



Charles Rilli, deputy chapter director with Sierra Club San Diego, calls for environmental protections during ongoing United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) negotiations to end the cycle of cross-border pollution at a press conference on July 16. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

U.S. activists call for end of Tijuana sewage mess in free trade agreements

Environmentalists and political leaders request drastic measures from Trump administration to force Mexico’s hand on cross-border pollution

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Over one dozen organizations – members of the Tijuana River Coalition – urged the Trump administration to solve the Tijuana sewage crisis with drastic sanctions, including possible termination of a crucial free-trade agreement with Mexico. Along with local political leaders, the group called for greater account-

ability, increased funding and more transparency in U.S.-Mexico efforts to address the public health threat and the pollution of local beaches. Advocates voiced that a modernized United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) must impose enforceable environmental standards as a condition of extending the free-trade pact. In a six-page letter to Jamieson Greer, the U.S. trade representative

(USTR), on July 7, the organization argued that environmental protection and free trade should be valued in tandem under the USMCA. “The communities that live, work, and recreate alongside the U.S.-Mexico border deserve clean water, healthy beaches, thriving ecosystems, and a safe environment,” said Charles Rilli, deputy chapter director of Sierra Club San Diego. “Extending or renewing the USMCA without meaningful environmental accountability will only continue the cycle of pollution and environmental damage

» Continued on Page 10

Coronado works on its infrastructure after sewage spill in Glorietta Bay

The leakage prompted City Manager Tina Friend to remind the city of its infrastructure projects

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

A recent wastewater spill on Glorietta Boulevard served as a reminder that Coronado’s underground pipe system is old and will require an expensive overhaul, according to City Manager Tina Friend. On July 16, about 2,000 gallons of sewage leaked into Glorietta Bay due to a pipe obstruction. The bay was closed for about a day for testing by San Diego County before reopening on July 17. Friend told the City Council this week that clay pipes in the area are 70 years old. A tree root had penetrated the pipe, creating an obstruction that backed up sewage, forcing it to come through a manhole near the intersection of Glorietta Boulevard and Monterey Avenue. The wastewater then seeped



City Manager Tina Friend reminds the city of its infrastructure projects as an obstructed sewage pipe leaked wastewater into Glorietta Bay on July 16. File photo.

» Continued on Page 8

Ricky Hoyt joins City Council race; Kelly Purvis and Keith James pull papers

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Editor's note: Due to print deadlines, any candidate who submitted papers after July 27 is not included in this story. For the most up-to-date information on candidates for the November elections, visit thecoronadonews.com. In the second week for candidates to file to run for City Council, Navy reserve pilot Ricky Hoyt joined the ranks. Two other island residents, Andrew Gade and Mark Warner, launched their campaign last week. A third, Keith James, pulled papers this past week, but has not officially completed and submitted them. Up for grabs this fall are two

City Council positions as Council member Carrie Anne Downey finishes her fourth nonconsecutive term and Council member Kelly Purvis wraps up a two-year appointment when she took over Mayor John Duncan’s seat after he was elected to the mayoral position. As of July 27, Purvis had not officially completed her papers and Downey had not announced or filed to seek re-election. Hoyt, a first-time candidate for local government, said the timing was right to run for office as he shifted from active-duty Navy service to the reserves. “I’ve always had that public service -- obviously it was with the military for a while,” Hoyt told The Coronado News. “I just

want to give back ... the cliché is so true: Give back to a community that’s given me so much.” A Naval Academy graduate, Lt. Cmdr. Hoyt served as a helicopter and Osprey pilot for 13 years before retiring in March. He splits his time working on base and as a real estate agent and property owner. At City Hall, Hoyt, 35, said he would focus on traffic safety, especially with e-bikes. He also believes there should be some sort of data-monitoring system on the roads to try and make streets in the city safer. He acknowledged traffic cameras that issue red-light violations aren’t used in the city, but wants



Navy reserve pilot Ricky Hoyt decided now was the right time to run for City Council as he transitions out of being in the military full time. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

» Continued on Page 8

this week

5 • Wednesday

The Coronado Public Library, in partnership with the Coronado Island Film Festival, presents Film Forum Coronado, taking place the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the library's Winn Room. Film expert Ralph DeLauro provides a brief introduction to each film and leads a discussion afterwards, often including pointers about how lighting or camera angles contribute to a scene's mood or propel the story. The featured film on Aug. 5 is "State Secret."

6 • Thursday

Investigative journalist, bestselling author, and "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan" writer and producer Annie Jacobsen will share her newest book, "Biological War: A Scenario" at the Coronado Public Library on Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. In the book, she presents a meticulously researched account of a deliberate biological attack that unleashes a global pandemic, overwhelming public health systems and threatening the collapse of modern society.

7 • Friday

The Coronado Public Library's summer concert series features "The Shoreline Pickers" band at 1 p.m. on Aug. 7. The members are Mary Jane Cupp on mandolin, Mark Pullin on guitar, Pete Varhola on bass, John Deckard on harmonica and Jacob Blythe on banjo. All members contribute vocals as well.

CONTACT US

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

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

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Coronado summer shuttle program runs through Sept. 7

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.

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.



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.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Patsy

PAWS of Coronado

Patsy is up for adoption at PAWS of Coronado.

Staff members at the non-profit, which provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Patsy is looking for a family that will let her settle in at her own pace.

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 Patsy other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.

Call us at:
(619) 435-8247

Meet Patsy, 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.

