



Peggy Price sits in her Coronado home on Sept. 15. Staff photo by Michelle Armas.

103-year-old Peggy Price reflects on a life of courage

BY MICHELLE ARMAS
The Coronado News

When Peggy Price greets me at her Coronado condo, she wears a matching set, her white bob perfectly styled and a huge smile on her face. “You would have had wild horses drag me out of California,” Price says. That strive for independence has followed her for more than a century. Born in December 1922, Price grew up in Garden City, Long Island, after her family moved there when she was 5-years-old. Despite the Great Depression, she said her family was relatively comfortable. Her mother was extremely thrifty, raising chickens and preserving food. In 1941, she attended Stanford University, arriving in California at 18. “My father said, ‘Don’t be so independent,’” Price said when she talked about moving

away from home. Shortly after the United States entered World War II – following the attack on Pearl Harbor – many of the men at Stanford left for military service. “By my junior year, there were no men at the college,” she said. While in school there, she rolled bandages and picked crops, helping fill the labor shortage created by the war. She remembers Dec. 7, when there were loudspeakers in the quad and President Roosevelt delivered a radio address declaring that the Japanese attack would be recorded as “a day of infamy.” Price described herself as “kind of naive” during this time, and said the war years were an awakening for her. Despite her parents’ entreaties to come home to New York, Price was devoted to staying on the West Coast to finish school. “I liked being away from home that far,”

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COUNTY STUDY

Tijuana sewage crisis costs region up to \$503M a year

South Bay residents, visitors and businesses report sickness and business loss in a new economic study

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Preliminary findings in a new economic impact study on the Tijuana River sewage crisis show its 20-year impact is projected at up to \$7.9 billion as a result of illness and the impact on area recreation and business. These economic losses were presented as preliminary data on Sept. 15 to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors by ECONorthwest, selected to conduct the Economic Costs and Impacts of the Tijuana River Sewage Crisis study commissioned by the board one year ago.

For decades, untreated flows in the Tijuana River have caused environmental, public health and economic concerns among South Bay communities continually leading to beach closures.

“It’s unconscionable that this continues, but I think it’s helpful to just be able to put a hard number on what this is doing to our entire region and that we really cannot ignore this crisis anymore,” said Chair Terra Lawson-Remer, whose district includes Coronado. “... \$8 billion over 20 years in lost economic activity. That is shocking.”

Chris Blakney, principal at ECONorthwest, presented the background for the study, the process for stakeholder engagement and outreach, a sampling of preliminary findings and a series of preliminary recommendations for the county.

According to Blakney, the study hypothesized that the sewage crisis had

“... \$8 billion over 20 years in lost economic activity. That is shocking.”
- Chair Terra Lawson-Remer

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New SWIFT lanes at North Island to reduce traffic and save manpower

Four of the five lanes at the main gate are now equipped with facial recognition software to expedite entry onto the base

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Traffic at the gates to Naval Air Station North Island might change as the Navy implements a new biometric pilot program designed to allow quicker access onto base during peak times. “This is a traffic reduction effort,” Commanding Officer Loren Jacobi said at the Sept 15. Coronado City Council meeting. “The real thing that

we need to do is increase efficient and safe throughput at the gate.” Of the ten total entry lanes over three entrances into North Island, four at the main front gate have been sectioned off as what the pilot program calls SWIFT lanes. One lane at the main gate and the other entry lanes at Ocean and Carrier Gate are still using the original, or legacy, ID scan lanes. Jacobi said that this new method allows for almost double the vehicles to enter during the same amount of time. Legacy lanes handle just over 300 cars per hour while SWIFT lanes are able to process up to 600 cars per hour.

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Four of the five lanes at the main gate to Naval Air Station North Island are being used for a new pilot SWIFT lane program intended to decrease traffic. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

this week

27 • Sunday

The Coronado Ferry Landing is slated to host a free weekend concert featuring The Ideas at 2 p.m. on Sept. 27.

29 • Tuesday

A local farmers' market will be set up at the Coronado Ferry Landing from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 29, featuring fresh produce.

30 • Wednesday

The Busted Spurs band, an energetic country duo, is scheduled to perform live music at Coronado Tasting Room on Sept. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m.

2 • Friday

Alex Ciavarelli is scheduled to perform a guitar concert on Oct. 2 at 1 p.m. in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library. The event is free and open to the public.

CORRECTION

A story published in The Coronado News' on Sept. 11 titled, "City officials review policy on paying for major events" was misleading in its report of the funding that two events receive from the city in grant funding. During 2025-2026, the holiday parade received \$15,000 in event-related community grant money, and the Fourth of July parade received \$105,000.

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



Jacqueline Friedland and Rosa Kwon Easton are speaking at the Coronado Public Library on Oct. 6. Photos provided by Adventures by the Book.

Authors Jacqueline Friedland and Rosa Kwon Easton present books at Coronado Public Library

Coronado News staff

Bestselling author Jacqueline Friedland and Amazon First Reads author Rosa Kwon Easton will talk about their respective books at an event hosted by Adventures by the Book at the Coronado Public Library on Oct. 6.

Friedland is a USA Today and Amazon bestselling author. Her book, “Breathing Under Water,” is the story of two women whose paths converge in the most unexpected way: Berry is a vice principal raising a 16-year-old autistic son and McKenna is a college student caring for her grandmother with dementia while facing homelessness.

Kwon Easton is a No. 1 Amazon Reads author. Her book, “Red Seal,” tells the story of a Korean-born single mother and nurse and is based on her own grandmother. This is her book launch event.

