraft maintainers is critical to flight operations. Without our elec-

tronics technicians, ordnancemen and other aviation rates, the aircrew cannot fly. This massive population of technical experts are the true unsung heroes of naval aviation, and I want them to know how much I appreciate their hard work.

Q: What does celebrating the Fourth of July mean to you and why is it important to you?

Verissimo: No matter where I’ve been on July 4, even if I was deployed, I always take a moment to pause and think about our nation’s founding and first principles and the incredible individuals I’ve had the opportunity to serve alongside. U.S. Navy sailors are some of the finest people I’ve met. Their ability to care for their shipmates, be good neighbors in their community, and do incredibly hard things far from home for long periods of time to benefit Americans they’ve never met continues to astound me.

Q: What does this country’s 250th mean to you and what do you think it means for the country and its people?

Verissimo: Last year was the Navy’s 250th birthday, and this year we celebrate our country’s 250th – both

incredible milestones that are only possible because of the tenacity and passion of the American people. The story of the U.S. Navy, and of the United States of America, is one of determination, innovation and a stalwart commitment to excellence and preserving independence.

Q: What does living in America mean to you?

Verissimo: The ability we have as Americans to “dream big” and pursue excellence is an incredible thing.

Q: What about America do you want to serve and protect?

Verissimo: All of it. During my lifetime, and during my time in the Navy when I have lived in so many different corners of America, I’ve met so many incredible people. They’re hardworking, inspiring and care about those around them. I have lost count of the number of times I’ve been out in the community, and I’ve been stopped by someone who thanked me for my service. It humbles me each time and reminds me that we’re all connected as Americans.

Q: What does having independence and freedom in this country mean to you?

Verissimo: It represents immense choices, and the ability to choose your own path and pursue happiness, with opportunity for all of us.

Q: Is there anything else you want to say about service or the Fourth of July that I haven’t asked you?

Verissimo: I appreciate ... the opportunity to participate in the parade. I want to thank your readers for their support of the Navy. Just as our predecessors have for the past 250 years, there are sailors standing watch today across the globe to keep Americans safe, and I’ll be thinking about them in particular this July 4th.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com