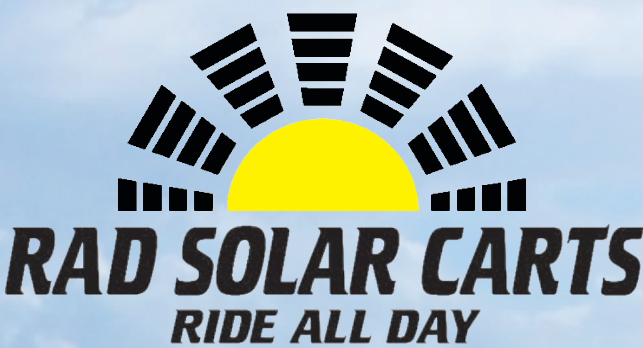


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- **Spa therapies** — We offer Swedish, hot stone, deep tissue and sports massages, as well as acupuncture. Certified massage therapists and acupuncturists incorporate clinical aromatherapy in their treatments.
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COMMENTARY

EDITOR’S NOTE



Ocean waters in Coronado carry brown foam onto the shoreline on June 7. Photo provided by Craig Harris.

We want to hear about your current experience with the sewage crisis

BY SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

The Coronado News is working on a story analyzing how the Tijuana sewage crisis is personally affecting the every day lives of Coronado residents and visitors.

Local beaches continue to be closed down due to untreated sewage entering the Pacific Ocean, limiting beach activity.

We’re curious how our readers are most affected by the crisis: How has it affected your lifestyle, health, business, travel plans, or the community as a whole? We’re looking for direct experiences with the pollution mess, and any challenges or frustrations it has brought up.

If you have a story you’d like to share, along with photos to illustrate the problem, please send it 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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Coronado City Council candidate introduction — Ricky Hoyt

BY RICKY HOYT
Letter to the Editor

Editor’s note: Ricky Hoyt filed for candidacy on July 23. The Coronado News will consider publishing one letter to the editor from each candidate running in the November elections. Submit letters, no longer than 700 words, to sofie@thecoronadonews.com by Oct. 1 for consideration.

When the Navy brought me to Coronado in 2015 to serve at Naval Air Station North Island, I expected it to be another stop in my career. Instead, it became home.

I grew up in New Hampshire before attending the U.S. Naval Academy, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics while competing in NCAA Division I cross country and track. I later earned my Masters of Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Throughout my Navy career, I’ve served as an H-60 helicopter pilot, V-22 Osprey production test pilot, instructor pilot, and department head, leading teams ranging from small divisions to hundreds of sailors. Along the way, I was given the call sign “Rabbit,” a name many friends and fellow aviators still know me by today.

I now continue to serve as a Navy Reserve V-22 Osprey pilot while also owning and operating a small business here in our community. Those experiences have reinforced the values of service, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and leadership that I hope to bring to the City Council.

While I’m proud of my military career, what inspired me to run for City Council isn’t my résumé — it’s this community.

It’s the community where my wife and I work, where we met, where we got engaged, and where we were married. But it’s also so much more to us. It’s the community where neighbors became front row of our wedding family, where Sunday summer evening concerts and Fourth of July celebrations became lifelong memories with lifelong friends, and where a duty station became the place we hope to call our forever home and raise a family.

Coronado is unlike any other city in America. We are home to Naval Air Station North Island — the birthplace of Naval Aviation — yet we also preserve the character of a true small town. We are a place where military families and longtime residents build lives together, where



Ricky Hoyt is running for a City Council seat in the November elections. Photo provided by Ricky Hoyt.

neighbors know one another, local businesses thrive, civic organizations are strong, and generations of people have invested in making this island extraordinary.

I often describe Coronado as the California exception. In a state that is constantly changing, Coronado has remained a community that values public safety, responsible stewardship, civic engagement, and an exceptional quality of life. That doesn’t happen by accident. It happens because people care enough to protect what makes this city special.

I’m running for City Council because I want to give back to the community that has given my family so much.

Protecting Coronado’s quality of life means addressing the challenges that matter most to residents. My priorities are straightforward:

Fighting for a permanent solution to the Tijuana sewage crisis.

Improving traffic and pedestrian safety, including practical solutions to address e-bike challenges.

Ensuring major infrastructure projects are planned responsibly, transparently, and with a long-term view toward future generations.

Strengthening Coronado’s leadership role in working with regional governing agencies.

I also believe one of Coronado’s greatest strengths is its partnership with the United States Navy. For generations, military families and longtime residents have built this community together. Our children attend the same schools, we volunteer in the same organizations, we support the same local businesses, and we all share a common goal: preserving the community we love. Having served much of my career at Naval Air Station North Island while building a life in Coronado, I’ve experienced firsthand how important that partnership is to the future of our city.

I’ve been fortunate to become involved in the Coronado Rotary Club and other community organizations, and when I’m not flying or working, you’ll often find me out for a run enjoying the same streets, parks, and waterfront that make Coronado such a special place to live.

My commitment is simple: to protect what makes Coronado exceptional, improve what needs improving, and always put the long-term interests of our community first. I believe our responsibility isn’t simply to enjoy this incredible city, but to leave it even better for the next generation.

The Navy brought me here. The people kept me here.

Now I’d be honored to give back by helping keep Coronado the California exception.

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CORONADO

Alexia Palacios-Peters and Malachy Sandie seek reelection on Coronado school board

Editor’s note: As of July 27, there is one official candidate -- incumbent Malachy Sandie -- running for one of the three open seats on Coronado Unified School District’s board of trustees. Incumbent Alexia Palacios-Peters is planning to run, but Scot Youngblood, who currently holds the third open seat, told The Coronado News he is not planning on seeking re-election. In March, Margaret Mary Duncan announced she was planning on running. The Coronado News published a story about Duncan’s candidacy after she filed campaign paperwork that month. The candidate filing period closes at 5 p.m. on Aug. 7. Candidates elected will begin terms on Dec. 11. Due to print deadlines, any candidate who filed after July 27, did not make it into this edition. Visit thecoronadonews.com for the most up-to-date information.

Palacios-Peters, a military spouse, is focused on supporting military-connected students and families

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Alexia Palacios-Peters, a school board incumbent, has announced she is seeking re-election for a second term as a Coronado trustee to support the district’s transition to basic aid, address technology use in the classroom, monitor support for military families and continue a collaborative governing body.

Palacios-Peters, 46, is a practicing attorney completing her first 4-year term this year. One of her children graduated from Coronado High School in 2025, another will be a junior at the high school this upcoming year, and a third will be an eighth grader at Coronado Middle School.



