

Coronado challenges county in sewage water testing methods

The city has been questioning the county’s water testing protocol since it was implemented in 2022 but the county says it is the “most accurate” method

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Coronado Mayor John Duncan challenged the validity of San Diego County’s public health safety testing for ocean water at the Aug. 18 City Council meeting.

The tense conversation focused on a relatively new testing protocol implemented in May 2022 to check the sewage levels coming from Tijuana. Before adopting the method, known as Polymerase Chain Reaction (ddPCR), the county relied on Enterolert – a culture-based protocol standardized nationwide by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA approved a pilot program for the ddPCR protocol in 2021 and stated that a study had “found good agreement” between the two methods.

However, beach reopenings in Coronado were less frequent after the county started using the ddPCR testing.

While the Enterolert testing measures live enterococci bacteria and yields results in 24 to 48 hours, the

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USS Abraham Lincoln returns to Coronado



Sailors aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln have been on a record-long deployment and government officials have started questioning Navy leaders. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Navy leaders say concerns of conditions aboard the carrier are false

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Coronado-based aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln is finally returning home after it set a record-long deployment to the Middle East.

Asia-based USS George Washington was sent to relieve the carrier after almost nine months of being out at sea.

The Lincoln departed Naval Air Station North Island at the end of November with no public attention, but was quickly directed to assist in the U.S.-Israel war against Iran, most notably being used to block the Strait of Hormuz in recent months. In February, the U.S. military acknowledged that a Navy fighter jet shot down an Iranian drone as it “aggressively approached” the giant ship.

The record-setting deployment raised concerns among family members as the Lincoln continued for months with no confirmed return date.

Reports of mental health crises due to its extended deployment, food shortages and exhaustion came to light during a town hall meeting on Aug. 6 at Naval Air Station North Island, according to MS Now, where several

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Coronado students, parents protest new recess rules

Village Elementary School families want reversal of a new recess structure

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Village Elementary School students and parents protested new recess rules holding signs with the words “Let Kids Play” and “Prison” during a demonstration outside the Coronado Unified School District office while trustees met in closed session.

Concerned Village Parents, an informal coalition of more than 50 Coronado families, organized the demonstration calling on district leadership to end designated

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Village Elementary School students hold signs protesting recess restrictions on Aug. 20. Photo by Ann-Marie Schmidt.

this week

29 • Saturday

The Coronado Ferry Landing is slated to host a free weekend concert on Aug. 29 at 2 p.m. featuring BayWolf.

30 • Sunday

Coronado Promenade Concerts' summer series continues with a performance by Desperado, an Eagles tribute band, in Spreckels Park on Aug. 30 at 5 p.m.

1 • Tuesday

A local farmers' market will be set up at the Coronado Ferry Landing from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 1, featuring fresh produce.

2 • 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 Sept. 2 is "Animal Crackers."

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



Tess Gerritsen will be presenting her new book at the Coronado Public Library on Aug. 31. Photo by Josh Gerritsen.

Tess Gerritsen presents her newest book at Coronado Public Library

Coronado News staff

New York Times bestselling author Tess Gerritsen, a San Diego native whose novels inspired the hit television series "Rizzoli & Isles," will be at the Coronado Public Library to speak on her newest book, "The Shadow Friends."

The event is free and open to the public on Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Winn Room of the library.

The book is Gerritsen's third installment in her "Martini Club" series, which surrounds a group of retired spies who are dragged back into the world of espionage.

Gerritsen will talk about her writing inspirations as she delves into the world of mystery stories. This event will include an audience Q&A and a book signing.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Tina

PAWS of Coronado

Tina is available for adoption at PAWS of Coronado.

Staff members at the non-profit, which provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Tina is a gentle cat that loves attention.

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 Tina or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



Meet Tina, 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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OUR STORY

“Once Upon A Time”

My son and I were discussing the advancements of solar systems and their applications. Being licensed commercial electricians with 15+ years of experience, we were familiar with the solar industry. After conducting further research, we determined solar technology had advanced to the point that 1 solar panel could be installed on the roof of a golf cart.

We also determined that if the panel wattage was great enough, no conventional plug-in charging would be required under most travel conditions. In addition, the solar system would add up to 30% longer travel range and extend the battery bank’s life by years, before needing an expensive replacement.

I recently moved to Coronado, California, and purchased a golf cart, and we installed a system on my cart. I was able to travel 8 months without conventional charging and it was only necessary to plug in due to extended travel at night in some limited instances.

We then began telling our friends and neighbors and advertising in the local Coronado newspaper. The idea was accepted in the community, and many carts were converted to solar power.

There is more to the story, and we encourage you to text or call us directly. We always answer our phone when we’re not busy installing systems.