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PARADE ENTRANTS

1. Coronado Police Dept

2. Marine Corps Recruit Depot Color Guard

3. Escondido Mounted Posse

4. Poway Rodeo Queens

5. Grand Marshal - Vadm Douglas Verissimo

6. Temecula Carriage Company

7. Carlynne Allbee

8. U.S. Senator - Adam B. Schiff

9. State Assemblymember - Tasha Boerner

10. San Diego County Treasurer - Larry Cohen

11. San Diego County Sheriff - Kelly A. Martinez

12. Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk - Jordan Z. Marks

13. Coronado Mayor And City Council

14. Coronado Fire Dept

15. Bulls Only Rodeo Queens

16. Camp Able At Coronado

17. Honor Flight San Diego

18. Marine Corps League, "Bulldog" Detachment 835

19. Marine Corps League "Col Mitchell Paige" Det 1207

20. Coronado Detachment Of The Marine Corps League

21. San Diego Young Marines Org.

22. Chula Vista Hs - Spartan Legion & Color Guard

23. Coronado Rotary Club

24. Classic Thunderbirds Of San Diego

25. Kxyx 96.5 (Audacy)

26. Sharp Coronado Hospital & Auxiliary

27. General Henry D Styer VFW Post 2422

28. Vfw Auxiliary District 1 Of San Diego County

29. Veterans Of Foreign Wars District One

30. Coronado Ukulele Band

31. Coronado Playhouse

32. Coronado Football Club

33. Coronado Youth Soccer Inc.

34. Ramona Rodeo Queens

35. Sons Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War

36. Miss Senior California

37. Goodwill Industries Of San Diego County

38. The Cameron Highlanders Pipe Band

39. Uss Midway Museum

40. Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Fund

41. Vietnam Veterans Of Coronado

42. Vietnam Veterans Of America, San Diego Chapter 472

43. Coronado Academy Of Dance

44. San Diego Mg Club

45. Canine Companions

46. Creative Dancers '78

47. San Diego Air & Space Museum

48. Stateside Islander Crew

49. California Tom Cruise

50. The Hotel Del Coronado

51. Soroptimist International Of Coronado

52. Fables And Friends Equestrian Club With Sioux Munyon Swart

53. The Distinguished Flying Cross Society

54. The Science Fiction Coalition

55. Naval Base Coronado: Color Guard

56. Navy Band Southwest

57. U.S. Navy League, Coronado Council

58. U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

59. San Diego Gulls Hockey Club

60. The Colony - San Diego Gulls Booster Club

61. 82nd Airborne Division Assoc. Sd All Airborne Chapter

62. Model T Ford Club Of San Diego

63. Panamanian Marching Band

64. Coronado High School Islander Cheer

65. Paws Of Coronado
66. The Funcles Corp

67. Victorian Roses Ladies Riding Society

68. Antique Auto Club Of America

69. San Diego Star Wars Society

70. San Diego Clown Conspiracy

71. The Sweethearts Of Swing

72. San Diego Police Museum

73. CHS Class Of '76

74. Republican Women Of California - San Diego County

75. California State Council Of The Knights Of Columbus

76. San Diego Knights Of Columbus

77. Coronado Council Of The Knights Of Columbus

78. Miss Vietnam San Diego

79. Kingdom Of Terre Neuve

80. Optimist Club Of Coronado

81. J.S. The Rag Man Band

82. Edco

83. Sons Of The American Revolution, San Diego Chapter

84. Daughters Of The American Revolution

85. Revolution Snowsports Inc

86. Coronado Democratic Club

87. U.S. Border Patrol - San Diego Sector Mounted Patrol

88. U.S. Border Patrol - San Diego Sector Honor Guard Team

89. U.S. Border Patrol - San Diego Sector All Terrain Vehicle Unit

90. Al Bahr Legion Of Honor

91. Al Bahr Illustrious Potentate

92. Al Bahr Clowns Unit

93. Al Bahr Genie And The Director's Staff

94. Al Bahr Peace Officers Club

95. Al Bahr Samaritan Drivers Club

96. Scripps Miramar Ranch

97. Chula Vista Christian University

98. House Of Scotland Pipe Band

99. Descendants Of Early San Diego

100. U.S. Naval Amphibious Construction Battalion One

101. Sifu Ferreira's White Dragon Of East County

102. CPR Carts

103. KMAC Foundation For Accessible Sailing

104. Mustang Club Of San Diego

105. Cade's Day

106. Coronado Lawn Bowling Club

107. Mar Vista Emerald Army

108. Miss Black California USA

109. U.S. Navy Beachmaster Unit One

110. Knights Of The West Coast

111. Valley Center Rodeo Queens

112. Valley Center Vaqueros

113. Prc Composites, Llc

114. Hall Pass Radio

115. House Of Ukraine With Shield Of Freedom

116. Ukrainian Refugee In San Diego

117. Classic Chevys Of San Diego

118. San Diego Falun Dafa Association

119. Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association

120. Otay Ranch High School Marching Band

121. Coronado Republican Club

122. San Diego Young Republicans

123. Emerald City Wheelers

124. Lamb's Players Theatre

125. Emerald Spear With Matthew Fitzsimmons

126. Public Services, City Of Coronado

127. Public Services, City Of Coronado

128. Public Services, City Of Coronado

CORONADO
FOURTH^{OF}JULY

Find complete information at
thecoronadonews.com/fourth-of-july



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Time	Event	Location
7-9 a.m.	The Crown City Classic The Crown City Classic run will return to the island for its 53rd anniversary. Starting and finishing at Tidelands Park, the course showcases the scenic views of the Coronado Bridge with a 12K and 5K option. There will also be a half-mile race for kids. To register, sign up at https://crowncityrun.com/	Tidelands Park
7:30-10 a.m.	Pre-Parade Entertainment Festivities will be taking place along Orange Avenue from 1st Street to Churchill Place.	Orange Avenue
10 a.m.	The 77th annual Independence Day Parade The parade will pack Orange Avenue and feature a variety of festive floats that will travel from 1st Street to Churchill Place. Those who can't view the parade in person can live stream it on Youtube. The Orange Avenue medians will open at 5 a.m. for viewers to snag their spots. Setting up tents and seats on the sidewalks of Orange Avenue before 5 a.m. is allowed, but attendees cannot leave their items unattended or block the right-of-way.	Orange Avenue
12:30-2 p.m.	Adrian Empire — Medieval & Renaissance Show Head to Star Park after the parade to watch the Adrian Empire recreate the arts, skills and culture of the Medieval and Renaissance eras. The group will do reenactments, competitions and showcase different weaponry of the time period. The San Diego Star Wars Society will also be available for a photo opportunity in Star Park at 12:30.	Star Park
2 p.m.	Frog-X Parachute Team Aerial Demonstration The Frog-X Parachute team will complete an aerial demonstration at the Coronado Golf Course's 16th Fairway.	Coronado Golf Course, 16th Fairway
2:30- 3:15 p.m.	Kids Concert — Katleen Dugas	Spreckels Park
4-5:15 p.m.	Patriotic Concert — The Coronado Concert Band	Spreckels Park
9 p.m.	Fireworks Show Head to the Coronado Golf Course for an end-of-the-night fireworks show sponsored by the city of Coronado. The display will be launched from Stingray Point, which will result in the closure of the sandy beach. For more information of July 4 events, visit https://coronadofourthofjuly.com/	Coronado Golf Course



From left, David Adams ("Klinger"), Mike Woiwode ("Hawkeye"), and Doug St. Denis, LuAnn Miller and Sara Cheverton (nurses inspired by Margaret 'Hot Lips' Houlihan) dress up as 'M-A-S-H' characters for the Coronado Fourth of July parade in 2025.

