

THE CORONADO NEWS

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INSIDE: Let's extend a warm welcome home to our sailors aboard the Abraham Lincoln. OPINION PAGE 4

Q&A: School board governance and transparency

Coronado school board candidates detail top priorities

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Editor's note: In the coming weeks, The Coronado News is planning to ask each of this year's school board candidates questions about the most pressing topics concerning public schools in Coronado. The candidates' responses will be presented in a different order each week to ensure fairness, starting alphabetical.

The candidates are limited to 250 words for each response. There are three positions up for grabs on the CUSD board of trustees in the November elections. Margaret Mary Duncan, Alexia Palacios-Peters, Malachy Sandie and Kaye McCormick Schneider are vying for the open seats.

This week's topic is board governance and transparency.



(L-R) Margaret "Peggy" Duncan, Alexia Palacios-Peters, Malachy Sandie and Kaye McCormick Schneider are the 2026 Coronado school board candidates. Staff photos by Julieta Soto.

» See what each candidate had to say on Page 13



This year's Coronado City Council candidates. From left to right: Andrew Gade, Ricky Hoyt, Rebecca King and Kelly Purvis. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.

Coronado's City Council candidates weigh in on Tijuana sewage crisis

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Editor's note: In the coming weeks, The Coronado News is planning to ask each of this year's City Council candidates questions about the most pressing topics concerning Coronado. The candidates' responses will be presented

in a different order each week to ensure fairness, starting alphabetical. The candidates are limited to 200 words for each response. There are two positions up for grabs on Coronado's City Council in the November elections. Andrew Gade, Ricky Hoyt, Rebecca King and Kelly Purvis are vying for the open seats. Keith James pulled papers to run as well, but is not

eligible to run since he didn't officially submit them.

The first topic of discussion revolves around the Tijuana sewage crisis.

» See what each candidate had to say on Page 14

Coronado Middle School staff celebrate the rollout of cell phone pouches

CUSD looks to adopt a plan on technology use in the classroom

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Coronado Middle School Principal Brooke Falar reports a successful rollout of the secure cell phone pouches

for hundreds of students one month into the school year.

"I was a little worried at the beginning. 'How is this going to work?'" said Falar during her annual report to the Coronado Unified District School board on Sept. 10. "It's amazing. So, we started with the rollout early in July. We started sending letters to families."

According to the letter, students

picked up an assigned "numbered secure, locking, signal-blocking bag" through Generation Faraday Max-Lock Bags in the days leading up to the first day of school.

With the new cell phone policy, students can use phones before and after school, but must store their smart devices in pouches and keep them stored away.

Disciplinary actions for intentional

damage to phone bags are outlined with consequences such as further device restrictions and detention.

According to Falar, enforcement began by the second week of school. So far, she said, there have been nine first offenses by eighth graders.

Falar reports teachers described the new policy as effective in

» Continued on Page 14

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Calendar
Commentary

2
4

Best of Coronado
Local News

5-12
13-15

this week

19 • Saturday

The KMAC Foundation for Accessible Sailing in San Diego will induct three new adaptive Hansa Liberty sailboats into its fleet with a commissioning ceremony at 9 a.m. With these new boats, KMAC looks to expand its mission of providing free sailing lessons to members of the community whose physical limitations might otherwise prevent them from sailing. Volunteers are needed for various shifts on Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (619) 568-4727.

19 • Saturday

The Coronado Democratic Club will host a public forum for candidates seeking election to the Coronado Unified School District board of trustees on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library.

The four qualified candidates are Alexia Palacios-Peters, Mal Sandie, Peggy Duncan and Kaye Schneider. All have been invited to participate in the forum. Bruce Shepherd, former CUSD trustee and longtime Coronado resident, will serve as moderator. The forum is free and open to the public and doors open at 10:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 11.

20 Sunday

The Coronado Ferry Landing is slated to host a free weekend concert featuring The Exit at 2 p.m. on Sept. 20.

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 School of the Arts' Instrumental Music Conservatory will perform on Sept. 28. Photo provided by Maria Simon.

CoSA to perform fall music recital on Sept. 28

Coronado News staff

The Coronado School of the Arts' (CoSA) Instrumental Music Fall Recital will take place on Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre, featuring a string quintet, jazz ensemble, woodwind trio, saxophone trio and an all-new brass quintet.

The recital will also feature several solo pianists. The CoSA Instrumental Music Conservatory emphasizes the study of classical and jazz music.

Students receive intensive training in their chosen instruments in wind, percussion, brass, jazz and string. Students also study music theory, ear training, jazz theory and improvisation, electronic music skills, composition and orchestration.

Classes are also offered in music history and culture, music technology and the music business.

PET OF THE WEEK

Princess Leia

PAWS of Coronado

Princess Leia is available for adoption at PAWS of Coronado.

Staff members at the non-profit, which provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Princess Leia is happiest when she's on the move.

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 Princess Leia or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



Meet Princess Leia, 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.

Your Convenient Neighborhood Pharmacy



At the **Sharp Coronado Community Pharmacy**, it's easy to get your prescriptions filled and find the resources you need to enhance your health and wellness.

- Open 7 days a week
 - Prescription delivery and curbside pickup
 - Travel health clinic
- Flu shots and other vaccines
 - Vitamins and supplements
 - Medication disposal kiosk

Located next to Sharp Coronado Hospital, the pharmacy accepts almost all health insurance, including TRICARE.

For more information on how to transfer your prescriptions to Sharp Coronado Community Pharmacy, call 619-522-3996 or visit sharp.com/coronadopharmacy.





Never Worry About Charging Your Golf Cart Again

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.

Due to our success, we have expanded to all of San Diego County and have begun installing solar systems on RVs and boats.



Richard Stachowicz
Ride All Day Solar Carts
Owner and Coronado Resident

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Make the Earth Happy. Solar energy is clean. No carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere as it is when batteries are plugged into the wall to charge. Similarly, no fossil fuels are consumed as they are in gas-powered golf carts. The sun’s energy is both clean and renewable. With their renewable, clean energy and lack of generated pollution, solar charged golf carts are an Earth-friendly option. You can help ensure that golf courses will be around for a very long time.

“Go Further, Cleaner and Smarter Powered by Sunshine”



SUMMER SPECIAL
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CALL: 619-436-6355

ENDS 9/30/26

COMMENTARY

Let’s extend a warm welcome home to our sailors aboard the Abraham Lincoln

THE EDITORIAL BOARD
The Coronado News

Coronado’s USS Abraham Lincoln is finally on its way home after a deployment of just about nine months in the Middle East.

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 ship.

After its end-of-November departure, it’s a welcomed announcement to hear the ship is finally returning home. The deployment was record-long, with no regular port calls, meaning no chance for sailors to get off the ship and little opportunity for repairs and resupply.

Which are all points that have been especially emphasized in the news recently.

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

Meanwhile, Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung 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



The USS Abraham Lincoln is one of three home-ported aircraft carriers at Naval Air Station North Island. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

nation, people, and way of life,” he added.