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Richard Stachowicz
Ride All Day Solar Carts
Owner and Coronado Resident



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COMMENTARY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to sewage crisis articles

BY ROBB HUFF
Letter to the Editor

While your two articles on the sewage crisis, (“How the sewage crisis has affected locals” and “Op-Ed: North American trade helped create Tijuana’s growth, industry should help pay

for the infrastructure”) were certainly worthy, neither called out a glaring misunderstanding. One article offered an intelligent option with funding incentives and the other basically surrendered to our sad lot. But the real miscue in describing this health crises is the commonly used phrase: “Its been around for

50 years.” Fact: It has been around for 50 years, but for the first 45 of those years it was manageable. We’d lose two, or maybe three weekends a year to pollution and runoff. But the last five years, when some doddering leader decided to make Tijuana the staging ground for hundreds of thousands of

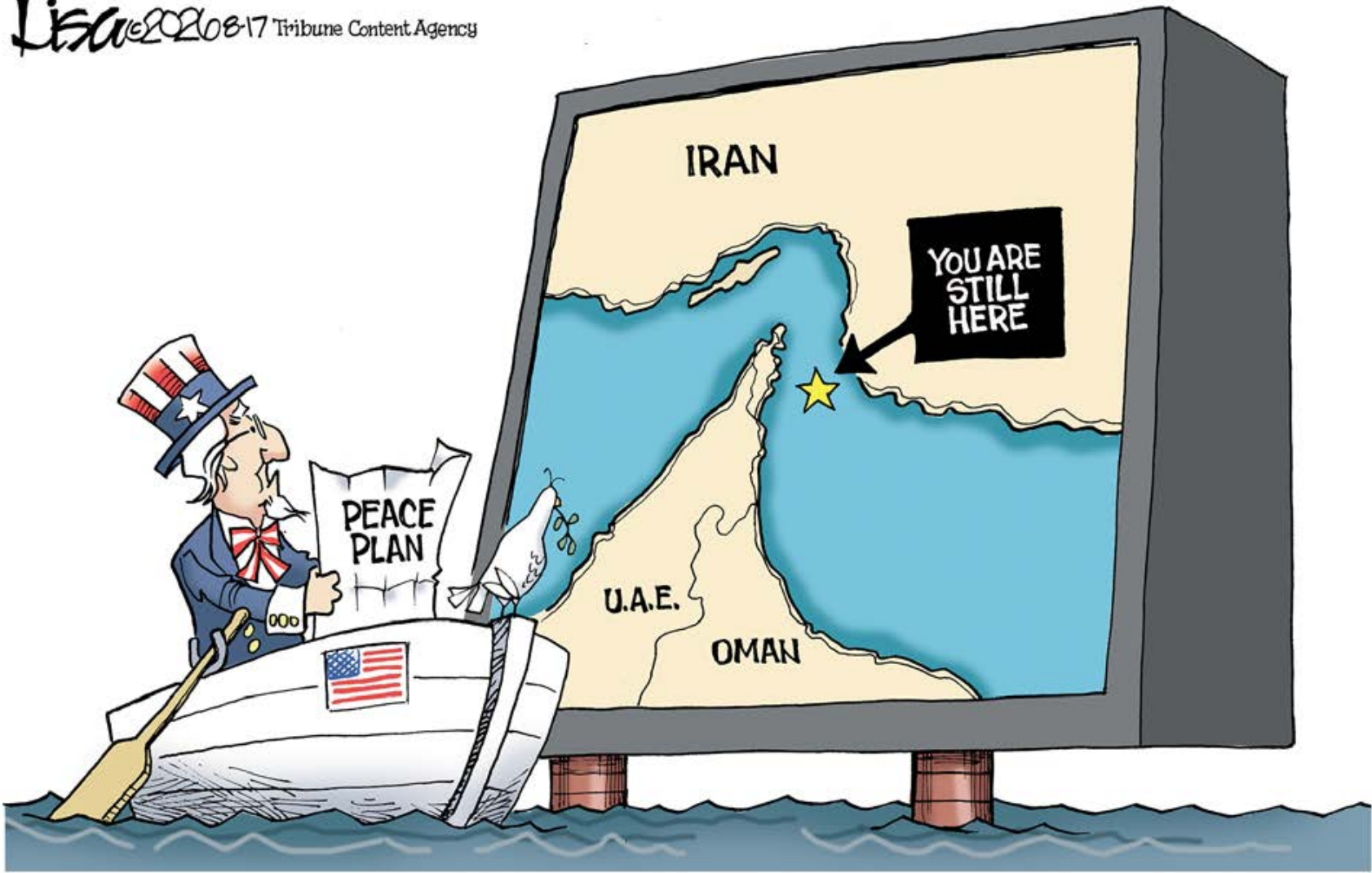
people to cross the border, Tijuana’s infrastructure was crushed by a tripling population, and so our problems began. Add to this the repeated threats of the other old guy, insulting Mexico by saying they would pay for a wall, only served to dissolve any remnant of a working relationship.