Photo provided by Doug St. Denis.

Rotary Club of Coronado commemorates ‘America the Beautiful’

» Continued from Page 1

Hospital in Korea.

He said rotarians involved with the club's "Low Tide Ride & Stride" will be participating and dress up as runners and bicyclists with the annual event's shirts. Other rotarians will portray the club's beach clean-ups.

"Our float is going to have a very large red, white and blue star on it and in front of the star will be our incoming president (Karol McClelland) sitting on a rocking chair dressed up as Betsy Ross, and she'll have a flag draped across her lap and be sewing a star onto the flag," said Fleming. "We will also have a singer at the front of the float that will be singing patriotic songs as the float rolls on."

Ross is a 19th century patriotic figure credited for sewing the first U.S. flag in 1776.

Annual parade standout

Fleming said roughly 20 rotarians, as well as six international students hosted by club members, are participating in the parade.

Fleming said this year's idea was brought forward by a committee member and the group met through-

out May and early June to plan.

By the 4th of July, Fleming said, more than 100 volunteer hours will have gone into planning, designing and decorating the entry. He estimates the materials, plus truck and trailer rental, cost \$2,000.

"I think we've got things planned out well enough.... that the decorating will probably be able to be accomplished in a day," he said.

Fleming said the entry will also highlight Rotary's "Flags On The Avenue," the placement of 180 American flags along Orange Avenue's median on 12 patriotic holidays. The display extends from First Street to the Hotel del Coronado.

According to the club's centennial celebration exhibit, this tradition began in 1994 and symbolizes Coronado's respect, gratitude and enduring pride in those who have served and continue to serve the nation.

Rotarians involved in the entry include: McClelland, who will be president by the 4th of July; Mary Taylor, who will sing; Pat Starke (a past club president) dressed up as Uncle Sam; and Doug St. Denis dressed up as a nurse.

According to St. Denis, the 'M-A-S-H' vehicle and characters started in 2024 when the Rotary float featured

Harry Truman and the Korean War.

St. Denis said it was a huge hit with the crowd and many young people knew about and related to the popular tv series even though 'M-A-S-H' has been off the air for many years.

"Like the tv series, we represented the strong bonds that are formed with those who serve together in war, including finding time for laughter and fun," said St. Denis. "We also show how much fun we have together as Rotarians while making the world a better place."

Fleming said the Rotary club takes pride in benefiting the community of Coronado.

"The club has a very patriotic heart and really resonates with the parade each year," he said. "It's something that the club takes seriously and enjoys participating in."

According to Fleming, the club's floats have won first place in the parade for a number of years, and members want to maintain that record.

"We do take some pride in putting together a float that will hopefully be well received and so that's our goal each year," said Fleming.

Contact: julieta@thecoronadonews.com

FOURTH OF JULY T-SHIRT CONTEST



Winning design from the Fourth of July T-shirt contest, created by Maylen Nelson.

Meet the winner of the Fourth of July t-shirt contest, Maylen Nelson

BY MICHELLE ARMAS
The Coronado News

The winner of the t-shirt contest is — drumroll, please — Maylen Nelson! Nelson is originally from Tijuana but grew up visiting Coronado. As a child, she would stop by the ice cream shop at the Hotel del Coronado, walk around town and eat at different restaurants with her family. After spending a few years in Chicago, she decided to settle on the island with her 8-year-old son.

The t-shirt she designed features simple illustrations of jump houses, fireworks, Concert in the Park and people gathering together. The Concert in the Park is an event she often attends with her son.

Now in her second year living in Coronado, Nelson said she loves how the city celebrates Independence Day.

"I tried to include as much as I could without making it feel crowded. I wanted it to be simple but symbolic," Nelson said.

Nelson said she doesn't define herself only as an artist, but also as a maker and crafter. She loves arts and crafts because they are part of motherhood, but she also appreciates them for their therapeutic value.

"Whenever I feel stressed or overwhelmed, I turn to some kind of craft project," Nelson said. "As a mom, art is included. My son loves trying new things, so we're always doing arts and crafts together — macramé, flower

Visit us on July 4 to win a t-shirt featuring the winning artwork from local artist Maylen Nelson

Coronado News staff

The Coronado News will be giving away free shirts — featuring artwork from Coronado resident Maylen Nelson — on the 4th of July. Residents and visitors alike are welcome to enter our FREE drawing.

The guidelines are simple: Stop by our table along the parade route (on the 200 block of Orange Avenue between Second and Third Street), and add your name and phone number to a ticket.

After conducting the drawing, we'll send you a text if your ticket was chosen. Winners can pick up a t-shirt at their convenience at our table until 12:30 p.m., or when the parade is over.



Editor's note: This is an advertisement feature from The Coronado News.

pounding, drawing, painting."