Alexia Palacios-Peters is seeking re-election for a second term as a Coronado trustee.
Photo by Christina Irinco.

Palacios-Peters said she plans to file her official paperwork in the last week of July.

Changes at the board level come at a time when the district prepares to move away from the Local Control Funding Formula and become locally funded through property taxes.

Palacios-Peters said she wants to maintain the collaborative nature of the board and focus on the budget, specifically getting to basic aid and making decisions under the new funding formula.

“I just want to keep building a district that’s financially strong and welcoming to every family who calls Coronado home, especially the new ones that just got here,” said Palacios-Peters. “My focus has always been on our students and making sure that they have the best education possible... so they can be successful in whatever route they choose after they leave us.”

Supporting military families

For Palacios-Peters, her priorities now compared to four years ago are not completely different, but she said there’s a different focus, specifically with regard to the district’s budget.

According to Palacios-Peters, there have been minimal cuts in the last four years and changes have been made over the last several years in preparation for basic aid whereupon building up reserves will be the priority. Now she looks to be part of the decisions once the district becomes locally funded.

“I think understanding the process and the budget is a huge part of why I should stay on this because I have that institutional knowledge already and I’ve been working with the superintendent and deputy superintendent on this,” said Palacios-Peters.

Palacios-Peters has served as the board president, clerk of the board and contributed to district committees such as the 4×4 committee and the Portrait of a Graduate, the district’s strategic vision for supporting students.

“I speak less, I feel like, when I’m president on the dais than when I’m not because I want to make sure that all the trustees have the opportunity to let their voices be heard as well because we’re all bringing different perspectives,” said Palacios-Peters.

Palacios-Peters said she worked on the 4×4 committee with Trustee Scot Youngblood which helped solidify relationships even with different views. She said the board is looking to continue purposeful work across committees.

Palacios-Peters has also advocated for the district at national conferences such as Coast2Coast and the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools conference which concerns funding for districts serving military families.

“The last four years I’ve really gained some institutional knowledge that I’d like to continue to put to use moving forward in this job,” said Palacios-Peters. “As a military spouse, the military families are still a big focus of mine.”

Palacios-Peters said she also advocates for district changes to support military-affiliated students. Her support for students extends to the student board representative who she and the superintendent began meeting with to review school meeting agendas.

This year, the district will begin its pilot program enforcing cell phone pouches at Coronado Middle School throughout the school day.

“I’m very curious to see how this goes and then ramping it up into the high school if needed,” said Palacios-Peters.

Palacios-Peters said another piece will be to look at “How much are teachers using the computers in the classrooms and do they need to?” Through the remainder of this term, Palacios-Peters said she wants to leave everything in a good place with regards to moving forward with the Portrait of a Graduate, advocating for military families and keeping a collaborative governing body that can work together, especially when there’s disagreement.

“I am willing to meet with anybody and hear their concerns, their issues, and do what I can to help,” said Palacios-Peters.

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Sandie looks to continue improving schools, supporting staff and students

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Malachy Sandie, a Coronado Unified School District trustee, has filed paperwork for re-election this fall with plans to support students, teachers and the superintendent across future decisions.

Sandie, 58, is a retired Navy captain completing his first 4-year term. Three of his sons have graduated from Coronado High School, while his fourth son will be a senior this upcoming school year. According to Sandie, he registered for the election on the first day.

“As a board we have really three duties: evaluate the superintendent, approve budgets and set district policy,” said Sandie. “So through those means we can focus our efforts on preparing our students for higher education careers and society.”

Sandie said he is seeking re-election because he considers this role a way he can contribute to the community.

“I think the district is on a fantastic path,” said Sandie. “I think it’s been on a great path. And I want to keep it that way. I don’t want to let us get derailed.”

The changes at the board level come at a time when the district prepares a transition to basic aid from the Local Control Funding Formula.

Under the new funding formula, expected in the 2027-28 school year, Sandie looks to support improving compensation for teachers and staff.

“I just want to see the funds used for compensation for our people and to improve our facilities,” said Sandie.



Malachy Sandie is seeking re-election as a Coronado trustee in the Nov. 3 general election. *Photo by Bill Sandke.*

“I think the district is on a fantastic path. I think it’s been on a great path. And I want to keep it that way. I don’t want to let us get derailed.”

Supporting teachers, facilities

Since being elected four years ago, Sandie has served as vice president and clerk of the board, in addition to being assigned to district committees, such as one focused on keeping students safe online.

Sandie said he is a huge advocate of getting personal electronics out of Coronado schools and has pushed hard on this issue, supporting a full ban.

This year, the district will begin its pilot program enforcing cell phone pouches at Coronado Middle School throughout the school day.

“I was pushing for it at the high school,” said Sandie.

Sandie said when the 4×4 bell schedule at Coronado High School came under scrutiny, he pushed to keep it, noting how two of his sons have benefitted from its “college way” structure.

“I think it’s worked out fantastically,” said Sandie. “My youngest son is also part of the 4×4.”

During Sandie’s time on the board, the district adjusted academic calendar years to move finals before winter week.

“The students, staff and teachers supported this,” said Sandie. “The last two summers were cut by one week shorter ... that was I think a great achievement.”

When the district moves to basic aid, or funded by local property taxes, Sandie said it will enable smaller classes at the elementary level with continued enrollment of non-Coronado students, or inter-district transfers, at the high school.

“It will enable our high school to offer all of these amazing opportunities to our kids,” he said.

Sandie said he anticipates negotiations with unions and improving facilities in the first year of basic aid, 2027-28.