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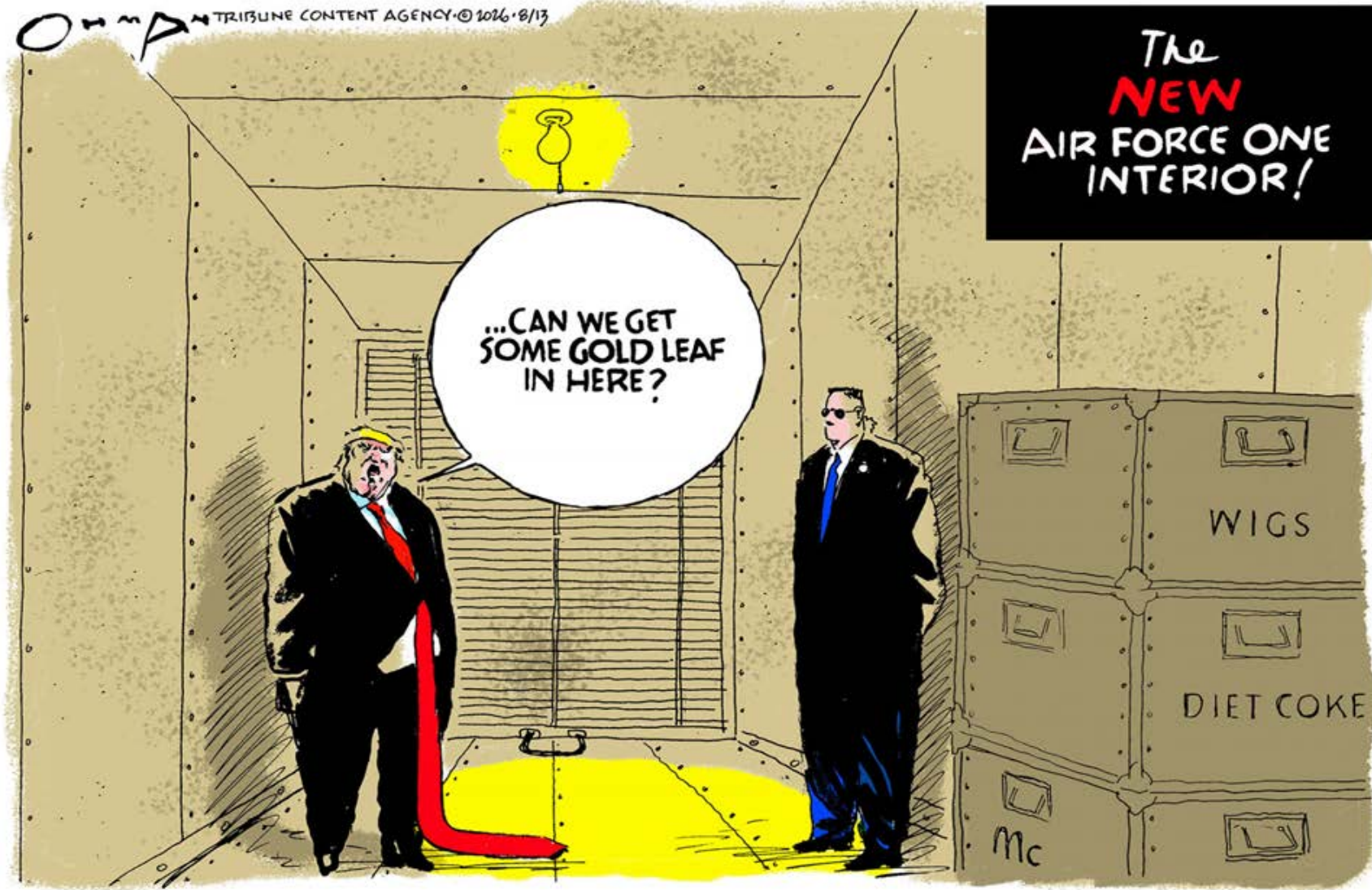
- Submit a news tip
 - Capture a cool photo of Coronado and send it in for publication consideration
 - Respond to an editorial or a news story by writing a letter to the editor
- All submissions can be sent to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com

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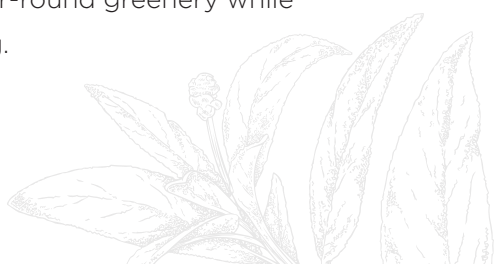
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Coronado students, parents protest new recess rules

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playground zones and color-coded wristbands that have been in place since the first day of school on Aug. 10, according to a news release by the group.

Administration said the new rules come from a partnership between the school and Playworks for a framework that implements zoned play through which students rotate in phases that begin with an assigned zone, a preferred zone and eventually an open recess environment that balances student freedom with safety and effective adult supervision.

Over a dozen elementary school students and their parents voiced their concerns during public comment at an Aug. 20 School Board meeting.

Eric Grobe, whose daughters attend Village, told the board the terms being used to describe recess expectations resemble a prison.

“End the mandatory zones, restore to open recess, provide active supervision and hold individual students accountable for their behaviors,” Grobe told trustees when they reconvened to open session.

According to Brian Schmidt, a parent of a first grader and fourth grader at Village, parents were not notified about the changes until the first week of school.

“Nobody knew this was happening until it was thrust upon us,” said Schmidt.

Trustees will revisit recess concerns at a future board meeting in a staff report.

“We firmly believe that structure and choice work together to ensure both student freedom and a safe playground environment,” said the district in a statement.