Amid these varying perspectives, it’s important for us as media consumers to take a beat. For one, let’s be thankful for the sacrifice of our over 5,000 U.S. servicemembers on board the ship – not to mention the sacrifice of their loved ones at home – and be thankful that the Lincoln is enroute home.

Secondly, it is an incredible feat to be able to accomplish nine months of operation without port calls, all while worrying about air threats. This is war afterall, and resources are bound to be limited. In many ways, this accomplishment has surely spurred a high sense of purpose and morale among the sailors.

While it’s important we don’t ignore the bad reports coming through, it’s equally as important to celebrate the good stories that we aren’t hearing.

Let’s reserve judgements until we have a more complete picture. And thank you, to those deployed and to their families, for all of your sacrifices.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Endorsement for Coronado City Council candidate Rebecca King

BY HOLLY NAPPEN
Letter to the Editor

From the moment I met Rebecca King, I was impressed with her approachability, intellect, and love of community.

Rebecca is quintessentially Coronadan. Like so many long-term residents, she arrived as a military spouse and quickly decided to make

Coronado her family home. Rebecca also came with superb credentials.

She graduated with honors from law school and served as a city attorney in Norfolk Virginia for 10 years. Her experience, litigating on behalf of the city and its employees is invaluable for any municipal leadership role.

While her two children attended Coronado Public Schools, Rebecca

was active in community volunteerism that included serving on Coronado’s Planning and Design Review Commission, Coronado Women’s Club and Coronado Junior Women’s Club, Coronado Island Film Festival and managing the non-profit Sand Dollar Too Shop at Naval Air Station North Island, a charity that assists military families in need.

Rebecca’s desire to serve on the

City Council springs from her love of Coronado and in her own words, “to bring practical, local government experience to the city my family calls home.” We could not elect a finer more qualified person to serve on our city council.

Please join me and vote for Rebecca King.

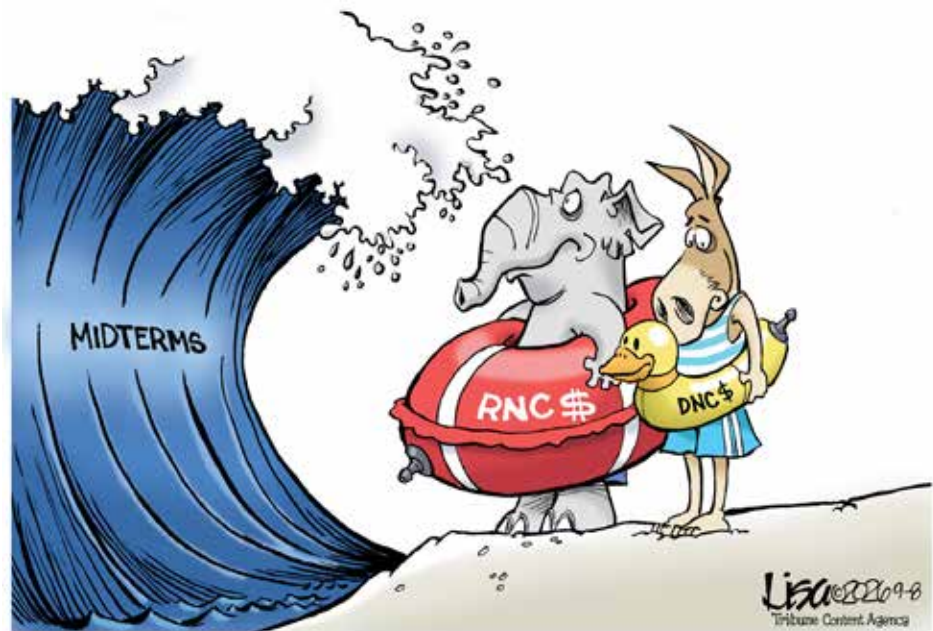
Holly Nappen is a Coronado resident and Navy retiree.

How to be a part of The Coronado News:

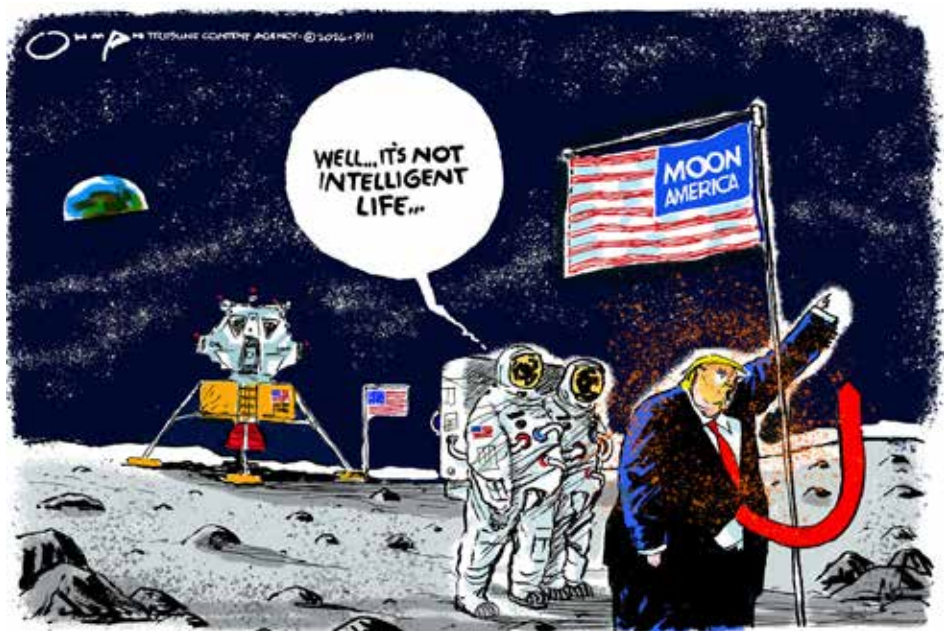
- Submit a news tip
- Capture a cool photo of Coronado and send it in for publication consideration
- Respond to an editorial or a news story by writing a letter to the editor

All submissions can be sent to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com

LISA BENSON



JACK OHMAN



SEPTEMBER 2026

BEST OF 2026

CORONADO

THE CORONADO NEWS

HONORING
287 COMPANIES

OVER 102
CATEGORIES

LOCAL
FAVORITES

THE COMMUNITY'S
TOP PICKS



Best of
CORONADO
NEWS

[BESTOFCORONADONEWS.VOTERFLY.COM](https://bestofcoronadonews.voterfly.com)



Winners announced for 2026 ‘Best of Coronado News’

Coronado News staff

The winners have been announced for the first ever “Best of Coronado News” competition, a contest highlighting local businesses that community members voted on as their all time favorites.

To recognize the vast and thriving local business landscape in Coronado, The Coronado News hosted the contest which named over 100

different categories for nominations.

This competition operated entirely independent of the paper’s news coverage. It was organized through an online voting system called Voterfly.