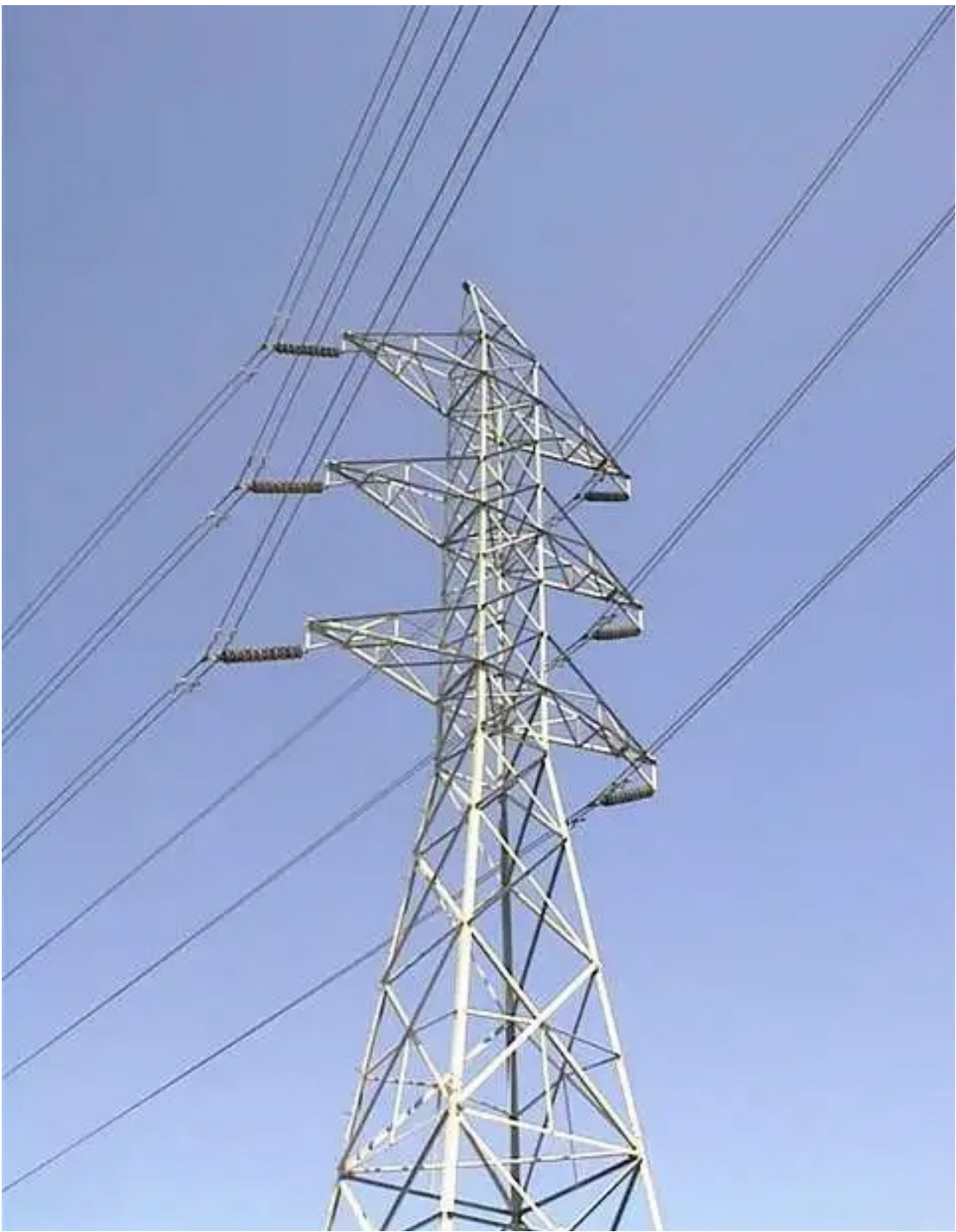
This fall, the district will also hire additional staff at Village Elementary School with the intention of providing additional leadership support.

“I think it’s a solid plan the staff has devised and I think it’ll work out well,” said Sandie.

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CORONADO

Coronado advances plan to join San Diego Community Power for cleaner, cheaper energy



A power pylon pictured here in Chula Vista. Photo by picryl in the public domain.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Starting in 2028, Coronado residents will have an alternative to San Diego Gas & Electric after the City Council voted on July 21 to formally start the process of joining San Diego Community Power, a nonprofit agency that acquires electricity through greener energy sources.

Council member Carrie Anne Downey said that in all the years of the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), “the rates are going to be better than SDG&E. So we’re going to save money and have choice ... I don’t know why we wouldn’t want to join a CCA.”

The city’s CCA membership gives residents the option to choose between staying with SDG&E or switching to San Diego Community Power (SDCP).

For Coronado, the electricity would be acquired by SDCP, but SDG&E would continue to deliver the power, maintain the electrical infrastructure and handle billing and customer service.

The council voted July 21 to adopt an ordinance establishing a CCA program within the city.

It also authorized the city manager to sign a joint powers agreement that allows the city to become a member of SDCP, which will consider Coronado’s membership in September before the formal implementation process begins.

Council member Kelly Purvis was appointed to serve as Coronado’s representative on the SDCP board of directors, with Council member Carrie Anne Downey as alternate director.

For the past year, both council members served on a subcommittee dedicated to researching CCAs for the city.

“Choice, for me, was the big reason for going this way,” Purvis explained. “And the rates are lower right now. So, I look forward to working with San Diego Community Power.”

The Council decided earlier this year to join a CCA to help lower electric fees for the community while utilizing greener energy such as wind, solar and geothermal.

The CCA allows local governments to form a nonprofit entity that procures electricity from a supplier – in Coronado’s case, SDCP, allowing clients to choose where their energy is coming from and what their electric source is.

Once implemented, residents retain full control over whether they would like to stay with SDG&E or switch to SDCP for their energy procurement.

By March 2028, the new system of power delivery is scheduled to begin.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com



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SCAN ME

Coronado works on its infrastructure after sewage spill

» Continued from Page 1

into a storm drain and flowed into the bay. Friend mentioned the city's capital improvement program, which includes projects assessing its underground pipe system.

Because of Coronado's flat landscape, 17 pump stations are required to move sewage to Point Loma's wastewater treatment plant. The city has 45 miles of underground pipes that transport about 2.3 million gallons of sewage per day.