Emotional toll

Village Principal Peter Kuhns told parents, in an email on Aug. 10, the decision for structured zones during recess and lunch is a response to student behavior data as well as significant feedback from staff and school community identifying the periods as areas where stronger supervision, clearer expectations, and more predictable routines were needed.

Elementary school children, some breaking into tears, told Coronado trustees recent changes are making them cry and lose sleep at night.

“I feel like school is trying to control what I do,” said one fourth grade student. “Whenever I want to play volleyball, I never get to play because all the volleyball players are separate. So, I can’t play what I want.”

“Please don’t keep me in a zone,” said another student.

In a statement the district said “site administration has implemented a structured, three-phase approach to recess that balances safety and adult supervision with student autonomy.”

The district said legal counsel verified its structure complies with California SB 291 and is prioritizing a positive, inclusive and safe environment where students can play, socialize and learn.

The statement said the first phase spans the first two weeks of school wherein students are assigned specific play zones to learn playground expectations, spatial boundaries and safety procedures guided by campus assistants.

According to the district, parents have been notified of the transition to phase two, effective Aug. 24, allowing students to choose a zone and playmates on a daily basis.

A third phase which the district calls its “long-term goal” is an open recess environment with minimal restrictions, limiting capacity across specific activities requiring focused



Chalk designs by Village Elementary School students protest recess restrictions in Coronado. Credit: Ann-Marie Schmidt.

supervision, the statement continues.

Kuhns’ email said similar zoned playground structures are also currently in place at Silver Strand Elementary.

The district said campus assistants supervising recess at both schools have completed training through Playworks.

According to the nonprofit’s website, Playworks’ mission is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.

“In alignment with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework and a goal of improving school climate, this model explicitly teaches and reinforces expectations: safe, respectful, responsible, and kind behavior before gradually increasing student autonomy,” said the district in a statement.

In response to the district statement, Concerned Village Parents provided the media with a letter on Aug. 21 asking the district to reverse the policy and employ the zones for supervisors, teachers, and staff like other school districts.

According to the letter, the district statement differs from a separate one issued to parents during a town hall meeting the week prior contemplating only two phases.

“We would all be much safer if we had all choice removed from our lives and had a governmental entity mandate where we get to go, who we get to associate with, and what we get to do during that time we are allowed to engage in that association,” said the group in its letter. “That, however, is not consistent with American ideals of freedom, individuality, and personal responsibility.”

Board President Renee Cavanaugh said wristbands match color coded zones, which prevent hundreds of kids from playing on one structure at a time.

“I think there is some room for improvement,” Cavanaugh told The Coronado News.

Advocacy to continue

Schmidt called CUSD’s Phase II “an administrative shell game.”

“Forcing elementary children to select a single assigned area in advance is not free movement—it is scheduled

“I feel like school is trying to control what I do.”
- Village Elementary student

containment,” said Schmidt. “It does nothing to solve the core problem: Children are still barred from crossing playground boundaries to play with friends, siblings, or classmates in other zones during recess.”

Schmidt told the Coronado News unstructured recess is a statutory right, not a privilege that well-behaved children must earn back through behavioral compliance phases.

According to Schmidt, over 93% of Village Elementary School students have zero or one incident history.

“Punishing and restricting the entire student body for the actions of a tiny fraction, while making them jump through bureaucratic hoops just to choose where they stand the next day, is unacceptable,” added Schmidt.

Apart from a return to unstructured free play, Schmidt would ideally like to see green spaces on campus to accommodate all students.

Schmidt said there is mixed reception of the structure among parents at Silver Strand.

“The Playworks model is different than what they’re selling it to us,” said Schmidt.

Geetha Ramani, a human development professor at the University of Maryland’s College of Education told Capital News Service that targeting play is potentially a piece of the solution to the nation’s growing behavioral problems in elementary schools.

In another email to parents Kuhns said the open recess environment will resume once students consistently comply with the expectations of the campus supervisors, along with an observed decrease in the frequency of major behaviors on the playground.

According to Kuhn’s email, there has been less time spent managing issues following recess and lunch, and minimal incidents and injuries to stu-

dents across the grade levels.

Schmidt said a vague, open-ended promise of a far-off complete unrestricted play in Phase III is not enough.

“We are demanding that CUSD release a clear, published, and measurable timeline with explicit criteria and dates for the complete elimination of zone restrictions and mandatory wristbands,” said Schmidt.

Prior to that email, kids also protested the zones with chalk drawings which Schmidt said the school washed away.

CUSD said it supports student voice, and encourages expression and respectful communication, but requires prior approval for any signs, chalking, or messaging on district property.

“Unapproved displays will be removed by maintenance staff,” said the district in its statement.

Schmidt said prior administrative approval for weekend chalk art on the city owned sidewalk is absurd and highlights the exact culture of over-restriction at the school that the community has been protesting.

“Public sidewalks outside the school fence belong to the city, not the school district. Sending school maintenance workers off campus to hose away kids’ peaceful chalk drawings isn’t just an administrative over-reaction — it is an unauthorized over-reach onto public property to censor dissenting student voices in violation of their First Amendment rights,” said Schmidt.