After a nomination period opened for community members to nominate their favorite eateries, small business, hotels, professionals and general services in the 92118 zip code, a voting window allowed individuals to fill out an

online voting ballot to vote on their favorites. The winners were chosen based on these on-line votes and the contest was ultimately driven by community input.

Below is a list of every single winner in categories spanning businesses, activities, general services and lifestyle, along with second and third place finishes, for each category. To view the list of restaurant winners, visit this story. Congrats to all of the winners!

Best Adventure Rentals

- 1. Coronado Golf Cart Rentals
- 2. Ray’s Rentals Coronado Island
- 3. Action Sports Rentals

Best Boutique Hotel

- 1. Crown City Inn
- 2. The Bower Coronado
- 3. The Baby Grand

Best Community Forum

- 1. Coronado Happenings

Best Live Theatre

- 1. Coronado School of the Arts for all San Diego
- 2. Lamb’s Players Theatre
- 3. Coronado Junior Arts League

Best Resort Hotel

- 1. Hotel Del Coronado
- 2. Loews Coronado Bay Resort
- 3. Crown City Inn

Best Accounting Firm

- 1. Westax, Taxes & Financial Wellness
- 2. Rodney Watkins CPA
- 3. Hayes Hart CPA’s Wealth Management

Best Bank

- 1. Wells Fargo Bank
- 2. Chase Bank
- 3. CalPrivate Bank

Best Commercial Real Estate

- 1. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties: Coronado Uptown Office
- 2. McKee Commercial

Best Criminal Defense Lawyer

- 1. Dupree law PLC

Best Estate/ Business/Trust Law

- 1. Stillman Law Office
- 2. Balfour Law Group
- 3. Sandke M Tami

Best Family Law

- 1. The Law office of Robert T Plumb II & Associates
- 2. Herring & Herring APC

Best Investment Management/ Financial Advisor

- 1. Parabolic Asset Management – San Diego Financial Advisor
- 2. Orion Capital Management LLC
- 3. Chase Bank

Best Law Firm

- 1. Balfour Law Group
- 2. Terry Chapko Law Office
- 3. RMC Morton Law, APC

Best Alterations

- 1. Amier’s Tailor Shop
- 2. Fox Cleaners & Alteration
- 3. Luxury Cleaners

Best Auto Service

- 1. Coronado Motors Corporation
- 2. Coronado Vehicle Registration Services

Best Childcare/Preschool

- 1. Graham Memorial Preschool
- 2. Crown Preschool
- 3. Coronado Academy of Dance

Best Customer Service

- 1. Accalia Salon
- 2. Salon On First
- 3. Natalie Falletta Skin Care

Best Dry Cleaning

- 1. Luxury Cleaners
- 2. Crown Cleaners
- 3. Fox Cleaners & Alteration

Best Insurance Agent

- 1. Bo Daniel Blumenthal Agency
- 2. Jack Dale – State Farm Insurance Agent
- 3. Crown Island Insurance Services

Best Insurance Company

- 1. Crown Island Insurance Services
- 2. Pipeline Insurance

Best Nonprofit Organization

- 1. Coronado Rotary
- 2. Safe Harbor Coronado
- 3. Emerald Keepers

Best Pet Boarding/Daycare

- 1. Purple Paws Pet Clinic
- 2. Crown City Pet Sitter
- 3. Coronado Veterinary Hospital

Best Pet Grooming

- 1. Purple Paws Pet Clinic
- 2. Pollyanna’s Grooming
- 3. Wag n’ Tails

Best Photographer

- 1. Kel Casey Photography
- 2. Joel Ortiz
- 3. Crown City Photography

Best Place to Work

- 1. Accalia Salon
- 2. Salon On First
- 3. Crown Bistro

Best Travel Agency

- 1. Travelworld Of Coronado
- 2. Blue Koi Travel

Best AC/HVAC Service

- 1. Phil’s Mechanical Heating & Air Conditioning
- 2. Rockstar Plumbing Heating and Air Inc.

Best Carpet & Flooring Cleaner

- 1. Coronado Carpet and Stone
- 2. Coronado Carpet Cleaning Experts

Best Electrician

- 1. Stuart Electric
- 2. Coronado Electrician Pros

Best Home Builder

- 1. Flagg Coastal Homes
- 2. Nicolls Design Build
- 3. Cavanaugh Construction Corp.

Best Home Mortgage

- 1. Jen Kaminski – Crosscountry Mortgage NMLS-353989
- 2. Kory Kavanewsky – CMG Financial
- 3. Griffin Funding

Best Housekeeping

- 1. Merry Maids of Coastal San Diego
- 2. Go Clean Professional Services

Best Interior Design

- 1. Bungalow 56
- 2. The True House
- 3. J Hill Interiors, Inc.

Best Landscaping

- 1. San Diego Landscape Solutions Inc.
- 2. Jennings Landscape Construction
- 3. MK Graham Landscape Construction, Inc.

Best Pest Control

- 1. Thrasher Termite & Pest Control
- 2. Mission Pest Control
- 3. Halo Home Services

Best Plumber

- 1. Jimmy B Quick Plumbing
- 2. Jeff Smith Plumbing
- 3. Bay and Shore Company

Best Property Management

- 1. Salas Properties
- 2. Crestmont Realty
- 3. Napolitano Realty

Best Real Estate Agent

- 1. Salas Properties
- 2. Carrie O’Brien
- 3. Remi Pieratt Realtor

Best Real Estate Brokerage

- 1. Salas Properties
- 2. Pacific Sotheby’s Intl Realty
- 3. Toogood Realty – Chris Toogood and Kate Danilova

Best Real Estate Team

- 1. Dino and Cheryl, The Morabito Group
- 2. The Koop Group
- 3. Toogood Realty – Chris Toogood and Kate Danilova

Best Remodeler/Contractor

- 1. Trinity Home Maintenance
- 2. Nicolls Design Build
- 3. Flagg Coastal Homes

Best Barbershop

- 1. Crown Barber Shop
- 2. Coronado Barbers
- 3. Bow Ties & Hair Cuts Barber

Best Day Spa

- 1. Natalie Falletta Skin Care
- 2. Coronado Bliss Salon & Spa – AVEDA
- 3. Orchid Day Spa

Best Gym

- 1. Coronado Fitness Club
- 2. Sweat Circuit Coronado
- 3. F45 Training Coronado

Best Hair Salon

- 1. Salon On First
- 2. Accalia Salon
- 3. Coronado Bliss Salon & Spa – AVEDA

Best Massage

- 1. Coronado Island Massage
- 2. Natalie Falletta Skin Care
- 3. Coronado Bliss Salon & Spa – AVEDA

Best Nail Salon

- 1. Accalia Salon
- 2. BE Polished
- 3. Plush Nail Lounge

Best Tanning

- 1. Coronado Glow – Luxury Spray Tanning
- 2. Domani Salon

Best Weight Loss Center

- 1. Peak Health Group
- 2. Olde Del Mar Surgical
- 3. Dr. Patrick Yassini

Best Yoga/Pilates

- 1. b-long Modern Pilates Coronado
- 2. Pilates of Coronado
- 3. Coronado Yoga & Wellness Center