Certified as an expressive arts instructor, Nelson said she'd like to start an arts-and-crafts club in Coronado.

"I see art as something therapeutic — a way to express yourself and let go. It doesn't have to be seen or published or even perfect," she said.

She recently hosted a pop-up at the Coronado Flower Show, where she taught participants how to transfer flower pigments onto tote bags through flower pounding.

"We were so loud that we got moved," she said with a laugh. But Nelson said the activity provided a way to release stress and anger, and the pop-up sold out.

Her Mexican roots also play a role in her art, as she said she enjoys using vibrant colors.

"Mexican culture is full of color, so I find inspiration in that," she said.

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TRAFFIC GUIDE

Road closures and parking info

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

For the 100,000 people anticipated to visit Coronado on July 4, and longtime island residents, the Police Department has announced road closures, parking restrictions and a full schedule for the city's most celebrated day.

The city's main street, Orange Avenue, will be closed for the parade between First Street and R.H. Dana Place from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vehicle traffic will be facilitated across the parade during planned moments, but Third and Fourth streets will be closed off.

The 100 and 200 blocks of D, E, F, G, H, I and J avenues are the parade staging areas and will have restricted access. First Street between Alameda Boulevard and Orange Avenue will be closed and so will Churchill Place and a portion of Isabella Avenue.

These roadways will be reopened after 1 p.m. so plan parking accordingly.

Vehicles left along the parade route, staging areas, Glorietta Boulevard or Strand Way on the morning of the 4th will be towed starting at 4 a.m.

As long as posted parking signs are followed, cars will not be towed, according to the city. Parking is allowed in any marked legal parking spot except where "No Parking" signs have been placed.

For information on towed vehicles, contact the Coronado Police Department.

Free bus service will be provided via the Metropolitan Transit System.



The Fourth of July parade is almost here, and these are all the things you need to know for the big day. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Public transportation will stop at usual locations, except on the parade route.

The shuttle service will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on the 4th.

For Coronado Cays residents, the bus will operate from 7:30 am to 11 p.m. in 30-minute intervals. It will go from the northeast corner of the Cays and Grand Caribe to the southeast corner of Avenue de las Arenas and Silver Strand Boulevard.

It can stop upon request at Silver Strand military housing.

The best place to view the parade would be along the southbound lanes of Orange Avenue from First Street to Churchill Place.

Fireworks will start at 9 p.m. from

Stingray Point. This will result in the closure of the beach to prevent people from setting up in the launch area. All people and vessels have to be out of Stingray Point by 6 p.m.

On July 3, free anchorage zones will be established in Glorietta Bay for boaters to view the fireworks, but they must remain in those areas during the show and keep clear of the fallout zone.

The Coronado Fire Department will let mariners know when the firework show is over. There will be a live broadcast of the parade and the fireworks on the city's YouTube page.

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CORONADO

Coronado Ferry Landing in the clear for at least another year

A deal was negotiated between Port Coronado Associates and the Port of San Diego to accomplish preconditions in the next 12 months before securing a 35-year lease

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Port Coronado Associates, the management company of the Coronado Ferry Landing, has a one-year window to prove it can satisfy the Port of San Diego’s preconditions before securing a 35-year lease.

This means the current subtenants at the ferry landing’s marketplace will have a safe spot for at least the next 12 months while the management company (PCA) works on fulfilling the preconditions.

The Port of San Diego board voted unanimously on June 23 for the option to renew the lease in a year, potentially ending a months-long dispute. Board members praised Coronado appointee Port Commissioner Frank Urtasun for facilitating the agreement between the district and PCA.

The Coronado Ferry Landing is made up of over 600,000 square feet of commercial land, tidelands and water area owned by the port district. The property contains 24 businesses, including Spiro’s Mediterranean Cuisine and Coronado Coffee Company. Prior to the June 23 vote, multiple



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

meetings occurred between the port and PCA to negotiate a new agreement before the current lease ceases at the end of this month.

Last October, port commissioners announced they wouldn’t renew the lease and claimed PCA let the property fall into "extensive deferred maintenance" and submitted an insufficient redevelopment plan. According to property assessments, the site faced roughly \$17 million in backlogged upkeep – \$12.5 million for the marketplace buildings and \$5 million for the docks and pier.

“This center should’ve never gotten to the condition that it did,” Urtasun acknowledged. “(Now) we’re going in the right direction, and this is the quickest solution to get there.”

Port commissioners previously argued that PCA’s original proposal – submitted in December – for a \$20

million modernization project would be entirely swallowed up by basic safety repairs, leaving nothing for actual upgrades.

The revised proposal

To prevent this, the district required PCA to immediately fix approximately 95 deferred maintenance safety items at the company’s expense just to get the lease on the table for the June 23 meeting, clearing the slate before the modernization project even began.

The management company also revised its proposal, including pushing the project commencement date up to next year from 2028 and shortening the construction schedule by an entire year.