Cavanaugh requested additional information about recess to be scheduled in an upcoming meeting.

Meanwhile for Schmidt, conversations addressing the school’s structure with district and school leaders “feels like it kind of goes in circles.”

“We will not stop advocating until our children’s right to true, unrestricted play is fully restored,” added Schmidt.

In other matters:

- Priscila Rude, a Coronado Police Department officer, was named the new school resource officer.
- CUSD welcomed new administrators including: Shauna Stueve-Malone, Village Elementary School dean of students; Haylee Lavender, Coronado Middle School assistant principal; Richard Ayala, Coronado High School assistant principal.
- The board moved its Dec. 10 meeting to Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at the district office when it plans for newly elected trustees to be sworn in.

The next regular board meeting is set for 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10 at the district office.

Contact: julietta@thecoronadonews.com

“Forcing elementary children to select a single assigned area in advance is not free movement—it is scheduled containment. It does nothing to solve the core problem: Children are still barred from crossing playground boundaries to play with friends, siblings, or classmates in other zones during recess.”
- Brian Schmidt, a parent of a first grader and fourth grader at Village



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SCAN ME



Coronado challenges county in sewage water testing methods

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county’s rapid ddPCR method delivers same-day results by detecting bacterial DNA from both living and dead cells.

According to the EPA, enterococci serve as an indicator for fecal contamination and other disease-causing pathogens. Because ddPCR captures dead or damaged DNA alongside active bacteria, it appears to report higher contamination levels.

In May 2022, there were 25 of 31 days of beach closures for Imperial Beach. The new data found that the water bacteria levels were not safe enough to prompt a reopening. Silver Strand Beach was closed for 16 of 31 days and Coronado’s shoreline closed for 11 days. There were zero closure days the previous year in May with the Enterolert testing.

According to a study published in the National Library of Medicine, Coronado conducted an independent experiment on their beaches in the summer of 2023 and concluded that when comparing beach closures on Enterolert and ddPCR, there was a false positive rate with ddPCR of 56.3%.

That means that according to the study, if the county had been using the old Enterolert test, the water would have been deemed safe over half of those times.

“The tests do not match,” Duncan said at the council meeting, addressing Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, the county’s public health officer.

Thihalolipavan explained that beach closures were not triggered by test results, but due to confirmed sewage impacts like spills or visible contamination as required by state law, and that ddPCR testing is used to reopen beaches once the contamination clears.

The mayor explained that four years ago, two previous mayors, Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey and Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina, sent a letter to the county demanding answers on the validity of the new ddPCR method.

Duncan claimed that the county stopped using Enterolert shortly after the concern was raised, solely basing water reopenings on ddPCR. He also said that the city never got a response from the county on this issue in the last four years.

“You stated that (ddPCR) is the safe way, and the Enterolert is not the safe way to do it,” Duncan said. “If your premise is that (Enterolert) is faulty, that means the EPA is jeopardizing everybody’s health, every other ocean in the entire country – except for Coronado’s and Imperial Beach’s and San Diego County.”

In response, Thihalolipavan neither confirmed



Signs show beach closures due to sewage from Tijuana. Photo provided by Stephanie Kaupp.

nor denied whether Enterolert was faulty, but explained that the county worked with the state and the EPA to validate the ddPCR test.

“We could not use these tests unless these were validated and approved from the EPA,” Thihalolipavan countered, but did not offer an answer as to why the test results between the two methods did not match. “(ddPCR) is a test that we have to go with because that is validated.”

Duncan pointed out that the Enterolert protocol is also validated.

The public health officer also said that the county could not change testing thresholds based on the study the city offered that claimed a false positive of 56%.

“Our technical review found several limitations of Coronado’s study,” Thihalolipavan said. “Samples were collected by different agencies, the length of the study was too brief and therefore the data sample size was too small ... and errors in data output.”

While San Diego County currently enforces a standard safety limit of 1,413 copies/100 mL, city officials advocated for raising that threshold to 6,791 copies/100 mL based on the study. It reported that the lower threshold created an overly sensitive “false alarm” system, unnecessarily triggering hundreds of days of beach closures.

Setting the threshold at 6,791 would match the

new testing with the EPA’s old protocol and therefore avoid closures, according to the study.

However, a letter sent from the county on Aug. 18 to the city and obtained by The Coronado News included an attachment from Sept. 2024 in response to the study that said that the county felt adopting less stringent water quality requirements for ddPCR enterococcal concentrations could pose a “substantial public health risk.”

It also said that the current threshold of 1,413 copies/100ml for the ddPCR test was set by California Department of Public Health and the county does not have the authority to change it.

In a letter from the EPA to the county, it stated ddPCR was reliable and effective.

“The county is not seeing an increase in closures occurring in other communities outside the South County region where there is not a known sewage pollution source even though the same testing methods are used at those beaches,” the letter stated.

Thihalolipavan said “ddPCR remains the most accurate, EPA-validated tool.”

Duncan later clarified during the meeting that the city wants the beaches closed if they are unsafe, and open when they are safe, but he also wants answers on why the county stopped using the Enterolert method.