"We are prioritizing infrastructure," Friend said, reminding residents that the city has \$3.2 million currently programmed for wastewater projects.

Some projects listed in the city's capital improvement plan are to identify existing wastewater mains and manholes across the city that need rehabilitation, evaluate response readiness to emergency scenarios like pump and collection system failures that would prevent effluent transportation, and keep the Cays Pump Station in adequate condition.

The new sewer rates passed earlier this year are helping cover the costs to upgrade and maintain sewer pipelines.

One project that's been in development since 2023 successfully commissioned earlier in July. City staff has taken operational control over the new \$32 million Parker Pump Station following a 10-day operational test. The facility handles both stormwater and sanitary sewer flows.

The upgrade follows a major 2024 storm that left parts of Coronado submerged under up to five feet of water. The city had said the station was turned off at the time due to water build-up that would have short circuited the electrical controls, but the modern replacement is designed to prevent similar failures.

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The city has officially approved a report on the increased sewer fees in order to start collecting from property tax bills. Photo taken from Coronado TV.

City Council approves new sewer service charges

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Coronado residents and businesses will see steep increases in sewage fees beginning next year as the city grapples with rising costs and failing infrastructure.

The City Council voted July 21 to accept increased sewer service charges in order to start reaping the higher annual fees.

These fees will go back to the city's wastewater system to help improve its outdated pipelines.

Coronado collects those fees from property owners through regular San Diego County property tax bills, which the county then forwards to the city.

To start collecting fees, the

city had to complete a multi-step public review process required by state law. The first step was to prepare a written report describing the charge for each parcel.

Before the increased tax assessments could be finalized, the council had to address any objections or protests from residents.

Council members voted unanimously to approve the report.

Single-family homeowners on the island will see their sewage rates skyrocket by more than 50% over the next six years, and local restaurants will face fee increases of 35% under the new wastewater rates.

Before the increase, single-family units paid just under \$49 a month for wastewater services.

By 2031, they will pay just under \$77. Commercial businesses paid around \$59 and will end up paying around \$138 by 2031.

According to the city's report, 2026 is the first time in seven years that the sewer rates increased.

Municipal staff and a professional rate consultant conducted an 18-month study to figure out appropriate rate increases.

There are 18 customer classes that pay for the wastewater system, according to the city. That includes single- and multi-family homes, hotels, schools, Navy bases and restaurants.

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Ricky Hoyt joins City Council race; Kelly Purvis and Keith James pull papers

» Continued from Page 1

to use technology to identify what's happening throughout the roads.

"Where is the speeding happening? When is it happening? So, putting things up that can track that," Hoyt said. The technology wouldn't be face-identifying, he explained, but just gathering information on speed or noise pollution and then efficiently deploying enforcement in those areas.

Hoyt said maintaining the city's infrastructure and addressing the beach sewage crisis are also priority issues to him.

Hoyt, who is registered as an independent, said he appreciates the non-partisan aspect of Coronado elections. "We're not trying to make political statements. We care about what people in Coronado care about," he said. "...You could be some alien party, but if you have a good idea, it's still a good idea."

Hoyt described himself as fiscally conservative and leaning more socially conservative, but said letting people live their lives and "personal liberties" are important to him.

He thinks the current council has been doing "amazing" and wants to continue that work.

Hoyt moved to Coronado in 2015 when he received orders to be stationed at Naval Air Station North Island, where he rose to the level of aircraft commander.

Stationed in Arlington, Texas from

"We care about what people in Coronado care about ... you could be some alien party, but if you have a good idea, it's still a good idea."

- Ricky Hoyt,
City Council candidate

2019-2022, Hoyt still flew back to Coronado nearly every month – even delivering North Island's first Osprey aircraft in 2020.

The pilot joked that he would always return to New Hampshire, where he's from, but within a few months of living on the island, knew that this was going to be his home forever.

"I have a lot to bring to the table, especially with the military background and just (being) a little bit younger ... and a fresh set of eyes," Hoyt said.

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U.S. activists call for end of Tijuana sewage mess

» Continued from Page 1

that has plagued the Tijuana River watershed for decades.”

Advocates and representatives of elected officials were joined by Assemblymember David Alvarez, a Democrat representing the 80th Assembly District, and San Diego County Supervisor Paloma Aguirre during a press conference in the Otay Mesa-Nestor community to urge that any renewal of the USMCA commits to addressing a decades-long crisis resulting from industrial growth and limited infrastructure investment.

Alvarez said he plans to present legislation in August calling for enforceable, measurable commitments addressing transboundary pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.

“I am here to ask, along with the community members, that our U.S. trade representative, Mr. Greer, make it clear that the federal administration will not extend the USMCA in its current form unless it intends to address the shortcomings that are found in the Tijuana River Valley,” said Alvarez during a press conference on July 16. “... I will be in Mexico City next week personally, where I’ll be reaching out and talking about this issue with those who will open the doors to us.”

Aguirre, the former mayor of Imperial Beach, said the coalition wants “specific actions when we see clear violations, and it means mandatory pollution reduction benchmarks, improved operations and maintenance standards, and enforceable penalties when pollution crosses into our communities.”

Greer is leading the bi-lateral negotiations and has been the point of contact for USMCA related comments, said Rilli.

Rilli said penalties for violations would be up to negotiators but options include: monetary fines, tariffs and termination of the USMCA. Enforcement for penalties could come from an established environmental oversight body, such as the existing environment committee.

“We were hoping to highlight the need for penalties to hold both governments accountable,” Rilli told The Coronado News.

On July 17, the USTR office announced Mexico is taking steps to control more effectively the discharge of industrial wastewaters into the Southwestern United States. The office did not specify if discussions on cross border pollution were planned.

The U.S., Mexico, and Canada met virtually on July 1 to discuss the operation of the USMCA. At that time, the U.S. did not agree to renew the USMCA in its current form. A third round of bilateral negotiations between the U.S. and Mexico was scheduled in Mexico City.

But the previous month President Trump told reporters he is not looking to renew the USMCA.