All this led to a 12-month option and 35-year lease, requiring PCA to satisfy the preconditions before executing the lease.

Some preconditions include parking infrastructure improvements, landscape and asphalt upgrades and securing project financing, according to the port staff report.

If the management company fails to meet those conditions, possession of the ferry landing site will transfer back to the port district.

If PCA does meet the preconditions, then the proposed lease will be enacted for 35 years.

Port Commissioner Dan Malcolm said a lease contract is not just something that is filed and then put away, it’s an obligation that the port expects

its tenants to follow – and he’s happy with the terms that came to the board.

“We had a developer that was negligent in their upkeep of the property,” Malcolm said. “This deal, as it sits today, is a demonstrably, measurably better deal.”

Christian Herrera, vice president of development and operations of PCA, said he was grateful for the approval of this proposal. “We are excited to build on the Ferry Landing’s legacy and ensure it remains a place the people of Coronado can take pride in for generations to come.”

The project’s total cost is listed at \$21.9 million, with \$13.9 million dedicated to permanent structural and physical improvements such as an EV charging grid and rebuilt public restrooms. About \$5.3 million is for upgrading spaces occupied by the 24 shops and restaurants at the marketplace.

The remaining \$2.7 million is for soft costs, according to Herrera.

To ensure the property doesn’t fall into disrepair again over the 35-year lease, the management company is now legally required to spend at least 5% of its gross annual income on maintenance every five years.

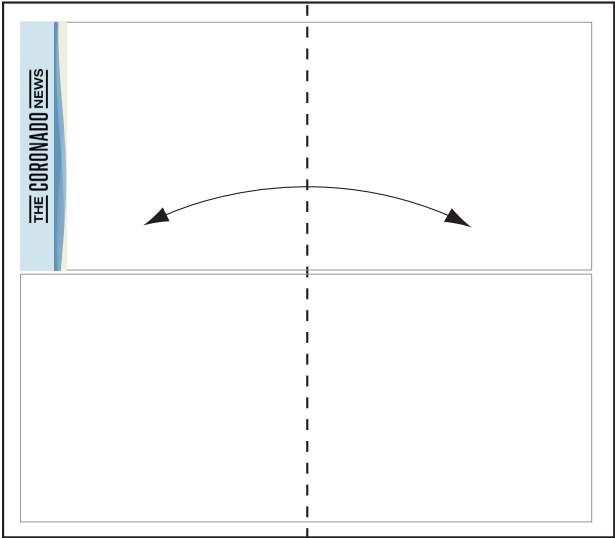
If the lease is approved and the entire project isn’t fully completed by July 1, 2029, PCA faces an immediate \$250,000 penalty.

Contact:
madeline@thecoronadonews.com

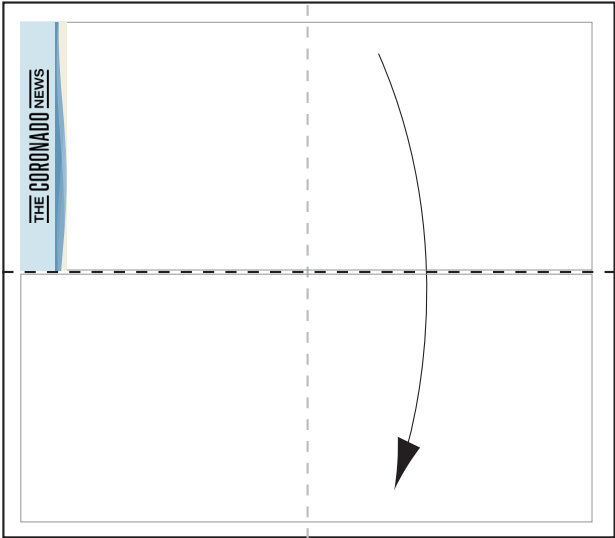
Fourth of July fun

7 STEPS TO MAKE A HAT

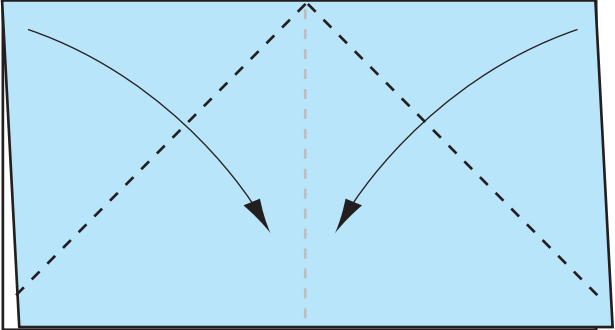
Show your Coronado pride at the Fourth of July! Make a newspaper hat from this paper to wear at the parade, and be sure to stop by our booth on July 4.