Thihalolipavan did not give an answer at the meeting and the county did not respond on deadline.

The Enterolert tests live, growing enterococci bacteria in the water, producing results a day or two after taking the sample. The ddPCR tests have a much faster turnaround time and produce results within hours, but they capture enterococcus DNA from both live and dead or damaged cells, according to the Surfrider Foundation.

This means the ddPCR test usually identifies a higher level of bacteria in the water, keeping beaches closed.

According to the EPA, testing for enterococci indicates possible contamination of waters by fecal waste and although the bacteria itself is typically not considered harmful to humans, “their presence in the environment may indicate that other disease-causing agents such as viruses, bacteria and protozoa may also be present,” and could sicken swimmers.

San Diego County was the first municipality in the U.S. to switch to the DNA-based test, according to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project who developed the ddPCR method.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com

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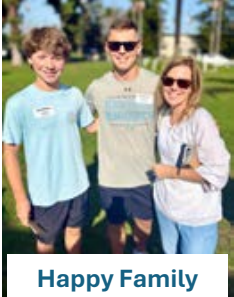


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MILITARY

USS Abraham Lincoln returns to Coronado

» Continued from Page 1

family members pleaded for answers from Navy leaders after hearing about conditions on board the carrier.

The Navy Times revealed multiple instances where sailors attempted to jump overboard, and USA Today reported meals on the Lincoln being less than satisfactory, leaving those onboard hungry.

At least one sailor aboard the Lincoln reported mental health issues earlier this month, then had to be rescued after jumping overboard. In the aftermath, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, wrote Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung Cao on Aug. 12 demanding information on what was being done to improve conditions for sailors.

“There have been widespread reports of shortages of basic supplies, water contamination, plumbing issues, deteriorating mental health, deck safety concerns, and disruptions in the mail system, which have caused many care packages in route to the ship to be lost in transit for months,” the letter said.

Blumenthal also questioned the

“Navy’s ability to sustainably generate carrier forces while preserving servicemember well-being.”

Cao said in a statement posted to X that the media is being “dishonest” and “trying to paint our warriors as victims.

“Not only is that dishonest but it takes away the focus on the enemy and the threat it poses against our nation, people, and way of life,” he added.

The acting secretary acknowledged there were a small number of mental health cases, but said no loss of life had occurred. He also said meal plans were adjusted

when fresh resupply was unavailable, explaining that deployments are hard and that sailors and Marines are expected to dig deep, and that they have.

A statement from Central Command on X pushed back on concerns about the lengthy deployment, calling them false and claiming that “rampant misreporting” has been a “disservice to our men and women in uniform and their loved ones.”

Hegseth said every Navy ship and crew has “everything we can provide them at every single moment,” according to a video from Newsmax.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com

“Every Navy ship and crew has everything we can provide them at every single moment.”

- Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense

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SPORTS



San Diego Padres' Luis Campusano, second from left, celebrates with teammates after hitting a walk off single to defeat the Brewers during the eleventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026, in San Diego. AP Photo/Gregory Bull.

MLB approves sale of San Diego Padres to José E. Feliciano and Kwanza Jones

Associated Press

Major League Baseball’s team owners unanimously have approved the sale of the San Diego Padres to an investor group led by private equity billionaire José E. Feliciano and his wife and business partner, Kwanza Jones.

The league announced the approval on Aug. 17 after a vote. Feliciano and Jones reached an agreement in May to buy the Padres from the family of late owner Peter Seidler at an MLB-record valuation of \$3.9 billion. The deal is still contingent on the official closing of the transaction in the coming weeks.

“José and Kwanza understand the unique place the Padres hold in San Diego and the powerful bond between the club and its fans,” Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. “We look forward to their leadership of the Padres and to working with them to build on the club’s strong foundation in a market that is so important to Major League Baseball.”

Seidler’s family announced its intention to explore a sale of the Padres last November, two years after Peter Seidler’s death. The 53-year-old Feliciano, a co-founder of Santa Monica-based private equity firm Clearlake Capital, emerged from the competition as the Seidler family’s top choice.

Padres CEO Erik Greupner and general manager A.J. Preller will remain in charge of day-to-day operations, according to MLB’s announcement.

“We are a family first, and becoming owners of the San Diego Padres means joining an even larger one,” Jones and Feliciano said in a statement. “We are grateful to the Seidler family, and especially to Peter, for raising the expectations of what this franchise can achieve. ... Our ambition is clear: to bring a World Series championship to San Diego and build an enduring organization capable of competing for championships year after year. We intend to be engaged owners, bringing our energy, experience and perspective while working alongside the talented team already in place and investing ambitiously and thoughtfully in the Padres’ future.”

“We are all in and committed to winning.”

Peter Seidler assumed majority control of the Padres in 2020 after first joining their ownership group in 2012, but he became beloved in

“As far as the day-to-day operations, nothing changes for us. We’ve got to go out here and play the games, just like we have all season long. The ownership sale has kind of been something that’s been going on throughout the entire year. It doesn’t really affect the play on the field, but we’re excited to have José and Kwanza a part of the Padres and can’t wait to welcome them.”