The event is on Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. and registration is free and open to the public. VIP tickets with guaranteed seating are available with the pre-order of a book (\$16.95-\$18.95) for delivery to the event for signing. Books will also be available on Oct. 6 for purchase.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Shiba

PAWS of Coronado

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

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

Those interested in adoption can visit www.pawsofcoronado.org. Fostering, donating and volunteering are other ways to support the organization.

All animals at PAWS are spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and up to date on flea prevention. Adoptions are by appointment only. If you are interested in adopting Shiba or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



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

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

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COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mal Sandie on why he’s running for school board re-election

BY MAL SANDIE
Letter to the Editor

My name is Mal Sandie and I am running for re-election to the Coronado Unified School District governing board. I grew up in Los Altos, California, attended the U.S. Naval Academy, and moved to Coronado in 1992 while stationed as a helicopter pilot at Naval Air Station North Island. I spent 30-years on active duty and retired in 2020.

My education also includes an M.A. from the Naval War College, a certificate for program management from the Defense Acquisition University, and I have previously held the civilian Program Management Professional (PMP) certification.

My wife of 32 years served as a Navy active-duty nurse anes-

thetist for 13 years and is now a civilian employee in the anesthesia department at Naval Medical Center, San Diego. We have four sons ages 28, 25, 21, and 17, all of whom attended Coronado public schools when we were stationed here. The boys are, respectively, a fourth year medical student, licensed mariner with Military Sealift Command, fourth year cadet at West Point, and a senior at Coronado High School who plans to attend Cal-Poly Maritime.

I am a “recovering Catholic” and am the only political candidate running for local election who is self-funded and accepts no donations because I do not want to be beholden to any benefactors.

I am running for re-election to champion public schools and help incrementally improve Coronado public education by

continuing to fully support our amazing teachers, staff, principals, and superintendent. We need to maintain focus on our school district’s goal of “preparing our children for higher education, careers, and society.” We also must judiciously utilize our new Basic Aid funding to retain and attract the best teachers and staff, and to upgrade our facilities.

Additionally, I believe that we need to adhere to California State education mandates such as vaccination requirements to keep our children safe and to ensure we are not financially penalized by the state. We also need to keep personal smart devices, religion, and book banning out of our public schools while we also continue to fight against Project 2025 that seeks to divert public school funding to private and

faith-based education.

If you re-elect me, I pledge to champion the Coronado public schools and ensure that our children have the best education possible, which will afford them the opportunity for successful and fulfilling lives and a strong, future United States!

Editor’s note: Malachy Sandie is running for a seat on Coronado Unified School District’s governing board in the November elections. Margaret Mary Duncan, Alexia Palacios-Peters and Kaye McCormick Schneider are also vying for one of the three open seats. The Coronado News will consider publishing one letter to the editor from each candidate running in the November elections. Submit letters, no longer than 700 words, to sofie@thecoronadonews.com by Oct. 1 for consideration.

Endorsements for City Council candidate Rebecca King

BY THERESA JONES
Letter to the Editor

I have had the pleasure of knowing Rebecca King as my neighbor for many years, and during that time I have come to know her as a person of integrity, intelligence, and genuine concern for Coronado.

Rebecca has a true go-getter attitude. She is thoughtful, prepared, and willing to put in the work to understand complicated issues. She asks thoughtful questions, listens carefully, and approaches problems with both determination and common sense.

Her background also gives her a valuable perspective on our community. As a longtime military spouse, Rebecca understands firsthand the important relationship between Coronado and our military families. Her experience as a former city attorney gives her insight into how local government works and the importance of responsible, well-informed decision-making.

I have also been impressed by Rebecca’s desire to be ready to contribute from day one and by her emphasis on working collaboratively with all members of the City Council. Coronado is a close-knit community, and I believe the ability to listen, find common ground, and work respectfully with others is especially important.

Over the years, I have seen Rebecca’s commitment to our community firsthand. She cares deeply about Coronado and approaches challenges with energy, integrity, and a willingness to get things done.

As someone who has known her personally for many years, I wanted to share the qualities I have consistently seen in Rebecca as a neighbor and member of our community. She would be an exceptional member of our City Council.

BY LAURA PLUMB
Letter to the Editor

I am writing in support of Rebecca King for City Council, whose years as a former city attorney set her apart. Rebecca knows municipal law, contracts, and governance deeply, meaning she’s ready to serve on day one.

Coronado faces a real sewage crisis, along with broader infrastructure needs that have been deferred for too long. These issues impact our homes, our beaches, our children, our military families, and our local businesses. Rebecca has the legal and civic experience to navigate the complexities, with the fiscal discipline to lead our city forward intelligently.

I’ve known Rebecca for years — as a neighbor, a fellow book club member, and as an organizer of community events. In all, she is dynamic, insightful, balanced and hard-working, with an impressive ability to build consensus to deliver.

Above all, Rebecca loves this town, and has the passion and energy to lead with clarity and resolve.