“We don’t need anything that Canada has, we don’t need anything that Mexico has, but they need everything that we have,” said Trump. “... We’re talking to them, we’ll see if we do something.”

Termination of the agreement would have dramatic economic impacts in both countries. Majority of the goods imported from Canada and Mexico into the U.S. come in tariff-free under the agreement’s rules, the New York Times reports, totalling more than \$900 billion of products last year. Experts say those goods, and U.S. businesses affected by supply chains, are key in agreement negotiations and renewal.

The trade representative is a cabinet-level official who serves as the president’s advisor and negotiator on international trade policies. On July 23 Greer met with President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo to discuss progress in negotiations regarding economic security, labor, agriculture, electronic payment services, steel and aluminum and derivative products, and automobiles.

The USTR office said both countries plan to reconvene in Washington, D.C., in September.

“The United States will continue to engage with Mexico and Canada to address the agreement’s shortcomings and our trade deficits with these countries,” said Greer in a statement



Leon Benham, an Imperial Beach resident and contractor who leads Citizens for Coastal Conservancy, said Mexico did not comply with an earlier pollution-abatement agreement, resulting in 600% more sewage flowing to U.S. beaches. *Staff photo by Julieta Soto.*

on July 1. “However, the agreement remains in force pending resolution of these issues or until the agreement’s termination.”

Some political leaders across San Diego, including the city of Coronado, called on feds to force sewage cleanup by Mexico last year by cutting off Colorado River water to Tijuana and restricting commercial border crossings. Coronado has also called for economic, trade and monetary penalties as consequences for Mexico’s failure to maintain infrastructure causing pollution in the U.S.

The USMCA, formerly known as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), went into effect in 2020. In NAFTA negotiations, the U.S. sought to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the U.S. economy by improving U.S. opportunities to trade with Canada and Mexico, according to archives from the USTR.

In July, the three nations began a review to determine the framework for a 16-year extension. Annual evaluations of the USMCA are expected until the agreement expires in 2036, unless all parties agree to extend it.

Binational trade has led to a growth in industrial and residential activity in Tijuana, overwhelming Mexican and U.S. sewage treatment facilities and releasing millions of gallons of sewage into the ocean. For years, this pollution has contaminated beaches in Imperial Beach and Coronado, impacting local businesses as well as the health and safety of people living near the Tijuana River.

Despite more than \$650 million in U.S. investments, pollution persists.

“Our community cannot continue to live with the uncertainty of not knowing what is going to happen as part of this agreement,” said Assemblymember Alvarez.

Pollution elimination requests

The organizations’ letter puts forth nine provisions to resolve the crisis and protect communities along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In the days after this request, representatives also told Greer there is a continued urgency and need for cooperation with Mexico to address the crisis in a July 24 letter also calling for “enforceable environmental standards and a rapid response mechanism for violations of the minute treaties and wastewater spills that can and should be avoided with every possible measure available.” Representatives have also stressed the need for Mexico’s funding commitments in a letter to Greer on April 28.

The delegation’s most recent letter follows another letter sent in December before the Trump Administration stated they would not renew the USMCA, according to Shaina Tigar, Rep. Scott Peters’ press secretary.

Tigar said the letter sent by the San Diego organizations reflects the same project priorities included in the delegation’s letter.

Previous to that, Sen. Steve Padilla introduced Senate Joint Resolution 13 urging the U.S. to halt extension of the USMCA until enforceable and measurable commitments to eliminate chronic transboundary sewage discharges into the Tijuana River Wa-

tershed are secured from Mexico.

Provision No. 1 calls for measurable environmental benchmarks, timelines, accountability measures to eliminate transboundary sewage pollution and enforceable penalties for infrastructure failures resulting in pollution discharges.

“Continued participation in USMCA should be contingent upon demonstrated compliance with these commitments,” said the organizations’ letter.

Aguirre said U.S. trade representatives need to fight harder rather than relying on Mexico’s commitments to fixes.

During Aguirre’s tenure as mayor of Imperial Beach, the city (like Coronado) passed a resolution urging the restrictions on water exportation and cross-border traffic if Mexico did not clean up the sewage problem.

“I was against closing the border because that would be like shooting

ourselves in the foot,” Aguirre told The Coronado News. “That was the one provision that I did not support in the resolution. ... Closing the border doesn’t harm Mexico alone, it harms us because we depend on that economic trade.”

Trade experts told TIME that increasing friction between participating USMCA countries can make things more expensive in the U.S., however deep trade ties likely guarantee a continued relationship.

“We have an opportunity at our fingertips right now, as the USMCA is under review, to transition to an economy based on protecting what we hold most dear rather than exploiting it,” said Sarah Davidson, manager of Surfrider Foundation’s Clean Border Water Now program. “... Let’s not waste it.”

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SPORTS

Stephen Curry to have a dedicated exhibit at the Basketball Hall of Fame

Associated Press

Stephen Curry is headed to the Hall of Fame, making more basketball history with a first-of-its-kind exhibit for an active player. Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc opened July 24, celebrating the career of a two-time MVP and the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced the exhibit on July 21, saying it was the first time in the museum's nearly 75-year history that an active player would have a dedicated feature experience. "When I think about my journey, I think about the people who believed in me, the work

that happened when nobody was watching me on and off the court. To have that story told while I'm still playing is something I don't take lightly," Curry said in a statement. "My hope is that fans walk through this experience and feel the joy, the purpose and the gratitude that basketball has given me, and maybe see a little bit of their own journey in it too." Developed in partnership with Curry's Thirty Ink business team, the exhibit will feature video footage of Curry's career, memorabilia and audio and video components that tell the story of a player who was overlooked going into college and has gone on to become a 12-time All-Star

who led Golden State to four NBA championships. "For him to become the first active player to have an exhibit in the Basketball Hall of Fame is a testament to what he represents to the game, to the Warriors, to the NBA and to his millions of fans around the world," Warriors general manager Mike Dunleavy said. "Obviously, this is only a prelude to his eventual induction in Springfield, but a fitting tribute to an iconic player and an amazing human being who has single-handedly changed the game." The Hall of Fame expects Curry's to be a limited time exhibit, likely to last through the summer of 2027 before closing.