- Craig Stammen, Padres manager

San Diego for his aggressive financial pursuit of winning and his eagerness to engage with the team’s fan base. He died at 63 in November 2023.

The Padres dramatically increased their payroll under Seidler, allowing Preller to build the foundation for the current team, which has made four playoff appearances in the past six years and won at least 89 games in three of the last four seasons during the most successful stretch in franchise history. San Diego is cur-

rently in the playoff race again, winning 17 of its last 22 games entering Monday to surge into an NL wild-card position at 67-58.

“As far as the day-to-day operations, nothing changes for us,” Padres manager Craig Stammen said in New York before San Diego’s series opener against the Mets. “We’ve got to go out here and play the games, just like we have all season long. The ownership sale has kind of been something that’s been going on throughout the entire year. It doesn’t really affect the play on the field, but we’re excited to have José and Kwanza a part of the Padres and can’t wait to welcome them.”

The minority partners in the Padres’ new ownership group include Joey and Jesse Buss, two sons of former Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss. Coincidentally, the six Buss siblings decided earlier Monday to sell their remaining minority ownership stake in the Lakers to incoming majority owners Josh Kushner and Bob Iger.

When Feliciano and Jones reached their agreement to purchase the Padres earlier this year, they praised the team as “a unifying force in San Diego, rooted in community, connection and belonging.” They’ve since been spotted at Padres games in San Diego and in Mexico City.

“It’s good to see people that care working with us, you know?” Padres outfielder Jackson Merrill said. “I mean, the Seidlers cared a lot. It’ll be fun to see how these people take it, mold it into their own, you know? Trust in them, as they trust in us on the field. So, full confidence in them. Excited to meet them.”

The Padres have never won a World Series, but they were a valuable commodity for potential owners as the only team in the four biggest North American sports leagues in a metropolitan area with roughly 3.3 million people. Downtown Petco Park has become one of the liveliest ballparks in the sport, and the Padres ranked second in the majors in attendance last season.

Feliciano, who was born in Puerto Rico, becomes the second Latino principal owner in baseball, along with the Los Angeles Angels’ Arte Moreno. Latino and Hispanic players comprise roughly 30% of major league rosters.

Feliciano and Jones will hold an introductory news conference at Petco Park on Monday, Aug. 24.

SPORTS

Dodgers president shuts down sale rumors

Associated Press

Los Angeles Dodgers president Stan Kasten attempted to calm online speculation about the future of the franchise under billionaire owner Mark Walter on Aug. 21.

“The Dodgers are not being sold. They’re not for sale. There’s no process that has been started to sell it, period,” he told reporters on the field before the team’s game against Pittsburgh. “We are planning only to win.”

The conjecture began earlier this month with Walter agreeing to a stunning sale of the Los Angeles Lakers to businessmen Josh Kushner and Bob Iger for a record-breaking price of \$12.5 billion, according to a person familiar with the terms who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Walter bought a controlling stake in the franchise from the Buss family last year.

“I can’t tell you how important the Dodgers are to Mark,” Kasten said. “The Lakers thing? The Lakers were important to him too, but it’s kind of an extraordinary opportunity, which he took.”

Multiple media outlets last month reported that Walter’s business empire is under scrutiny from both federal prosecutors and the Securities and Exchange Commission in tax fraud investigations. Walter is cooperating with the investigation.

“I know nothing involving the Dodgers is part of the investigation,” Kasten said, declining to go into specifics.

The 66-year-old Walter is based in Chicago, where he is CEO of Guggenheim Partners. He has overseen a run of success for the Dodgers that includes three World Series cham-



FILE - Los Angeles Dodgers President and CEO Stan Kasten speaks during a news conference at Dodger Stadium, Jan. 15, 2021, in Los Angeles. Irfan Khan/Los Angeles Times via AP, Pool, File.

pionships in six seasons and a penchant for lavishing big-money contracts on players like four-time MVP Shohei Ohtani.

“I think Mark has done an extraordinary job as an owner,” Kasten said, “and all he’s ever cared about is providing the best experience in order to make us more money, to make this project successful. I think so far it has been, I expect that to continue far into the future.”

Kasten also said Walter is not exploring any sales of his other sports properties, which include the WNBA’s Los Angeles Sparks, the Professional Women’s Hockey League and TWG Motorsports.

Walter typically shuns the spotlight, preferring to stay behind the scenes and have Kasten or other team executives make public statements.

US '28 track trials headed back to Eugene (not LA)

Associated Press

The U.S. track and field Olympic trials will return to Eugene, Oregon, leaving Los Angeles on the sideline weeks before it hosts the 2028 Summer Games.

The trials, set for June 17-22, 2028, will be the sixth straight held at Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus, which has adopted the nickname “TrackTown USA.” It has proven over decades to be America’s only consistently viable host for big-time track events.

The six-day schedule will be different from past trials, which usually spanned two weekends, with a couple of off days in the middle. Those six days will not include selection for the decathlon, heptathlon or the 10,000 meters, all of which will be held earlier in the spring — at locations still to be determined — to allow for additional recovery.

The Olympics begin July 14, with the track meet starting the next day; this marks the first time track will cover the opening days of the Games since 1968.