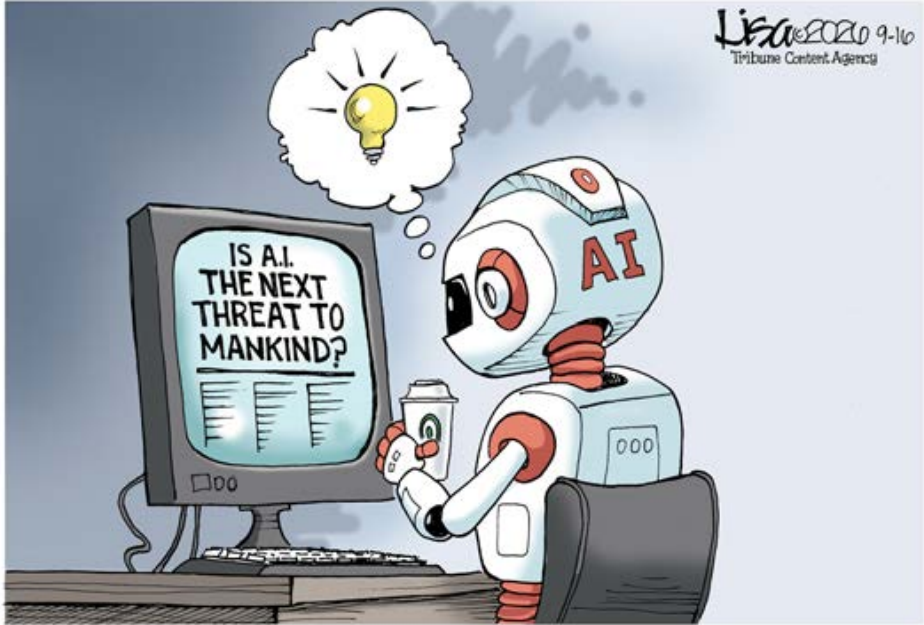
We need a council member who combines professional readiness with a proven long term commitment to Coronado. Rebecca King is that person.

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



COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Mosquitos in Coronado



This political cartoon, was created by Coronado local John Tato and submitted to The Coronado News for publication.

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CORONADO

Q&A: City Council candidates talk housing and affordability

This week, City Council candidates answer questions on affordable housing and ADUs

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. 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. Ricky Hoyt, Rebecca King, Kelly Purvis and Andrew Gade are vying for the open seats. The topic covered this week is housing and affordability.

Question 1: How do you think local government should deal with state mandates regarding affordable housing? When the last housing cycle came about, the city had to allow for 912 affordable units as part of a

settlement with the state. Is it a council member’s job to comply with California law to avoid consequences, or to advocate for the city’s preference regardless of potential risks or penalties?

Question 2: Some current council members said they oppose short-term rentals in so-called “accessory dwelling units,” or ADUs, to avoid transient populations that come with Airbnbs. The policy now says guest houses and other ADUs may not be rented for less than 30 days. How would you set the limit? What is best for neighborhoods, and for the economy of a city that relies on tourism?

Question 3: Do you think a council member should prioritize housing to accommodate people who work on the island but can’t afford to live here? Or is it more important to recognize that Coronado is a unique coastal community that should not be required to provide housing for low-income people?

Ricky Hoyt

1. Answer: A council member’s responsibility is to protect Coronado’s interests. That means complying with laws that are in force rather than unnecessarily exposing taxpayers to litigation or penalties, while also challenging state mandates when our legal counsel believes we have a credible case.

This issue will come before the next council. Coronado’s current Housing Element runs through 2029, meaning the next housing cycle will be developed during the term of those elected this November. Coronado is a unique, largely built-out coastal community, and I will strongly advocate that the next allocation reflect those realities.

We should also continue finding creative solutions. During the current cycle, the city incorporated Navy-controlled property into its housing plan. Having spent much of my Navy career in Coronado and developed longstanding relationships on base, I can help strengthen that partnership.

Measure D is another example of the tension between state requirements and local control. It asks voters whether to increase the R-4 multi-family height limit from three stories to four; I do not support that increase.

My approach is simple: Preserve local control wherever possible, challenge unreasonable mandates when we have sound legal grounds, build partnerships, and never gamble taxpayer dollars simply to make a political statement.

2. Answer: I support allowing ADUs where required by state law, but I do not support using local ADU policy to create additional density



Ricky Hoyt. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

beyond what Coronado is legally required to accommodate. We should preserve the character of our single-family neighborhoods, and I am concerned about adding multiple units to properties without adequate parking.

Some ADU requirements, including restrictions on local parking requirements, are dictated by Sacramento. Where state law controls, Coronado must comply, but we should preserve as much local authority as possible rather than voluntarily going further.

I also believe ADUs should provide housing, not become vacation rentals. Coronado already has a strong hotel industry designed to accommodate visitors and generate transient occupancy tax revenue. Turning residential ADUs

into Airbnb-style accommodations would introduce more transient use into our neighborhoods while competing with that industry.

I support keeping ADUs for longer-term residential use rather than nightly or weekly rentals. Tourism is essential to our economy, but our residential neighborhoods should remain neighborhoods.

3. Answer: I don’t believe these goals are mutually exclusive. I would welcome opportunities for teachers, first responders, military families, hospitality workers and others who contribute to Coronado every day to live here. But the City Council cannot dictate the market price of housing, nor can Coronado solve the region’s housing affordability problem alone.

We are a geographically constrained, largely built-out coastal community with limited land. Housing policy should recognize those realities while looking for reasonable opportunities that fit our community.

Where the City Council can make a meaningful difference is ensuring Coronado remains a place where people want to put down roots and raise families: safe streets, clean beaches, excellent public spaces, strong local businesses and well-maintained infrastructure.

We should also protect the homes and architecture that give Coronado its identity. I strongly support historic preservation and programs like the Mills Act that incentivize property owners to preserve historic homes and the character of our streets.

We can pursue reasonable housing opportunities while protecting property rights, local control and the historic character that makes Coronado unique.

Kelly Purvis

1. Answer: Local government must comply with California law while advocating forcefully for solutions that reflect Coronado’s unique circumstances. These responsibilities are not mutually exclusive.

To clarify, the state required Coronado to plan for 912 additional housing units across all income levels — not 912 affordable units. Following litigation, the city reached a settlement and adopted a compliant Housing Element. Refusing to comply could have exposed Coronado to substantial fines, additional legal costs and the loss of local control over development decisions.