Best Assisted Living

- 1. Coronado Retirement Village
- 2. Comfort Keepers Senior Home Care

Best Audiologist/ Hearing Center

- 1. Peninsula Hearing Center Inc
- 2. Sonus Hearing Care Professionals
- 3. Hear Gear – Assisted Listening Devices

Best Chiropractor

- 1. Potter Chiropractic
- 2. Coronado Island Pain Clinic – Chiropractic & Massage
- 3. Discover Wellness

Best Cosmetic Dentistry

- 1. Dr. Natalie Bailey & Dr. Suzanne Popp, Advanced Dentistry
- 2. Coronado Smiles Dental
- 3. Isabella Avenue Dentistry

Best Dentist

- 1. Dr. Natalie Bailey & Dr. Suzanne Popp, Advanced Dentistry
- 2. Farbod Family Dental
- 3. Stephen Dao, DDS – Coronado Family Dental

Best Dermatologist

- 1. Ann Siefert, MD
- 2. Jennifer Rullan
- 3. Coronado Dermatology

Best Doctor

- 1. Choose Healthy, Gina Casian, MD
- 2. Kevin Considine, DO / Lisa Considine, D.O.
- 3. Kimberly Byers-Lund, DO

Best Home Care/Hospice

- 1. Comfort Keepers Senior Home Care
- 2. Always There, LLC
- 3. Sharp Coronado Payne Family Outpatient Pavilion

Best Med-Spa

- 1. Coronado Dermatology
- 2. Remedi Med Spa, Botox and Filler Specialist
- 3. Lana SkinFit Method

Best Medical Facility

- 1. SharpCare Coronado
- 2. Scripps Clinic Coronado
- 3. Branch Health Clinic North Island NAS

Best Ophthalmologist

- 1. Crown City Eye Center – William Bigham, MD
- 2. Alvarado Eye Associates
- 3. Coronado Family Optometry

Best Optometrist

- 1. Coronado Family Optometry
- 2. Coronado Eye Care
- 3. Pearle Vision

Best Orthodontist

- 1. Mullins Orthodontics
- 2. Diane J. Milberg, DDS, MSD

Best Pain Clinic

- 1. Branch Health Clinic North Island NAS
- 2. Global Holistic Solution

Best Pediatric Dentist

- 1. Coronado Pediatric Dentistry: Howard R. Dixon’s
- 2. Coronado Dentistry & Pediatrics
- 3. Isabella Avenue Dentistry

Best Pediatrician

- 1. Patricia Kettlehake, MD
- 2. Kimberly Byers-Lund, DO
- 3. Island Family Medicine

Best Pharmacy

- 1. Crown Coast Pharmacy
- 2. Sharp Coronado Community Pharmacy
- 3. Walgreens Pharmacy

Best Rehabilitation Center

- 1. Water & Sports Physical Therapy
- 2. Sharp Coronado Hospital Sewall Healthy Living Center
- 3. Results Rehabilitation Inc

Best Urgent Care/Walk-in Clinic

- 1. SharpCare Coronado
- 2. Kenneth Warm, MD – SharpCare Coronado

Best Veterinarian

- 1. Purple Paws Pet Clinic
- 2. Paws of Coronado
- 3. Coronado Veterinary Hospital

Best Antiques/Collectibles

- 1. Coronado Vintage
- 2. Thrift Cottage
- 3. The Attic

Best Bicycle Shop

- 1. Holland’s Bicycles and Holland’s Bikes & Beyond
- 2. Little Sam’s Island & Beach Fun

Best Boutique Shop

- 1. Française
- 2. Wild Dove Boutique
- 3. Savon de Coronado

Best Eye Wear Shop

- 1. Coronado Eye Care
- 2. Pearle Vision

Best Jewelry Store

- 1. Muhl Jewelers
- 2. LUMO Jewelry Co.

» To view the list of restaurant winners, visit Page 10

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Voted Best. Three times over.



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#1 REAL ESTATE AGENT
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3 BEDS · 3 BATHS · ROOFTOP · 1,937 SF
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\$3,492,100



747 ORANGE AVE #303
3 BEDS · 3 BATHS · ROOFTOP · 1,631 SF
\$3,995,950



747 ORANGE AVE #304
3 BEDS · 2.5 BATHS · 1,633 SF
\$3,266,000



1710 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #209
3 BEDS · 3 BATHS · 1,667 SF
\$4,100,000



814 F AVENUE
4 BEDS · 3.5 BATHS · ROOFTOP · 2,664 SF
\$2,995,000



221 B AVENUE
3 BEDS · 3.5 BATHS · 2,287 SF · 3,504 SF LOT
\$2,499,000



763 G AVENUE
3 BEDS · 2.5 BATHS · ROOFTOP · 2,368 SF
\$3,095,000



305 POMONA AVENUE
2 BEDS · 2 BATHS · 756 SF · 2,449 SF
\$1,495,000



1414 4TH STREET
3 BEDS · 2 BATHS · 1,608 SF · 3,640 SF
\$2,135,000



326-28 H AVENUE
EACH HOME 2 BED & 1 BATH · 7,178 SF LOT
\$3,400,000



1750 KETTNER BLVD #112
2 BEDS · 2.5 BATHS · 1,270 SF
\$875,000



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DRE #02150791



Stacie Bales
(619) 370-2467
DRE #02060775



Anne Trombley
(619) 318-6259
DRE #02168533



REVIEWS

For the past year, staff writers at The Coronado News have written reviews of local eateries. Below is a compilation of quotes from past reviews written about some of the "Best of Coronado News" winners.

THE HENRY

The sun sets over The Henry.
Staff photo by Lilly Corcoran.



"...let me tell you, there is something deeply comforting about having a restaurant for everything. The Henry is like an old friend you can come to with anything."

- Staff writer Lilly Corcoran in her review of *The Henry*

SWADDEE THAI

Thai tea and summer rolls at Swaddee Thai in Coronado.
Photo by Michelle Armas.



“Upon entering, the room is filled with gorgeous light. If there’s any food I want to see in all its glory, it’s Thai food, often carrying radiant pigments of red and orange spices and vibrant shades of green herbs.”

- Staff writer Michelle Armas in her review of Swaddee Thai

CROWN BISTRO



A By the Border Benedict was served at Crown Bistro in Coronado on April 1. Photo by Michelle Armas.

“Even on a gloomy week, this restaurant casts rays of sunshine that cascade over the whole block. ... The French toast was deliciously displayed, with a single flower resting on top. The toast was drenched in a thick strawberry sauce, with some cooked strawberries still intact.”

- Staff writer Michelle Armas in her review of Crown Bistro



EXCEPTIONAL FOOD.
TIMELESS HOSPITALITY.
A BRIGHTER CORONADO.