Some athletes complain about the cost of traveling to and staying in a

metro area of around 400,000, but USA Track and Field CEO Max Siegel said Eugene’s “record of success in selecting America’s best track and field athletes speaks for itself.”

He said U.S. athletes have won 52 gold medals in athletics since 2008, when Eugene’s streak of hosting trials began.

The decision to keep the string going comes as something of a surprise, however. There was a thought that the LA Coliseum, which will host the Olympic track meet, would make for a perfect host for the trials, though there were issues involved with holding two major events in such a short period.

Other LA venues include UCLA’s Drake Stadium, which is serving as an Olympic training site; and what was known as the Mount SAC Stadium in nearby Walnut. That stadium was awarded the 2020 trials, but they were moved to Eugene after issues arose over renovations of the venue. Those trials were ultimately held in 2021 at Hayward.

Hayward Field also hosted world championships in 2022 and the U.S. track nationals 10 times, including last year, and will do so again in 2027.



FILE - Distance runners round the track at Hayward Field during the Prefontaine Classic track and field meet in Eugene, Ore., June 8, 2008.

AP Photo/Don Ryan, file.



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SPORTS

Knightsbridge pulls away to win the \$1M Pacific Classic by 6 1/4 lengths

Associated Press

Knightsbridge withstood a fierce battle on the lead in the early going before pulling away to win the \$1 million Pacific Classic by 6 1/4 lengths at Del Mar on Aug. 22.

Ridden by Junior Alvarado, Knightsbridge ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:01.79. The 5-year-old horse had shipped to the seaside track north of San Diego from the East Coast after a win in the Monmouth Cup five weeks ago in New Jersey.

“He was kind of skipping over the ground,” Alvarado said. “I had my hopes that when I asked him he would give me his best right when we turned for home. It was all heart there. He’s a horse that has a lot of talent.”

Knightsbridge was challenged over the opening mile by the speedy Full Serrano before shaking him off at the head of the stretch. The winner paid \$4.20 as the wagering favorite.

Original Sin finished second. Full Serrano was another 1 1/2 lengths back in third in the West Coast’s richest race.

The victory, worth \$600,000, increased Knightsbridge’s career earnings to \$1,523,155, with eight wins in 12 starts. He earned a berth in the \$7 million Breeders’ Cup Classic at Keeneland in October.

It was Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott’s second Pacific Classic win, having taken the 2008 edition with Go Between.

Knightsbridge is owned and bred by Godolphin, founded by Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoun.



In this image provided by Benoit Photo, Knightsbridge, with Junior Alvarado aboard, wins the Grade I \$1,000,000 Pacific Classic horse race Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, Del Mar, Calif. Benoit Photo via AP.

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SPORTS

Reaction to the death of Tommy John

Associated Press

Notable reaction to the death of Tommy John, who won 288 games during a 26-year big league career and became the first pitcher to successfully return following ground-breaking elbow surgery that later was named after him:

“I hope people remember how outstanding his career was, and not just being named for the injury that, obviously, we know very well now. I can see his windup, one of my favorite windups to imitate. A great career, and obviously a lasting legacy.”
— **New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone.**

“The first thing that comes to mind is just how much of a trail blazer he was and what great perseverance he had, kind of venturing into the unknown with the surgery, and really writing the script for how to push through it and overcome it, and ultimately have success afterwards.”
— **New York Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole, who had Tommy John surgery in 2025.**

“Just a great pitcher, he was a man of faith and just a wonderful man. He’ll be missed. He should be in the Hall of Fame. I’m going to continue to promote him for that. 288 wins.”
— **former major league pitcher and New York Mets color commentator Keith Hernandez on SportsNet New York telecast.**

“For 50 years his name is mentioned nearly everyday when people talk MLB. Tommy was a wonderful person who competed to the utmost and did what no player had ever done



FILE - Los Angeles Dodgers former pitcher Tommy John praises his late friend, Dr. Frank Jobe during a memorial service at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, April 7, 2014.
AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File.

to save his career, in conjunction with the esteemed Dr. Frank Jobe. The HOF is missing Tommy John.”
— **former Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti on X.**

“We pause to remember the totality of his legacy — his competitiveness and skill, his penchant for conversation, his kind and gracious nature, and his stature as an athletic and medical pioneer.”
— **New York Yankees statement.**

“Saddened by the passing of my friend Tommy John, one of the

greatest left-handed pitchers to ever play the game. Tommy was a good, humble, and peaceful man who left an incredible mark on baseball and on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He belongs in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.”
— **Rep. Roger Williams, R-Texas, on X.**

“Thank you Tommy John for saving countless pitchers baseball careers, including mine. No words can express gratitude over the risk you took to endure and create what you did.

We all look down at our scars daily and are reminded of you. God Bless you and may you Rest In Peace.”
— **Jeff Urlaub, former Athletics minor league pitcher on X.**

“His courage changed baseball, transformed sports medicine and gave generations of injured athletes hope. Few people have shaped my life and career more profoundly. Rest in peace, Tommy. The game will never forget you.”
— **Dr. Chris Ahmad, head team physician for the New York Yankees and New York City Football Club, on X.**



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