A council member has a responsibility to protect residents from those consequences. At the same time, we must continue challenging unreasonable mandates when legally appropriate and explaining Coronado’s limited land, military presence, evacuation constraints, infrastructure needs and historic coastal character.

I support creating practical housing opportunities for young families, seniors, single military personnel, public safety officers and others who contribute to our community.

We should pursue thoughtful redevelopment, accessory dwelling units and public-private partnerships without sacrificing responsible planning or neighborhood character.

As your council member, my approach is to follow the law, defend Coronado’s interests and advocate vigorously for greater local control. Simply ignoring state law would put our community at risk without producing a better housing solution.

2. Answer: As your council member, I supported Coronado’s original six-month mini-



Kelly Purvis. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

mum rental period for accessory dwelling units because it promoted stable, long-term housing and protected residential neighborhoods from the constant turnover associated with vacation rentals. However, when state law required us to allow rentals of 30 days or longer, I voted to bring our ordinance into compliance.

While 30-day rentals are not the standard I would have chosen, they may provide housing for military personnel, traveling healthcare professionals, seasonal employees and others who need accommodations for more than a vacation but less than a year but I don’t believe they will provide long-term affordable housing.

Coronado’s tourism economy is important, but we already have hotels and regulated vacation rentals serving short-term visitors. ADUs should primarily expand housing opportuni-

ties, not become unregulated hotel rooms in residential neighborhoods. I voted for the 30-day minimum required by the state, would enforce it consistently and monitor its effects on neighborhood quality of life, parking and housing availability. If state law gives Coronado greater flexibility in the future, I would support reconsidering a longer minimum rental period.

3. Answer: I do not see this as an either-or choice. Coronado should pursue realistic housing opportunities for people who contribute to our community while also protecting the unique character of our coastal city.

Young families, single military personnel, teachers, healthcare workers, public safety officers and others who serve Coronado should have opportunities to live closer to where they work. That strengthens our workforce, reduces commutes and supports a more connected community. We should explore appropriately scaled solutions, including deed-restricted affordable units, thoughtful use of existing properties and accessory dwelling units that fit within our neighborhoods.

At the same time, Coronado has genuine limitations. We are a largely built-out community constrained by the ocean, the bay and military installations, with limited evacuation routes, aging infrastructure and significant coastal and environmental risks. State housing policies must recognize those realities rather than impose one-size-fits-all density and height mandates.

As your council member, my responsibility is to comply with the law while advocating strongly for local control. We can support attainable housing without sacrificing public safety, historic character or the qualities that make Coronado such a special place to live.

» Continued from Previous Page

Rebecca King

1. Answer: The last housing cycle required Coronado to identify and rezone for 912 total housing units, 640 of which were classified as “affordable.”

As a member of our City Council, I will advocate strongly against adding to Coronado’s density. I will defend to the fullest extent of the law Coronado’s right to require design elements for any new housing to ensure it is in keeping with the character and feel of our community. I will also vigorously support lobbying efforts in Sacramento to amend Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) legislation to allow more flexibility for fully built-out cities like Coronado to meet their housing allocation.

As we face the state’s next RHNA, council members must also confirm that the jobs-housing balance methodology inputs are correct, so that Coronado is not again misallocated jobs/housing requirements that belong to another city, which is disruptive to planning and unacceptable.

While Coronado City Council members must comply with state housing law or risk putting the city in legal and fiscal jeopardy, and losing local control over development, I will always rigorously advocate for fair and appropriate guidelines for our city.



Rebecca King. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

2. Answer: A 30-day minimum for ADUs is too short and goes against the California Department of Housing and Community Development’s claims to support affordable long-term housing, which the former six-month minimum facilitated. By barring cities from setting ADU minimum rental terms beyond 30 days, the state incentivizes more short-term rentals that could be used as vacation rentals, while avoiding the transient occupancy

tax (TOT) that applies to rentals of 25 days or less. I am concerned these units will add additional competition for our hotels, which do collect TOT, meaning less revenue for our city.

The state-imposed minimum ADU rental length diminishes the residential character of our community; adds to our ongoing parking challenges; and threatens to lower the supply and raise the price of long-term rentals. For all of these reasons, I believe state law should permit cities to set a minimum rental term of six months.

3. Answer: It would be fantastic if our first responders, teachers, and city employees were able to live in Coronado. While Coronado cannot legally “reserve” affordable housing units for our employees, I support providing a preference for them in housing applications where they qualify. By doing so, we can ensure that Coronado remains competitive when recruiting and retaining teachers, firefighters, police officers, and essential staff because they can live where they work (in this beautiful place) and avoid expensive, long commutes. Our first responders would be our neighbors, providing even greater trust. Finally, from a purely economic standpoint, when our employees live in Coronado, they also spend their salaries here, benefiting our economy rather than that of neighboring cities.

Andrew Gade

1. Answer: If Sacramento continues to adopt laws that override local zoning decisions, Coronado should challenge those laws when appropriate. I believe Coronado should push back against state housing requirements, defend local control, and limit density that threatens our communities character.

2. Answer: Unfortunately, we no longer have the ability of setting the limit. The state does. Originally Coronado had a six-month limit, but now it’s state mandated at 30 days. I believe ADU’s should be used for family, friends and guests, not as short-term vacation rentals.

3. Answer: I would definitely support prioritizing housing for public safety, city employees, full-time locals, and anyone working on the island. The county currently administers voucher programs like Section 8 housing and public housing resources for Coronado. I believe we could administer the program locally while having more control over who our low-income housing is available to.