THANK YOU,
CORONADO!

WE'RE HONORED TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THE
2026 BEST OF CORONADO

Your support means everything to us. We're grateful to every guest who has made Chez Loma a part of their celebrations, family dinners, and special occasions. We look forward to continuing to serve you with exceptional cuisine, warm hospitality, and unforgettable experiences.

- 2ND Best Fine Dining Restaurant
- 2ND Best Steakhouse
- 3RD Best Wine Selection

*Good Food Brings
People Together*



Chez Loma

RESTAURANT

A CORONADO TRADITION





TRINITY HOME MAINTENANCE

SERVING CORONADO SINCE 1999

MAINTENANCE IS CHEAPER THAN REPAIRS



BEST REMODELER/CONTRACTOR

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

THMSD.COM

A note from the founder:
I would like to take a moment to thank the residents of Coronado for voting us best of 2026. We use the title “maintenance company”, and although we do both, we want you to remember that maintenance is always cheaper than repairs.

*This is our first year in the Best of San Diego contest and we’re grateful that you appreciate us as much as we appreciate you. **Check out our brand new website and see what our clients have to say.***

To our current and future clients, we’re blessed and honored to be of service in Coronado for the last 27 years. ...And if you’re not already, we look forward to making your family part of our family.

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Winning restaurants announced for 2026 ‘Best of Coronado News’

This competition operated independent of the paper’s news coverage and was organized through an online voting system called Voterfly

Coronado News staff

The winning restaurants have been announced for the first ever “Best of Coronado News” competition, a contest highlighting local businesses that community members voted on as their all time favorites.

To recognize the vast and thriving local business landscape in Coronado, The Coronado News hosted the contest which named over 100 different categories for nominations.

After a nomination period opened for community members to nominate their favorite eateries, small business, hotels, professionals and

general services in the 92118 zip code, a voting window allowed individuals to fill out an online voting ballot to vote on their favorites. The winners were chosen based on these online votes and the contest was ultimately driven by community input.

Below is a list of every single restaurant that won a “Best of” award. To view the list of winners in categories spanning activities, general services, lifestyle and business, check out this story.

Congrats to all the winners!

Best All-Around Restaurant

1. Tartine
2. The Henry
3. Crown Bistro

Best Asian Food

1. Swaddee Thai Restaurant of Coronado
2. Saiko Sushi
3. Yummy Sushi

Best Baker/Bakery

1. Tartine
2. Clayton’s Bakery & Bistro
3. Trident Coffee

Best Bar & Grill

1. Tavern
2. McP’s Irish Pub
3. Coronado Tasting Room

Best Breakfast

1. Crown Bistro
2. Clayton’s Bakery & Bistro
3. Tartine

Best Brunch

1. Crown Bistro
2. Little Frenchie
3. Clayton’s Bakery & Bistro

Best Burger

1. Double Standard
2. Burger Lounge
3. Tavern

Best Coffee House

1. Trident Coffee
2. Tartine
3. Coronado Coffee Company

Best Dessert

1. Tartine
2. MooTime Creamery
3. Nado Gelato Cafe

Best Donut

1. Clayton’s Coffee Shop
2. Trident Coffee
3. Donut Beach, Coronado Beach Company

Best Fine Dining Restaurant

1. Stake Chophouse & Bar
2. Chez Loma
3. Nado Republic

Best Happy Hour

1. Brigantine Seafood Restaurant
2. Stake Chophouse & Bar
3. Tavern

Best Ice Cream

1. Nado Gelato Cafe
2. MooTime Creamery
3. Cold Stone Creamery

Best Italian Restaurant

1. Garage Buona Forchetta
2. Rosemary Trattoria
3. Nado Republic

Best Mexican Food

1. Miguel’s Cocina
2. La Corriente Coronado
3. Clayton’s Mexican Take Out

Best Outdoor Dining

1. IL Fornaio
2. Tartine
3. Peohe’s Restaurant



Tartine won the "Best All-Around Restaurant." File photo.

Best Pizza

1. High Tide Bottle Shop & Kitchen
2. Garage Buona Forchetta
3. Village Pizzeria

Best Sandwiches

1. Park Place Liquor & Deli
2. Boney’s Bayside Market
3. Central Liquor & Deli

Best Seafood Restaurant

1. Bluewater Boathouse Seafood Grill
2. Peohe’s Restaurant
3. Tartine

Best Smoothies

1. Parakeet Juicery Coronado
2. Boney’s Bayside Market
3. Nado Gelato Cafe

Best Sports Bar

1. McP’s Irish Pub
2. Danny’s Palm Bar and Grill

Best Steakhouse

1. Stake Chophouse & Bar
2. Chez Loma
3. Brigantine Seafood Restaurant

Best Sushi

1. Saiko Sushi
2. Yummy Sushi
3. Peohe’s Restaurant

Best Tacos

1. Miguel’s Cocina
2. Clayton’s Mexican Take Out
3. Crack Taco Shop

Best View

1. Peohe’s Restaurant
2. IL Fornaio
3. Bluewater Boathouse Seafood Grill

Best Wine Selection

1. Coronado Tasting Room
2. Figjam Estate Winery
3. Chez Loma

Best Catering

1. Scratch Gourmet
2. Calypso Cafe
3. Lil Piggy’s Bar-B-Q

» To view the list of winners in categories spanning activities, general services, lifestyle and business, visit Page 6

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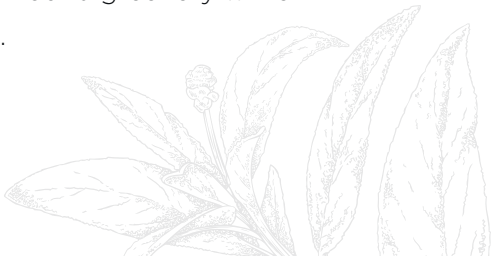
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SCAN ME 

» Continued from Page 1

Q&A: School board governance and transparency

Margaret “Peggy” Duncan

Q: What are your top three priorities if elected as a trustee? Why?

A: My top three priorities are student mental health and well-being, thoughtful and practical technology policies and academic excellence supported by exceptional teachers.

First, student mental health and well-being must be foundational. Students cannot reach their full academic potential if they do not feel safe, supported, and connected at school. I am particularly concerned about the middle school years, when students face significant social, emotional, and developmental changes. I want to ensure CUSD is directing appropriate resources toward prevention, early intervention, counseling, and strong partnerships with families and community organizations.



Margaret “Peggy” Duncan.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

Second, we need practical and reasonable policies around rapidly evolving technology. Cell phones, excessive screen time and artificial intelligence are fundamentally changing education. Technology can be a powerful educational tool, but it should enhance learning — not distract from it or replace critical thinking. I support strong cell-phone restrictions during the school day and thoughtful AI policies that protect academic integrity while preparing students for a world in

which AI will increasingly be part of college and the workplace.