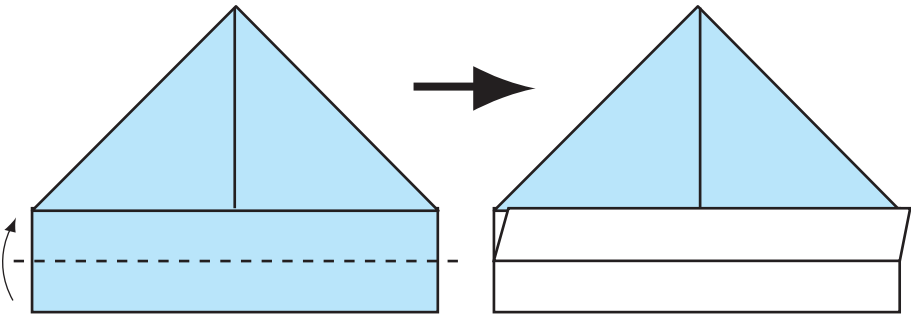
1 Start with a full newspaper sheet (two pages) in a landscape orientation (long edges at the top and bottom). Fold the paper in half vertically, bringing the left edge over to meet the right edge. Crease the fold well and then unfold.



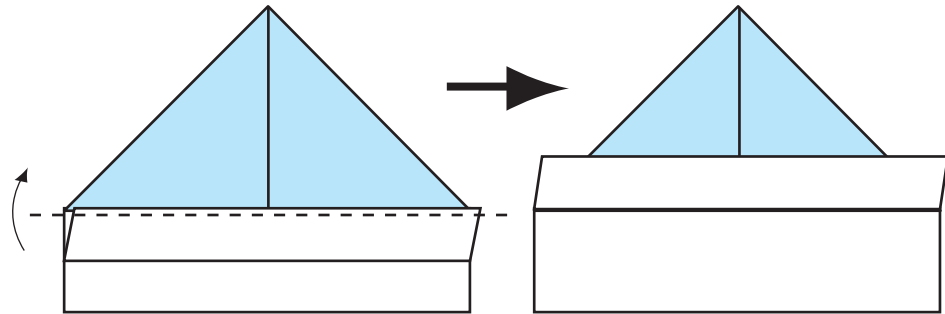
2 Fold the newspaper in half horizontally, bringing the top edge down to meet the bottom edge. Crease the fold well.



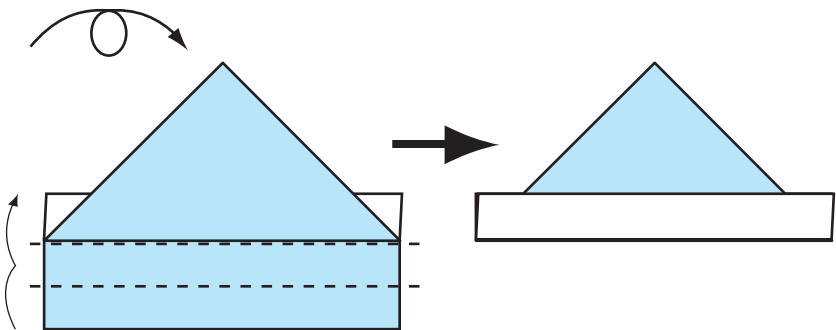
3 Take the top left corner of the newspaper and fold it diagonally towards the center crease. The folded edge should align with the vertical crease. Crease the diagonal fold well. Repeat this step with the top right corner.



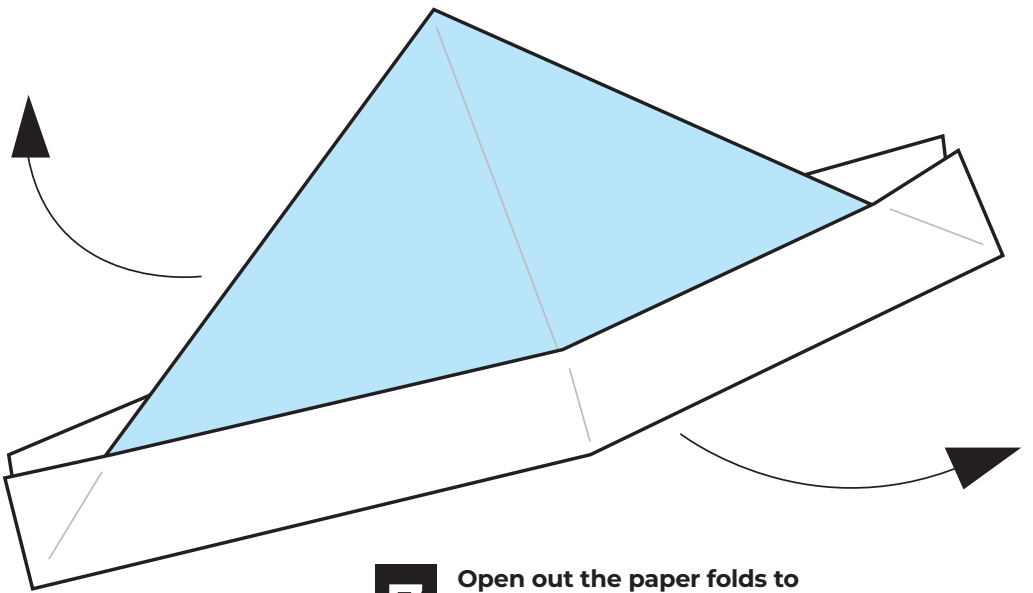
4 Fold the bottom edge (uppermost layer of the newspaper only) up to the base of the triangles, about 1 inch from the bottom. Crease the fold well.