Contact: madeline@thecoronadonews.com



Andrew Gade. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

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CORONADO

Q&A: Technology and artificial intelligence in Coronado public schools

CUSD candidates' stance on technology and AI in education

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 differ-

ent order each week to ensure fairness. The candidates are limited to 200 words for each response. There are three positions up for grabs on the CUSD board of trustees in the November elections. Alexia Palacios-Peters, Malachy Sandie, Kaye McCormick Schneider, and Margaret Mary Duncan are vying for the open seats. This week's topic is technology and artificial intelligence.

Question 1: The current governing board approved piloting cell phone pouches at Coronado Middle School throughout the school day.

However, students can still use computers, which parents report they use to access YouTube and games while on campus. What plan would you propose to address concerns about students' technology use for non-educational purposes while at school?

Question 2: What is your stance on artificial intelligence in education? Do you favor a ban on usage by students in tests and/or homework? Would you restrict and detect misuse of AI? How? What penalties would you impose for policy violations?

Alexia Palacios-Peters

1. Answer: I have students at CHS and CMS, so I'm all too familiar with this issue. Technology is here and it is the future, so I think we need to embrace an approach that uses technology to enhance traditional classroom/book learning, not replace it. Since COVID, I believe the pendulum has swung too far towards the technology direction and our district can bring it back in balance by using technology to supplement tradition-



Alexia Palacios-Peters.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

al learning modalities. The board has already begun to address this issue and has requested an analysis and report of how technology

and screens are currently being used in the classroom, the amount of time students spend on screens in the classroom, and whether or not that is the best platform to teach that content. And let me be clear – there is no place in our classrooms for students to be on YouTube or playing games that are not part of the curriculum.

2. Answer: This is a huge challenge. It is our duty to ensure our students learn core concepts and material, but we also need to prepare

them for life in the AI-enabled world. Ignoring AI completely will put our kids at a competitive disadvantage when they leave CUSD. I favor an approach that uses AI-proof evaluations, such as written tests, to assess subject and concept mastery, but also allows and encourages AI-usage at the higher grade levels for complimentary assignments and projects. AI is only as good as the content and information it is given; it cannot replace the knowledge and

skills that are required to be successful in the world. I would support restricting the use of AI in some areas of learning, such as tests and classwork. The district has a committee which is piloting AI programs and creating guidelines in the use of AI in classrooms before broader implementation. Additionally, the use of AI is part of the district's Portrait of a Graduate, which seeks to graduate students who are technologically competent.

Malachy Sandie

1. Answer: As a current board member, I pushed for the ban of all personal electronics on all of our campuses. I believe that we can best achieve the stated district goals of “preparing our students for higher education, careers, and society” by requiring a reprieve from access to social media, gaming, texting, etc. during the school day. Coronado



Malachy Sandie.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

Middle School had already banned personal computers in favor of school-is-

sued Chromebooks (shout out to Principal Falar!), and the school board recently added the requirement for Yonder pouches at CMS to prohibit smart phone use during the day. Regarding access to YouTube and games on the school issued Chromebooks, the superintendent has directed a CUSD Technology Audit that will help us identify and correct any access to non-educational sites on

our district WiFi network.

2. Answer: Regarding artificial intelligence (AI), the CUSD Technology Audit currently underway will help us tackle this issue. I will only support the use of AI if it can be demonstrated, through evidenced-based research, that AI will help our students better prepare for higher education, careers, and society, while not diminishing critical academic skills.

More specifically, AI must support our Portrait of a Graduate goals of: 1) creating tech-savvy students who are technologically competent and adaptive; 2) creating educational innovation; and 3) facilitating innovative learning. Regarding enforcement of policy violations, we currently have policies in place at all our school sites that will be adjusted and updated as required.

Kaye McCormick Schneider

1. Answer: I would bring parents, teachers, and administrators together to establish clear, schoolwide expectations for student computer use, with consistent enforcement and consequences. If computers are provided for learning, students should not be using them for non-educational purposes during the school day. Teachers cannot carry this responsibility alone. Parents and administrators must partner with faculty to establish clear limits, reinforce expectations, and create accountability at home and at school. I also believe we need



Kaye McCormick Schneider.
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

balance. Books, writing, discussion, collaboration, and paper-and-pencil work remain essential for developing focus, communication, and problem-solving skills. As new technologies such as AI become part of education, I would support thoughtful, age-appropriate use rather than assuming

more technology is always better.

I would propose parent-teacher strategy meetings to address technology and classroom expectations, giving families and educators a forum to identify concerns, share solutions, and build consistency. My goal would be a schoolwide approach that protects instructional time while teaching students responsible technology habits, accountability, and respect for classroom expectations.

2. Answer: AI is here, and our schools need to address it thoughtfully and responsibly. The appropriate approach will vary by grade level and learning objective. I do not believe a school

board can realistically “ban AI for homework.” We are not in students' homes. Instead, our focus should be ensuring students demonstrate what they have learned.

I would support restricting AI use during classroom instruction and assessments, except when AI itself is being taught, such as in a technical course. Assessments should allow teachers to determine whether work reflects the student's own understanding. Depending on grade level, this could include oral presentations, in-class handwritten essays, problem-solving, and other direct demonstrations of learning.

Before imposing penalties, the district must clearly define “misuse of AI” with teachers and administrators involved in establishing consistent, age-appropriate consequences.

More broadly, I favor less screen time in classrooms, particularly for younger students. Research shows learning is strengthened when using books, handwriting, discussions, and hands-on learning which reduce distractions and opportunities for misuse.

Our goal should not simply be to police AI, but to ensure technology serves education — not replaces it. Remove the temptation. Return to basics. Lessen the stress off students and staff.