Finally, we must remain relentlessly focused on academic excellence — and excellent teachers are at the heart of that mission. CUSD must continue to attract, retain and support outstanding educators. That means competitive compensation when financially feasible, but also meaningful professional development, mentoring, strong leadership and a culture where teachers feel valued.

These priorities are interconnected: healthy students, excellent teachers and technology that serves learning rather than undermines it. Together, they provide the foundation for exceptional schools and prepare our students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Q: What is the biggest issue today in Coronado public schools, and how would you address it?

A: The biggest issue facing Coronado public schools is thoughtfully managing the financial transition to Basic Aid. This transition presents an extraordinary opportunity for CUSD, but also tremendous responsibility. Sound financial stewardship is at the heart of good governance, and it is foundational to every other opportunity we have to improve our schools.

CUSD must rebuild its reserves to a healthy level, carefully forecast future revenues and expenses, and avoid making financial commitments that may become unsustainable. But responsible stewardship does not mean simply accumulating reserves. We also have important needs today that require investment.

Air conditioning is an immediate example. When excessive heat forces schools onto half-day schedules, students lose valuable instructional time. That level of learning loss is simply not

sustainable. We need immediate relief while developing a fiscally responsible long-term solution.

We should also consider whether increased revenues provide an opportunity to improve teacher compensation. Attracting and retaining exceptional teachers is fundamental to academic excellence and should be a priority as resources become available.

This is also where my experience matters. I have already served for three years as a trustee on another school board (Francis Parker School), where responsible financial oversight was a core responsibility. My legal background has also trained me to analyze complex issues, understand long-term consequences, ask difficult questions, and make decisions based on facts.

Basic Aid gives CUSD an incredible opportunity. Good governance will determine how well we use it.

Alexia Palacios-Peters

Q: What are your top three priorities if elected as a trustee? Why?

A: My top three priorities if re-elected as trustee are rebuilding our reserves, updating our facilities, and implementing the Portrait of a Graduate.

One of the board’s primary focuses has been the “Bridge to Basic Aid.” This is an intentional plan to spend down the district’s financial reserves and manage a temporary budget deficit while transitioning to a new funding model. The 2027-2028 school year will be the first year under the new Basic Aid funding model where the district is estimated to receive an additional \$8 million to \$10 million in funds.



Alexia Palacios-Peters.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

A priority for this funding needs to be rebuilding our reserve fund to ensure the district has enough reserves to cover district spending over a six-month period.

My second priority is to focus on our facilities. This is a large category that includes updating facilities and installing an HVAC system

and solar panels. The budget deficit has limited the ability of the district to prioritize maintenance of existing structures as needed without the ability to upgrade our facilities. Now is the time to make our facilities a priority.

The Portrait of a Graduate, my third priority, is a community-driven strategic vision outlining the specific knowledge, skills, and mindsets the district aims to develop in all students. This vision was created with 66,000 data points collected from students, parents, teachers, and community members. This document will guide the programs we develop to ensure our graduates are ready and successful in the steps they take after leaving CUSD.

Q: What is the biggest is-

sue today in Coronado public schools, and how would you address it?

A: The biggest issue facing Coronado public schools is technology. This includes artificial intelligence, phone usage on campus, computer use in the classroom, and student access to social media. Technology is an important and necessary component for students today and for their success later. We want to make sure that students are competent and comfortable with technology.

The board has already begun to take the first steps to address this problem by piloting a phone pouch program at Coronado Middle School. This program prevents students from having access to their phone during

the day while on campus. Additionally, the board has asked for a review of technology use in the classrooms. The goal is to see how technology is being used in the classrooms and determine whether that technology serves an educational purpose and whether that is the best resource. As a trustee, I supported both of these initiatives.

Lastly, social media access by kids has shown to have an effect on mental health and focus. Online harassment leads to emotional distress and this spills over onto our campuses. Our job is to balance access to the various technologies and platforms with students’ attention spans and mental health concerns.

Malachy Sandie

Q: What are your top three priorities if elected as a trustee? Why?

A: My top three priorities are to 1) champion public education; 2) prepare our students for higher education, careers, and society; and 3) utilize new Basic Aid funding to rebuild our required reserves, better compensate our teachers and staff, and update and maintain our facilities.

There has been a push to divert public funding to private schools that will hurt public education as evidenced by both Project 2025 and the recent Presidential Executive Order (signed Jan. 29, 2025) that both seek to redirect tax-



Malachy Sandie.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

payer money into private or religious school options. We rely on \$4.9 million in Federal funds this year to supplement our \$60 million budget. I will continue to champion our public schools and fight any attempt to redirect funds

elsewhere.

I will keep all board decisions focused on our goal of preparing our children for higher education, careers, and society. The school district, with the support of the community, did an extensive project called Portrait of a Graduate that further defined how we achieve these goals, and we need to stay focused on this.

Next school year, we will shift to Basic Aid that is estimated to increase our annual funding by roughly \$8 million-\$10 million per year. However, we have been spending down our reserves (deficit spending) roughly \$6 million per year, so we

should see a net increase of \$2 million-\$4 million per year. With these additional funds, we will need to rebuild our required reserves, properly compensate our people to attract and retain the best and brightest personnel, and update our facilities.

Q: What is the biggest issue today in Coronado public schools, and how would you address it?

A: There are many issues that we must deal with, so it is difficult to narrow it down to one or two. These issues include climate change, personal electronics, mental health, the vilification of science, economic downturn, gun violence, book banning,

and White Christian Nationalism, to name a few. This week our biggest issue is climate change which will only get worse as our nation has unfortunately retreated away from renewable energy and back to fossil fuels. We must address the heat issue to protect our students and teachers and create an optimal learning environment. I will continue to push for air-conditioning powered with solar energy, but this will be expensive and will take time. Also, for the past four years I have advocated to limit personal electronics in our schools, and we have begun to see some success especially with the middle school.

Kaye McCormick Schneider

Q: What are your top three priorities if elected as a trustee? Why?

A: My top three priorities are as follows:

1. Protect a high-quality, well-rounded education

It is essential to preserve the programs that make CUSD strong — academic, creative, and extracurricular opportunities — while making thoughtful decisions as enrollment and funding change. This includes navigating the transition to Basic Aid responsibly, rebuilding reserves, and addressing capital needs without compromising student opportunities.

2. Develop resilient, compassionate, lifelong learners

This aligns with the Portrait of a Student as a Priority. I desire our schools intention-



Kaye McCormick Schneider.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

ally teach relationship skills, resilience, communication and respectful collaboration. Programs such as debate and relationship-building opportunities can help students learn to disagree without attacking, understand different perspectives, manage difficult situations and reduce bullying and division.

3. Strengthen the partnership between schools, par-

ents, and community

Our district places a high value on listening and collaboration. As a trustee, I would want parents to have more meaningful opportunities to communicate with teachers and the district, particularly working families who may not be able to participate in volunteering. I bring a valuable perspective from my experience as both a parent and educator, as well as my Family Life Educator work. I desire to be a bridge between faculty, families, and the board.