5 Fold the bottom edge up again, this time aligning it over the bottom edge of the folded corners. Crease the fold well, and tear the outside corners, if necessary.



6 Turn over paper, and repeat steps 4 and 5 to fold up the remaining newspaper layer from the bottom.



7 Open out the paper folds to shape it around your head. The hat is now finished!



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NAVY



Musician First Class Haley Bryla-Cameron serves as drum major at Disneyland during this year's Los Angeles Fleet Week. Photo by Musician Third Class Malaysia Billman.

Navy Band Southwest returns to 77th annual Coronado Fourth of July Parade

» Continued from Page 1

for so long – since the 1800s.”

This year, Navy Band Southwest will play, “Anchors Aweigh” and “Mechanized Columbia,” derived from the song, “Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean.”

With a circular rotation of the mace, Bryla-Cameron will cue the first piece of music. To alternate, the mace goes straight up and drops.

“We love playing ‘Anchors Aweigh’ because we’re in the Navy. It’s our song,” said Bryla-Cameron. “‘Mechanized Columbia’ is a Navy band favorite ... Everyone recognizes it.”

Returning entry

Navy Band Southwest, located on Naval Base San Diego, was founded in 1923.

Lt. Cmdr. Matthew M. Shea directs the band, which serves as the musical ambassador for Navy Region Southwest.

According to a Navy website, the 45 members average more than 400 performances each year for military funerals, ceremonial support, public events and concerts.

Bryla-Cameron, who also plays the piccolo, said the Navy Band Southwest participation in the Coronado’s parade can be traced back to the 1960s.

“I think there’s no better way to really connect than through music,” said Bryla-Cameron. “When you’re marching down the street with that many people ... you get this like rush of adrenaline and it’s really exciting and it just reminds you why you’re in the band and why you do what you do.”

“We love doing this parade,” added Bryla-Cameron. “It’s so much fun. We love when you scream and yell and sing along with us. It’s really a good time for us as musicians and sailors.”

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julietta@thecoronadonews.com

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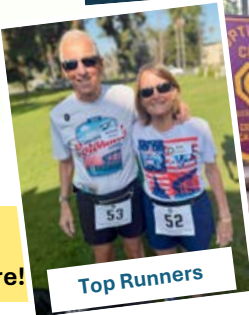
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SPORTS

Lakers will re-sign Austin Reaves to a 4-year, \$185 million deal, AP source says

Associated Press

Austin Reaves is re-signing with the Los Angeles Lakers on a four-year contract worth \$185 million, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on June 24.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal is not yet official for Reaves, who cements his status as one of the most successful undrafted players in recent NBA history with this contract.

Reaves is declining his \$14.9 million player option for the upcoming season to reach this deal with the team that signed him out of Oklahoma after the draft in 2021. The shifty guard has grown into one of the NBA's most effective scorers and playmakers, increasing his scoring average in every season of his five-year career.

The 28-year-old Reaves averaged 23.3 points, 5.5 assists and 4.7 rebounds last season despite missing two significant chunks of the year with injuries that followed him into the postseason. He has also developed a close bond with his Lakers backcourt partner, NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic.

Reaves would have been one of the NBA's top free agents on the open market this summer. Instead, he remains firmly alongside Doncic while the Lakers and LeBron James determine their next steps. Los Angeles also has been discussing the future with impending free agents Rui Hachimura, Luke Kennard and Jaxson Hayes during the exclusive negotiating window with a team's own free agents.

After the Pacific Division champion Lakers' season ended with a second-round loss to the Oklahoma



FILE - Los Angeles Lakers guard Austin Reaves (15) shoots after getting past Oklahoma City Thunder center Chet Holmgren, center, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, right, in the first half of Game 1 in a second-round NBA basketball playoffs series May 5, 2026 in Oklahoma City. AP Photo/Kyle Phillips, File.

City Thunder while Doncic was sidelined by a hamstring injury, general manager Rob Pelinka made it clear Reaves likely wasn't going anywhere, saying the team and Reaves had both already essentially decided to work out an extension. Reaves grew up in Arkansas as a Lakers fan, and he is a fan favorite in Los Angeles.

"He started his journey here as a Laker, and has made it very clear to us that he wants his journey to continue as a Laker," Pelinka said. "And we feel the same way."