Margaret “Peggy” Duncan

1. Answer: Technology in schools presents both opportunities and serious challenges. I strongly support the cell phone restrictions at Coronado Middle School. I served on CUSD's committee evaluating options last year and brought firsthand experience from another school where, as a trustee, I had already seen the benefits of a bell-to-bell cell phone ban. But restricting phones is only part of the solution. Growing research raises concerns about excessive screen time and its impact on learning, attention and well-being. If students put away their phones only to spend unnecessary hours



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

on computers, we have not fully addressed the problem.

CUSD already has technology in place to filter and block non-educational content, and the district has demonstrated a willingness to strengthen those protections when weaknesses are identified. I support continuing that approach,

responding quickly when students find ways to access games, messaging, YouTube, or other distractions. Parents should report weaknesses in the system, and I am confident the technology team will address them.

More broadly, I support reducing unnecessary educational screen time and returning to books, paper, discussion, and hands-on learning where appropriate. Technology should serve a clear educational purpose. We should embrace it when it improves learning — not simply because it is available.

2. Answer: I am deeply invested in this issue and am completing a certificate in AI and Education through

the University of San Diego. I also have hands-on experience with a school system already developing policies around this rapidly evolving technology.

I do not support a blanket ban. AI is here, and we must teach students and educators to use it safely, ethically, and effectively. But clear boundaries are essential. Teachers should determine when AI is permitted, and assessments designed to measure independent mastery should be completed without AI assistance.

Students should learn appropriate AI uses, such as brainstorming and organization, while checking for accuracy and bias. Teachers need training in student

privacy, appropriate tools, and methods for assessing genuine learning.

Because AI use is increasingly difficult to detect reliably, I favor assessments that demonstrate mastery without technology, through in-class work, oral presentations, Socratic discussion, and similar methods. Clear violations should be treated as academic-integrity violations, with graduated consequences: redo the assignment without AI for a first offense, followed by loss of credit and appropriate discipline for repeated violations.

Our goal should be AI literacy without sacrificing the intellectual struggle that produces real learning.

CORONADO

CUSD committee will look into air conditioning for Coronado public schools

The committee will present a report to the board in one year

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

CUSD Superintendent Karl Mueller announced a newly appointed district committee will explore air-conditioning options that may cost \$40 million for public schools in the city during a governing board meeting on Sept. 10.

According to this month's student board representative report, approximately one week of minimum days have been declared during the recent heat wave causing a loss of instructional time.

Prior to this school year, the district reports zero heat day minimum days since 2022. In 2025 the district revised its guidelines for declaring a minimum day using a heat index threshold of 87 degrees.

"Our teachers are making pivots and adjustments to how they're assessing learning and before the quarter ends there is a plan in place to recoup as many of those instructional minutes as possible," Mueller said.

Under the board's direction, Mueller outlined the formation of an HVAC exploratory committee with a 12 month timeline.

Mueller's report says the purpose of this committee will be to gather updated quantitative classroom data and qualitative information from students, staff and families for current and longer-term needs.

"The committee will review/up-



CUSD families attend a cultural fair at Coronado High School in 2023. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

date existing CASLE recommendations and once validated or updates are made, explore pathways/opportunities for funding," the report continues. "Once a budget is developed based on the projected funding mechanism, the committee will develop recommended phases of im-

plementation based on determined budgets."

According to Mueller, district buildings were built without the capacity to add air conditioning.

"CUSD over the last 10 years has engaged in a number of studies," said Mueller. "...We estimate right now ap-

proximately \$40 million to air condition our schools."

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

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Tijuana sewage crisis costs region up to \$503M a year

» Continued from Page 1

impacted residents, communities, businesses, and visitors.

"We looked for evidence that could be inferred or measured in terms of costs associated with those impacts," said Blakney. "This research included economic research and analysis, a review of water and air quality studies, and stakeholder and community engagement."

Blakney said the study's methodology uses a framework for a cost pathway analysis beginning with the physical aspect of the crisis leading to illness rates, impacts on population and migration or impacts on visitors and tourism, and the influence of those intermediate effects on tourism and recreation economy, public finance, property, public health and infrastructure costs.

"We created this framework to be able to speak to some of these costs, to be able to show which ones are monetized and which ones are remaining kind of in a theoretical implication perspective," said Blakney.

Blakney said outreach took a two-phased approach wherein they reached out to 40 organizations to set up guided focus groups to receive input from their constituents, their experiences, and their insights.

"We also set up a website with four targeted surveys, one each for residents, businesses, visitors, and regional organizations," he said.

According to the study's online website, surveys welcomed responses from people in the affected area. Earlier this year, the county announced the surveys were open to people near the Tijuana River Valley. The geographical boundaries of the study were not specified by Blakney during his presentation.

Blakney reports a 42% response rate across the focus groups and 244 people who participated in one or more of the online surveys also available in Spanish. According to the presentation slides, survey flyers were distributed at local businesses in Imperial Beach and Coronado.



Pictured here is a canal in Tijuana where the Tijuana River runs through. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Across focus groups and surveys, Blakney said people are saying that they're getting sick, people are saying they're changing both their consumer behaviors and their recreating behaviors, and businesses are saying that they are losing customers.

According to Blakney, data shows public awareness increasing over time as the crisis has also increased.

Blakney said the study's analysis is centered around three events of increased transboundary flows in 2017, 2020 and 2023.

"When we look at business starts, we see an immediate impact and lack of business or a reduction in business investment in our study area following each of these events," said Blakney.

According to Blakney, people are visiting South Bay beaches less frequently.

"The reduction in visitor spending in these communities related to reduction in visitors to the local businesses and local economy measures between \$125.6 and \$503.5 million dollars annually," said Blakney. "...Across a 20-year horizon, if unmiti-

gated, this crisis will cost the county economy between \$1.9 and \$7.9 billion."

Blakney also reported a reduction in transit occupancy tax revenues for Imperial Beach, with a 27.8% drop.