I am committed to listen, learn and to navigate differences and build stronger relationships.

Q: What is the biggest issue today in Coronado public schools, and how would you address it?

A: I believe the biggest issue facing Coronado schools

is navigating the transition to Basic Aid responsibly. We have an exciting opportunity ahead, but we need to remain financially healthy while protecting the excellent academic, arts, and extracurricular programs that make CUSD special. CUSD will experience declining enrollment as fewer interdistrict-transfer applications will be accepted.

We need to wisely determine admission of new interdistrict transfers. In the past, our interdistrict students have helped sustain specialty programs such as Career Technical Education, Coronado School of the Arts and our National Junior ROTC program. The board, with faculty, must determine educational value, program viability, and available space. According to our superintendent, the change has a positive impact on TK –

8th grade. This will allow for smaller class sizes which is beneficial to students. There are three groups who are prioritized for IDTs: children of our military, district employees, and those who are currently participating in the high schools pathways programs.

As the district approaches Basic Aid in 2027-28, it is expected we will receive approximately \$8-\$10 million in annual revenue above our current state funding. This affords CUSD the opportunity to rebuild reserves, strengthen our long-term financial health, and plan carefully for long term needs. Ultimately, the goal is to use this transition to strengthen our long term fiscal health, protect academics and extra-curricular opportunities that benefit our students.

» Continued from Page 1

City Council candidates weigh in on Tijuana sewage crisis

Andrew Gade

Q: Do you believe Coronado should advocate for drastic U.S. pressure on Mexico – such as tariffs, border blockage or water restrictions – to address the cross-border sewage crisis? Or do you think a cooperative partnership would get better results?

A: We need to take more than one approach when it comes to addressing this issue without relying solely on the federal government. The county of San Diego has the resources, and a legal obligation to protect our health and safety. I propose we earmark 1% of the county’s budget, bond against that revenue, and then



Andrew Gade.
Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

we can finally fund a permanent solution.

Q: There was a 3-2 vote the first time the city declared a state of emergency. Some said it was needed to secure more funding and attention on the matter; others said the word “emergency” would damage the local economy and tourism. Where do you stand on this?

A: The city of Coronado should have declared a state of emergency when the county declared one back in June 2023. It’s not the word “emergency” that’s damaging the local economy and tourism; it’s the polluted water.

Q: What do you believe is the actu-

al responsibility of Coronado when dealing with a crisis that is spilling over from across the border? What do you think about spending American dollars on a problem that emanates from Mexico?

A: We can all agree that this is Mexico’s fault, but it’s our problem. All that it would have taken is an executive order signed by either Trump or Biden, and we could have solved this issue years ago. If we want this problem fixed, we will have to pay for it, but the good news is that we already are. The county already has the money, so I will hold them accountable to funding a permanent solution.

Ricky Hoyt

Q: Do you believe Coronado should advocate for drastic U.S. pressure on Mexico – such as tariffs, border blockage or water restrictions – to address the cross-border sewage crisis? Or do you think a cooperative partnership would get better results?

A: I don’t think this is a choice between cooperation and pressure. I believe in cooperation backed by accountability and leverage.

This crisis has gone on for decades, and American communities should not have to accept sewage crossing an international border and closing our beaches. Mexico has a responsibility to maintain the infrastructure necessary to prevent that from happening.

At the same time, Tijuana continues to grow, and the United States and Mexico are collaborating on projects like the new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry intended to expand trade and economic opportunity in the region. I support economic growth, but growth has to be supported by adequate infrastructure.

We shouldn’t give away our leverage for free. If Mexico wants American cooperation on projects that help facilitate additional growth, we should use that relationship to ensure Mexico continues meeting measurable commitments on wastewater infrastructure.

I would not support indiscriminate measures that hurt American busi-



Ricky Hoyt.
Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

nesses without producing results. My approach is straightforward: cooperate where cooperation works, use leverage when necessary, and judge both countries by results. Our objective is clean water, not political theater.

Q: There was a 3-2 vote the first time the city declared a state of emergency. Some said it was needed to secure more funding and attention on the matter; others said the word “emergency” would damage the local economy and tourism. Where do you stand on this?

A: I support Coronado declaring the sewage crisis an emergency. I understand the argument on the other side. Coronado depends on tourism and local businesses, and we

should always consider how our actions affect them. I also don’t believe declaring an emergency, by itself, accomplishes anything. A declaration doesn’t clean the water.

But we have had beaches repeatedly closed because of sewage and contaminated transboundary flows originating in Mexico. That affects public health, our environment, our businesses and our quality of life. If we are going to Washington, Sacramento and San Diego County asking them to treat this issue with urgency, I think Coronado has to be willing to do the same.

For me, the emergency declaration cannot become the accomplishment. It is a tool. The accomplishment is getting the infrastructure built, holding governments accountable and permanently stopping the sewage.

I’m very results-oriented. I care less about making the strongest political statement and more about whether our actions actually move us toward a permanent solution.

Declare the emergency, use every tool available to us, and then get to work solving it.

Q: What do you believe is the actual responsibility of Coronado when dealing with a crisis that is spilling over from across the border? What do you think about spending American dollars on a problem that emanates from Mexico?

A: The sewage driving this cross-

border crisis originates in Mexico. The United States didn’t create this problem, but American communities are living with the consequences. Mexico has a responsibility to address its wastewater infrastructure, while the United States has a responsibility to protect Americans from its impacts.

Coronado cannot solve an international problem alone. Our responsibility is relentless advocacy for our residents, beaches, businesses, quality of life and our Navy community. Contaminated coastal waters impact SEAL and other Navy waterborne training in Coronado, making this a military readiness issue as well. The Navy and Department of Defense should have a seat at the table as we pursue a permanent solution.

As a fiscal conservative, I don’t support blank checks to Mexico. American investment should require Mexican participation, measurable commitments and accountability. But if targeted investment is the most cost-effective way to stop sewage before it reaches Americans, I can support it.

We also need stable, recurring federal funding and multiyear planning to properly operate and maintain the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Protect the taxpayer, maintain our leverage, involve the Navy, demand accountability from both countries, and get results.

Rebecca King

Q: Do you believe Coronado should advocate for drastic U.S. pressure on Mexico – such as tariffs, border blockage or water restrictions – to address the cross-border sewage crisis? Or do you think a cooperative partnership would get better results?

A: This critical issue isn’t an either/or choice between pressure and cooperation: it’s the number one threat to Coronado’s public health, and as such, requires both. The toxic flow of sewage is making our Navy SEALs sick during training. It threatens our lifeguards, families, and visitors seeking to enjoy our beautiful beaches. It also endangers our economy, local businesses, and property values.

Coronado should lead on every front, from regional to state to federal. We must put increased pressure on Mexico through the State Department to demand a new treatment plant on its side of the border for the toxic runoff pouring into our ocean. We must coordinate our efforts with other coastal cities and the county so Washington and Sacramento hear one united voice.