Basketball player Stephen Curry accepts the Muhammad Ali Sports Humanitarian Award at the ESPY Awards in the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center Wednesday, July 15, 2026, in New York. AP Photo/Frank Franklin II.

Rams unveil alternate uniforms to honor LA's 1951 title team, 1960s Fearsome Foursome era

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Rams have unveiled two alternate uniforms designed to connect the current team to its rich California history. At an event for season-ticket holders next to SoFi Stadium on July 23, the Rams revealed a new uniform that pays tribute to their 1951 NFL championship team with a yellow jersey and blue satin numerals in the style used 75 years ago. The Rams then introduced a white alternate uniform with blue numerals emulating the Rams' primary look during the 1960s, an era best known for the team's Fear-some Foursome defensive front. The uniform with yellow jerseys and white pants is dubbed "Classic Sol," while the all-white alternates with blue numerals are called "Fear-some White." The Rams will still wear the three uniforms they used last season as well, including their main home and away looks along with their all-black "Midnight Mode" Rivalries uniform. The Rams will debuted their Classic Sol look at home in Week 2 against the New York Giants, and they'll come out again for a high-profile home showdown with the Kansas City Chiefs in December. The Fearsome White uniforms will come out on Thanksgiving Eve for a home game against the Green Bay Packers.

While designing these long-anticipated alternates over the past several years, the Rams' creative team focused on creating throwbacks with modern twists that will remind and educate the 21st-century fan about the franchise's roots. Cory Befort, the Rams' creative executive director, said fans have repeatedly expressed interest in uniforms that would amplify the historic achievements of a franchise that has relocated several times, but still spent most of its existence in Southern California. "It felt like it was time, but we wanted to do it with intention and meet the moment," Befort said. The Rams spent 49 years in Southern California before former owner Georgia Frontiere moved them to her



This undated photo provided by the Los Angeles Rams, Thursday, July 23, 2026, shows quarterback Matthew Stafford posing in Los Angeles wearing the Rams' new "Classic Sol" alternate uniform. Brevin Townsell/Los Angeles Rams via AP.

native St. Louis in January 1995. New owner Stan Kroenke brought the Rams back home in 2016, and he opened their multibillion-dollar stadium complex in Inglewood in 2020. The Rams were founded in Cleveland in 1937, but moved out west in 1946 to become Los Angeles' most significant major professional sports team to that point. They subsequently won the city's first major pro sports championship in 1951, beating the Cleveland Browns in the NFL title game at the Los Angeles Coliseum. That team celebrated its victories at a bar called Tom Bergin's in the Fairfax district, and it even donated a championship banner to the still-operating Irish tavern. The wordmark used in the Rams' Classic Sol throwbacks is pulled directly off that banner, and the numerals are designed to mimic the 1951 jerseys. Even the blue numerals and shoul-

der stripes themselves are throwbacks: The creative team decided to use authentic satin, which doesn't stretch like modern uniform material, so the satin stripes are sewn individually onto pieces of gold polyester to prevent excessive ripping and tearing. "These uniforms are a celebration and reminder of the moments and people that built the Rams into what and who we are today," Rams chief marketing officer Kat Frederick said. "Every detail was intentionally designed to honor the grit and greatness of our history while delivering a modern look for today's players and fans." The Fearsome Whites are topped by a helmet with a white horn and a white facemask in a departure from the usual blue facemask, while the jersey shoulders have their own small numerals and a continuous blue stripe, just like the 1960s look. The blue chest numerals are outlined in

black on the new jerseys. The Rams launched a rebranding in 2020 for the opening of their new stadium, but never introduced their full NFL complement of five uniform alternatives — a "closet," in league parlance — until now. The Rams already unveiled a re-vamping of their primary uniforms from that rebranding earlier this year, notably eliminating the jersey numerals' unique color gradient — the fade on the colors at the bottom of the numbers — and dumping the nearly-white uniform color called "Bone" in favor of a traditional white shade. The creative team also simplified its Ram head logo and monogram logo. The team will alter its game presentation depending on which uniforms are being worn at SoFi, Befort said, with new field paint and stenciling along with additional changes that won't be revealed until September.

7-time NASCAR champ Jimmie Johnson adds star to Hollywood Walk of Fame

Associated Press

NASCAR Hall of Famer Jimmie Johnson has added another honor to his long list of achievements by becoming the first racer to put a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The seven-time series champion received his official spot for sports entertainment Friday. He is scheduled to make his final Cup start at next year's Daytona 500. Johnson also is the co-founder of race team Legacy

Motor Club and reveled in the moment in his home state. "To receive this honor is incredibly humbling," he said. "As a kid growing up in Southern California, Hollywood always represented a place where dreams became reality. I never imagined my path would lead through racing, much less to something like this. I'm grateful to



Jimmie Johnson. AP Photo/John Raoux, File.

everyone who has been part of this journey — my family, teammates, partners, competitors, fans, and friends. This recognition reflects all of us." Johnson has won 83 career races in his NASCAR career and a record five consecutive series titles. He is the only racer to be selected The Associated Press Male of the Year and also was named the 2022 Indianapo-

lis 500 Rookie of the Year in his only race start. Johnson went on to compete in endurance races, worked in broadcasting and has embraced both entrepreneurship and philanthropy. One of his team's drivers, Todd Gilliland, is a finalist for the series' second In-Season Challenge that will be settled during Sunday's Brickyard 400. The top finisher between Gilliland and 2023 Cup champ Ryan Blaney will collect the \$1 million prize.

SPORTS

LeBron James picked Philadelphia, eight years after billboards asked him to come to the 76ers

Associated Press

LeBron James wound up picking Philadelphia, and no billboards were required.