"We're also observing Coronado growing but growing at a far more measured rate than what we're seeing in the economy as a whole," said Blakney.

Blakney said the study area is experiencing 4% lower average school attendance compared to other benchmark communities, at a cost of \$16 million to \$38 million per year. However, the presentation slides note lower daily attendance cannot be directly correlated to the sewage crisis.

The study assessed property values and Blakney said while they theorized marginal reduction or a slower growth rate in property tax revenues or market values, that was not the case.

"We actually found that property values were slightly higher than a control geography," said Blakney. "And our hypothesis for that is that, especially in Imperial Beach, we're

talking about a community that is far more affordable so we're likely seeing some substitution effects based on relative affordability."

Findings led to four recommendations for the county to enhance communication with residents and visitors, rebuild the region's tourism and recreation, financially support affected businesses and advocate for permanent infrastructure investment.

According to Blakney, the final report is expected by the end of October.

"The portions released to date are unlikely to change; however, the final report will incorporate additional analyses that are still underway," says a board letter about the presentation.

During public comment, people supported and criticized the county's study.

"There's criticism out there that we shouldn't be doing another economic or any other type of study, but it's absolutely crucial that we do because this actually presents the real data that we can base governance and emergency-based decisions on," said Chair Pro Tempore Paloma Aguirre. "This is what we bring to the state to ask for more aid. This is what we bring to the federal government to ask for more aid."

Regarding the economic losses, Supervisor Jim Desmond said businesses in South County are suffering due to Mexico's actions.

"This just shows, I think, our continued need to apply pressure on Mexico and put an end to the flow of sewage into the United States," said Desmond.

Lawson-Remer said the study offers more evidence in support of an initiative to treat and capture sewage from the Tijuana River that she and Aguirre launched earlier this month.

"Whatever that cost might be on the county side ... it is far dwarfed by the loss not only to public health and clean water and well-being, but also economically..." she added.

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103-year-old Peggy Price reflects on a life of courage

» Continued from Page 1

she said, explaining that some of her peers were brought home by their families during this time.

After finishing at Stanford and receiving her master’s degree in education, Price taught for three years in New York before moving West again. While teaching in Monterey, she met her husband, Arthur W. Price Jr., a career Navy officer and Pearl Harbor survivor. Her father had a saying about the man she was marrying.

“You married an institution,” he told her.

She said he was right. The Navy came first, but she described Art as a devoted family man.

Price raised her children while moving around the country – and while her husband served in the Navy.

Her love for the outdoors really sparked as a volunteer with the Girl Scouts. She said she belonged to a group called “Backpack Buddies.” They would take roughly 10-day backpacking trips, including treks around Yosemite in the High Sierras. Eventually, she and a friend would go on their own when the rest of the group wasn’t interested in going as far.

After explaining that she ate a lot of dried food, she said, “So when you come out, you’d kill for a hamburger, something juicy.”

She spent a lifetime traveling the world, often with her husband. She trekked in Nepal’s Annapurna region, took bicycle trips through France, including the Dordogne Valley, and hiked across northern England from the North Sea. She also traveled through Cornwall, which she described as gorgeous.

She became increasingly involved in running, fitness and track and field, eventually becoming a certified track-and-field official and working in the sport for about 20 years. She also ran half marathons and 5Ks often, starting when she was in her late



Peggy Price (right), husband Art Price (middle), and daughter Mary Helen (left) on a backpack trip into Golden Trout Wilderness circa 1998. *Photo provided by Peggy Price.*

40s.

In 2007, at 85, her husband passed away. In the decades after, Price continued to spend time with her five children and grandchildren.

Into her 100s, her love of independence continued. When I asked Price’s eldest son, Jim, if he was her caretaker, he said:

“Oh no, she doesn’t need a caretaker.”

He went on to jokingly explain that he had to convince his mom that he

needed her help so that he had permission to move in with her.

She has an 8-month-old great-granddaughter, and she often worries about the world she will grow up in.

Price admits feeling overwhelmed by modern technology and changes in the world.

“Right now, sometimes, you feel like you’re living in a nightmare, you know, because so much is happening so fast and (the world has) changed

so fast that there’s nearly not time to absorb it.”

Although she has not yet used AI, Price says she’s learned to text and is active on Facebook to keep up with her family.

When her son Jimmy sends her text messages while he is out running errands, she reminds him, “Don’t worry about it, I can text you.”

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MILITARY

New SWIFT lanes at North Island to reduce traffic and save manpower

» Continued from Page 1

The SWIFT lanes operate through facial recognition technology. A camera at the front of the lane matches the driver's face with the Navy's Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) data, used to verify identity and manage access onto military installations. When it matches the driver to a valid base access card, it allows the vehicle to pass through without stopping and showing identification. Anyone with base access can enroll in this program, including children, contractors, cab-service drivers and caregivers. Although SWIFT lanes are supposed to be faster, the first legacy lane was found creating more traffic due to people not being registered in the new program. And, occasionally, the DBIDS software will crash rendering the faster lanes useless, Jacobi said. Still, the system is over 90% accurate in recognizing faces, the commanding officer said. "The system is very, very high fidelity and highly reliable." Currently, there will be no escort

privileges with the faster lanes. Typically, someone with a military ID card can escort anyone in their car onto base. With the SWIFT lanes, everyone in the vehicle must be enrolled in the program. The biometric system also will not work for motorcycle riders as the helmets will block facial recognition. "One of the big takeaways for the Navy is that we can save manpower," Jacobi explained. "A year ago, every morning at that main gate, we were putting 15 sailors out there to check IDs and maintain security." With this new program, Jacobi said it would only take three sailors to man the front gate. One at the legacy lane and two overseeing the four SWIFT lanes. Enrollment is at the North Island Visitor Center, and those wanting to register must do so in person. "We want to go all in and do as much as we can to develop this system to address the concerns that the members of Coronado have had for ... decades about traffic," Jacobi said.