But pressure must go hand in hand



Rebecca King.
Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

with cooperation. Binational cooperation has delivered binding commitments, and construction is underway to expand treatment capacity at both the San Antonio de los Buenos plant in Tijuana and the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. Abandoning that process for tariffs or closing the border would put those gains at risk and hurt our economy.

Q: There was a 3-2 vote the first time the city declared a state of emergency. Some said it was needed to secure more funding and attention

on the matter; others said the word “emergency” would damage the local economy and tourism. Where do you stand on this?

A: I supported it at the time, and I’d support it again. I believe in calling something what it is, and what we have in our ocean and on our beaches is an emergency: a public health and economic crisis. Families come to Coronado for vacation without anyone warning them in advance that they may not be able to go in the ocean. That’s the kind of experience that damages our tourism economy — not the word “emergency” on a resolution. If we want to protect Coronado’s reputation as a family beach destination, we must be upfront about the risk and take a leadership role in finding a permanent solution.

Q: What do you believe is the actual responsibility of Coronado when dealing with a crisis that is spilling over from across the border? What do you think about spending American dollars on a problem that emanates from Mexico?

A: Mexico must fix its infrastructure, and I will absolutely keep up pressure to make that happen. However, the fact is that Mexico is not

doing all that is necessary, and it’s harming Americans. This is a man-made disaster, and when disasters happen, our government steps in to protect Americans.

Tijuana’s population boom outpaced its sewage infrastructure largely because manufacturing grew rapidly after the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, when American corporations expanded production across the border to make cheaper goods. Even on the U.S. side, our federal government underfunded maintenance at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant for decades.

That’s why Coronado and this region can’t keep waiting on Sacramento or Washington for a fix on someone else’s timeline; that’s effectively what we’ve been doing, and the flow hasn’t stopped. It’s why I support San Diego County’s new plan, approved earlier this month, to build a U.S.-side facility to capture and treat the toxic runoff flowing from the Tijuana River.

That’s not spending on “Mexico’s problem,” it’s investing in our own coastline, our health, our economy, and our future.

» Continued on Next Page

Coronado Middle School staff celebrate the rollout of cell phone pouches

» Continued from Page 1

a survey. Included in Falar’s report were teacher comments of undistracted social connectedness and instructional time.

Falar told the board students are still allowed to use computers after a 20-minute device-free period during lunch. According to Falar, students use their computers to access online

curriculum.

Falar said the pouches have been really great for the students and for the culture of Coronado Middle School.

“Overall, I’ve just seen less anxiety and a more positive vibe with all of our students on campus,” she added.

Superintendent Karl Mueller said the district’s technology audit is as-

sessing current uses of technology to ensure purposeful and intentional use. He said staff will provide quarterly updates to the governing board and ultimately present and adopt a comprehensive educational technology plan.

“We are going to begin this audit as soon as the end of this month,” said Mueller. “...We’re going to reach out to our students, we’re going to reach

out to our staff and really just get a sense of ‘When are we using technology in our classrooms and why? What is the educational value attached to that?’”

The next regular board meeting is set for 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15 at the district office.

Contact:
julietta@thecoronadonews.com

» Continued from Previous Page

City Council candidates weigh in on Tijuana sewage crisis

Kelly Purvis

Q: Do you believe Coronado should advocate for drastic U.S. pressure on Mexico – such as tariffs, border blockage or water restrictions – to address the cross-border sewage crisis? Or do you think a cooperative partnership would get better results?

A: The cross-border sewage crisis demands urgency, accountability and sustained pressure on Mexico, but broad tariffs, border closures or water restrictions must not be our first response. Those actions could harm families and businesses on both sides of the border and not stop the sewage.

The effective approach combines cooperation with firm, enforceable expectations. The US and Mexico must work together to repair failing infrastructure, expand treatment capacity and ensure facilities are properly operated and maintained. Funding agreements should include firm deadlines, transparent reporting, independent monitoring and consequences when commitments are not met.

The new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry also provides an opportunity for leverage. This major binational investment is intended to improve travel, reduce border delays and expand commerce. Our federal government should make clear that the benefits of greater cross-border mobility and economic cooperation must be accompanied by meaningful progress from Mexico on sewage infrastructure and pollution prevention. That is not closing the border; it is using



Kelly Purvis.
Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

the benefits of partnership to secure accountability.

Coronado must continue advocating forcefully through our congressional delegation, federal agencies, the state and regional partners. Our goal is clear: stop the pollution, protect public health and restore reliable access to our beaches.

Q: There was a 3-2 vote the first time the city declared a state of emergency. Some said it was needed to secure more funding and attention on the matter; others said the word “emergency” would damage the local economy and tourism. Where do you stand on this?

A: On my first day as your Council member, I cast the deciding vote that broke the 2-2 tie and resulted in the first emergency declaration by the Coronado City Council on this issue. Since then, the council has remained united in supporting that declaration.

The word “emergency” accurately describes a crisis that repeatedly closes our beaches, threatens public health, affects military readiness and diminishes our residents’ quality of life. Avoiding that word would not protect Coronado’s economy or tourism as pollution exists whether we acknowledge it or not. The first step toward solving any problem is acknowledging it. Our responsibility is to address this crisis honestly, communicate clearly and demand action.

The declaration strengthened Coronado’s ability to seek attention, resources and coordination from county, state and federal officials. It also made clear that this is not a routine water-quality issue. It is an ongoing environmental and public-health emergency requiring an extraordinary response.

I understand concerns, but our reputation is best protected through leadership and transparency. I will always work to accurately report conditions without unnecessarily alarming the public, while working relentlessly toward solutions. Protecting our beaches, residents and visitors is ultimately the best way to protect our local economy.

Q: What do you believe is the actual responsibility of Coronado when dealing with a crisis that is spilling over from across the border? What do you think about spending American dollars on a problem that emanates from Mexico?

A: Coronado did not create this crisis, and we cannot solve it alone. But solve it we must. When cross-border

pollution reaches our beaches and threatens residents, visitors, military personnel and our economy, our city must act.

Our role is to document impacts, communicate honestly and advocate for science-based testing, timely warnings, dependable infrastructure and enforceable agreements. We must evaluate innovative treatment and water-reclamation technologies, including treatment capacity on our side of the border. Even as Mexico improves its infrastructure, we remain vulnerable when relying on facilities we don’t control or maintain.

Through my service as Coronado’s representative on the Metro Wastewater JPA, I have gained a deeper appreciation for long-term infrastructure planning, dependable treatment capacity and water reuse.

Water is a valuable resource and vital commodity. Whenever possible, it should be treated, reclaimed and reused not simply discharged into the ocean.

I understand concerns about spending American tax dollars on pollution originating in Mexico. Mexico must contribute its fair share. However, strategic U.S. investment is justified when it directly protects Americans. It must be accompanied by Mexican funding, firm deadlines, operational accountability and measurable results. Coronado must keep this crisis visible until safe, clean water is consistently restored.

Contact:
madeline@thecoronadonews.com



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