Back in February 2018, a businessman named Asher Raphael arranged for three billboards to be placed a few miles outside of Cleveland in a light-hearted effort to woo James to the Philadelphia 76ers. James decided later that year to leave the Cavaliers and join the Los Angeles Lakers. The billboard bit seemed futile.

Instead, maybe it was just premature. James announced that he’s joining the 76ers in what he said will be the “last decision” of his playing career — and, finally, Raphael can say the billboard investment from eight years ago paid off.

“I was in the middle of a board meeting and my phone was going off like something was on fire,” said Raphael, the co-CEO of Power Home Remodeling, a Pennsylvania-based firm with offices around the country. “And it was people from all walks of life, employees, former employees, friends from all over the country being like: ‘It worked. Process completed.’ It was the coolest thing.”

The original billboard idea was loosely based on the award-winning 2017 film “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,” and was simply intended to be something fun.

It wound up going viral.

Raphael ordered billboards with the messaging of “Philly Wants LeBron” and “Complete The Process” — a nod to the 76ers’ infamous “process” of rebuilding, with hopes of becoming a contender. The third billboard showed where James would fit on the court with the other Sixers starters at



FILE - One of three billboards trying to entice Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James to come to Philadelphia are shown near a highway, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, in Cleveland. AP Photo/Tony Dejak, File.

the time: Dario Saric, Ben Simmons, Robert Covington and Joel Embiid. Of those, only Embiid remains with the 76ers.

Raphael considered ordering more billboards this summer but didn’t place any orders. Turns out, he didn’t need to.

“We just wanted to drop a seed that Philly wanted him,” Raphael said. “I think a lot of people think of Philly

as a great sports town, but opposing teams think of it as kind of an intimidating place. And we just wanted to drop a seed that he would be welcomed here and he’d love it.”

Raphael’s company got some name recognition from the billboard move in 2018, and he said it was a great morale boost to employees. And he fully believes James coming to Philadelphia, to play alongside Embiid,

Tyrese Maxey, Jaylen Brown and VJ Edgecombe, is going to pay off for a city that hasn’t seen its NBA team win a championship since 1983.

“Philly, right now, is on fire,” Raphael said. “At that moment, we became an undeniable contender. And if he comes to Philadelphia and we get that title and that trophy after 44 years, the country will see what Sixers fans are about.”



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SPORTS

Healthy again, Gabby Thomas explains why she’s skipping US nationals — and loving it

Associated Press

Gabby Thomas, one of the deepest thinkers in track, chose to view herself as “healing” instead of “injured” last year.

That, in short, is how the Olympic gold medalist — slowed, then eventually stopped by an aching Achilles tendon — made it through a frustrating 2025 and turned it into a much more interesting and successful 2026.

“You are setting up to come back even better,” Thomas said of the change in mindset about being hurt. “And every time that I’ve had an injury, I’ve always come back stronger and better and faster. So that was what I was thinking, and then, just staying focused.”

The 29-year-old Thomas, who won the 200 meters at the Paris Games two years ago and is ramping up for a repeat attempt two years from now in Los Angeles, is not competing at this weekend’s U.S. track championships in New York. She said it is not a signal that she is hurting.

In one of the interesting twists of 2026 — the middle year of the Olympic cycle that’s always a little quirky for track — nationals did not fit into her Diamond League and international schedule. She’s doing just fine there, with five sub-22 second runs this season, which gives her 20 for her career — the most by any woman at the distance.

She traveled to New York to cheer on some of her teammates sponsored by Toyota, which arranged this interview.

Among the highlights coming up for Thomas will be the World Athlet-



FILE - Gold medalist Gabby Thomas stands on the podium after the women's 200-meter at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France. AP Photo/Matthias Schrader, File.

ics Ultimate Championships, where \$150,000 first prizes are available, and more races at Athlos, the all-women league founded by Alexis Ohanian that is heading into its third year with a growing roster of runners, including Friday night’s 100-meter cham-

pion, Sha’Carri Richardson.

Athlos’ second meet of the year will be in October at Icahn Stadium on New York’s Randall’s Island, the same place where nationals are.

Thomas also is planning a wedding. Last spring, she got engaged to onetime Yale quarterback Spencer McManes (Thomas went to Harvard) and they’ll get married in October at a location she did not divulge. Planning a wedding in the middle of track season?

“It’s not challenging,” she said. “I always say, you make time for what you care about and what you want to do, so if you love it, you’ll do it.”

She takes that mindset into her off-the-track life, where she still has plans for a career in women’s health once the running stops. Thomas studied neurobiology and public health as an undergrad, then got a master’s degree in public health at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

“As a female athlete and really understanding the gaps in women’s healthcare and how underfunded and how undersuited it is, there’s a lot of room for improvement,” Thomas said. “I see myself being a part of that and narrowing that gap quite naturally. I think I will have to go back to school. I would definitely welcome that.”

Through much of 2025, Thomas was vocal about combating a growing trend of online harassment of female athletes by bettors. Earlier this week, she went on social media and doubled down on that, saying only one demographic of people harass her, “and it’s never women.”

Off the track, Thomas is reading a few books by Bell Hooks, a philosopher and author who wrote extensively about race and feminism, that have reminded one of the world’s greatest sprinters that there’s more

“Every time that I’ve had an injury, I’ve always come back stronger and better and faster. So that was what I was thinking, and then, just staying focused.”

- Gabby Thomas

to life than track. In a way, it might help explain how Thomas — healthy again — can be sitting out of nationals but still loving every minute of it.

“It’s so easy to get very, very involved and tied into track and to make that your identity, especially at my level,” she said. “It’s been a nice reminder to think about who I am off the track, what I love, who I want to be.”

Around the track

World 200-meter champion Noah Lyles showed no signs of fatigue when he won his first-round heat Saturday in 20.51 seconds. Just over 18 hours earlier, he took gold in the 100. Brandon Hicklin had the fastest time in 20.43.

Reigning world champion Melissa Jefferson-Wooden posted the top time (22.50) in the opening round of the women’s 200 race.

Both finals are Sunday.

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