The Lakers also formalized their draft-night trade on June 24, acquiring the rights to 24th overall pick Cameron Carr in a deal with the

New York Knicks. Los Angeles gave up cash considerations and the draft rights to Spain's Sergio De Larrea, who was picked by the Lakers with the 25th selection Tuesday night.

Carr, a 6-foot-5 wing who scored 18.9 points per game for Baylor last season, will wear No. 43 with the Lakers.





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SCAN ME



SPORTS

First-time NASCAR Cup winner Corey Heim reaffirms Denny Hamlin’s shrewd eye for talent

Associated Press

The oldest and winningest active driver in the NASCAR Cup Series, as well as a shrewd team owner, Denny Hamlin has become a sounding board for his sage counsel.

So he was a little surprised when protege Corey Heim went radio silent ahead of the inaugural race at Naval Base Coronado.

“I asked Corey before the race, ‘This is the first week you haven’t called me for advice, you didn’t think I’d bring anything to the table?’” Hamlin said with a smile. “Apparently, he was good.”

Indeed, Heim proved he had it handled with his upset win on June 21. By winning in only his 13th career start, the rising star reaffirmed that Hamlin has a keen eye for spotting talent while taking risks in building 23XI Racing with NBA legend Michael Jordan, his co-owner.

Four years ago, Hamlin and Jordan showed faith in Tyler Reddick by signing him more than 18 months before his Richard Childress Racing contract expired. Reddick escaped the deal’s final year and validated Hamlin’s faith with a championship round appearance.

Reddick opened this season by winning five of the first nine races (including the Daytona 500). The Cup Series points leader was on his way to a sixth win Sunday on the street course south of downtown San Diego before he got outdueled by Heim, who will move into Cup full time in 2027 as a teammate of Reddick and Bubba Wallace.

“Really surprised,” Hamlin said about Heim’s breakout performance. “Now if you would have asked me



Cory Heim, front right, celebrates with a teammate in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race, Sunday, June 21, 2026, in Coronado, Calif. AP Photo/Denis Poroy.

in the middle of the race, I wouldn’t have been that surprised. I got to race around him enough to know he had plenty of speed.”

As a top-level driver with 64 victories (four this season), the 45-year-old Hamlin has an edge over other team owners because he can scout prospects with a firsthand perspective while also speaking their language behind the wheel.

After winning the truck series championship last year, Heim passed on full time with other Cup teams and chose to race a partial schedule while waiting for the 2027 ride to open at 23XI Racing.

“I always just had a gut feeling that

23XI was where I wanted to be,” Heim said. “Just so much support from Denny and MJ. I talk to them on a very regular basis, and I’ve always felt like family. Their preparation is the best in the industry. It probably would have been advantageous to be full time as soon as possible, but my gut just told me to stay with it.”

Street race successes

A sellout crowd of 50,000 fans gathered on the active military base to witness the third first-time Cup winner this season.

NASCAR chief operating officer Ben Kennedy, who previously took the Cup Series to inaugural events in downtown Chicago and Los Angeles, said 67% of the attendees were NASCAR first-timers.

Though it’s unclear if Naval Base Coronado will be on the 2027 schedule, Kennedy vowed to stay aggressive in the future by scheduling at least one annual street race with an eye toward new metropolitan areas and military bases.

“There are a lot of strategic markets across the country that we would love to be in that have large military bases as well,” Kennedy said. “So we’ve talked about the Pacific Northwest, Colorado, the Northeast.”

San Diego drawbacks

There were some first-year hiccups for the Coronado track. Because of crashes in the truck, O’Reilly Auto Parts and Cup series races, the red flag was displayed on three consecutive days for repairs to the temporary walls.

The San Diego event weekend drew 125,000 over three days, but NASCAR

limited capacity because of concerns about traffic on Coronado Island. After fan complaints Friday and Saturday, NASCAR summoned extra food trucks and staff on Sunday to help with concession stands and bathroom access.

“One of the things we’re most mindful of is the amount of people that you can frankly get on and off the base and still have a good fan experience,” Kennedy said. “We want to make sure that ingress and egress was palpable.”

Contentious debut

Front Row Motorsports driver Noah Gragson confronted Kevin Magnussen after being spun by the Formula One veteran who made his NASCAR debut. A heated discussion ended without resolution for Gragson and Magnussen, who collided multiple times.

“He was playing it a bit stupid out there,” said Magnussen, who joined his father, Jan, as the second Danish driver to make a Cup start. “He could have had a good race. He chose not to. I felt like I was in a fistfight the whole race through. Everyone was driving so well. It’s tough racing, but people have respect. You can’t mess around. I like that kind of racing. Big respect to everyone except that one guy, but I’ll deal with that.”

Magnussen, who races for BMW’s top sports car team, turned the fastest lap of the race in a 27th-place finish.

“I learned so much about the car,” he said. “I felt so much more confident toward the end of the race. The pace was there, the car was really good. Just super happy to get the opportunity to race in NASCAR. If I get a chance, I’ll be here. I loved every second of it.”

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