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"We want to go all in and do as much as we can to develop this system to address the concerns that the members of Coronado have had for ... decades about traffic."

- Naval Base Coronado Commanding Officer Loren Jacobi

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey baseball cap with "RICATON" on it and a brown apron over a light-colored t-shirt, is smiling and holding a white plate of food. She is in a kitchen setting with various equipment and ingredients visible in the background. The text "the plot" is visible on her apron. A location pin icon and the text "The Plot Restaurant, Oceanside" are overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

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The logo for SDGE (San Diego Gas & Electric) features a stylized circular icon composed of three curved segments in yellow, green, and blue, followed by the letters "SDGE" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "SD" is blue and the "GE" is green, with a small trademark symbol (TM) to the upper right.

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A decorative graphic element located in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of three overlapping, curved, triangular shapes pointing towards the bottom right. The top shape is yellow, the middle one is green, and the bottom one is blue.

SPORTS

Evan Russo leads Coronado at New Balance River Park Invitational

Coronado News staff

The Coronado cross country team’s early season meet at the New Balance San Diego River Park Invitational was highlighted by a top-10 performance by sophomore Evan Russo, who finished with a personal best time.

Russo covered the three-mile varsity course in a time of 16:37.26 to finish eighth overall.

Sophomore Ayrton Reyes finished 47th in a personal-best, while junior Ziggy Raunig was close behind in 49th.

Diego Ibarra Cruz also had a strong performance with an under-20 minute finish for the first time, running a personal best of 19:40.03.

Junior Timothy Gilbert, senior Oliver Surdykowski and sophomore Jacob Ingold also completed the three-mile varsity race for Coronado, adding depth behind the Islanders’ front group.

Freshman Felix Scott represented Coronado in the Division 2 Frosh-Soph race, taking on the 2.55-mile.

On the girls’ side, senior Carly Devore led the Islanders with a 39th-place finish in 22:48.97. Senior Lily Humphrey followed in 46th at 23:11.86, giving Coronado two runners among the first 50 finishers in the Division 2 varsity race.

Teaghan Carpenito, Olivia Barker and Ava Schlomer also completed the varsity course for Coronado.

The Islanders will compete at the Grit & Grind XC Challenge on Sept. 26.



Evan Russo (bib 400) was Coronado High School's top boy finisher at the River Park Invite. Photo by George Green.



Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver KeAndre Lambert-Smith (84) cannot catch a pass against San Francisco 49ers defensive back Deommodore Lenoir during the first half of a preseason NFL football game, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026, in Inglewood, Calif. AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill.

Chargers lose KeAndre Lambert-Smith to injured reserve after Week 1 loss

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Chargers placed wide receiver KeAndre Lambert-Smith on injured reserve on Sept. 15. He played in two special teams snaps in the team’s season-opening 26-14 loss to Arizona.

The team signed Gary Jennings to the active roster and signed cornerback Isas Waxter to the practice

squad.

Jennings spent the end of training camp with the Bolts. He’s spent time with Baltimore, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Kansas City and Carolina since being drafted in the fourth round by Seattle in 2019.

Waxter was on the Chargers’ practice squad last year after initially signing as an undrafted free agent with Seattle.

Attention, Coronado Art Collectors and Art Enthusiasts



Pauline Johnson- Brown
Worldwide Art and Auction Advisor
New York, San Diego, Washington D.C.
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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.

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Richard Stachowicz
Ride All Day Solar Carts
Owner and Coronado Resident



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SPORTS

Ethan Salas becomes youngest catcher with a multi-homer game as Padres beat Rockies 9-3

Associated Press

Ethan Salas hit his first two home runs and became the youngest catcher in major league history with a multi-homer game as the San Diego Padres beat the Colorado Rockies 9-3 on Sept. 16.

San Diego moved 3 1/2 games ahead of Arizona for the last National League wild card when the Diamondbacks lost 4-3 to Miami at home.

Salas opened the second inning with a first-pitch shot off Rockies starter Mason Adams (0-1) that traveled 426 feet to center field, becoming the youngest catcher to homer in the majors since 19-year-old Iván Rodríguez in 1991.

Salas added a two-run drive that capped San Diego's four-run fifth and made it 8-1. At 20 years, 107 days, he broke the record held by Butch Wynegar, who was 20 years, 192 days when he hit two home runs for Minnesota on Sept. 22, 1976.

San Diego (83-69) won for the ninth time in 10 games and prevented the rival Los Angeles Dodgers from clinching the NL West title — at least for one night.

Robbie Ray (13-8) allowed three runs and three hits with six strikeouts in six innings for the Padres.

Samad Taylor and Ty France each drove in two runs for San Diego, and Jackson Merrill had three hits.

France hit a sacrifice fly that drove in Fernando Tatis Jr. Jake Cronenworth added an RBI single to give the Padres a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Kyle Karros hit a two-run homer in the sixth for the Rockies, and Adael Amador had an RBI groundout in the first.

Taylor singled leading off the fourth, stole second base and scored on a triple by Dustin Harris to make it 4-1. Taylor added a two-run single in the fifth.

Adams allowed six runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings.



San Diego Padres catcher Ethan Salas watches his two-run home run off Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Nick Frasso in the fifth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, in Denver. AP Photo/David Zalubowski.



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SPORTS

Jimmer Fredette decides to resume playing career, leaves USA Basketball 3×3 post

Associated Press

Jimmer Fredette has decided to resume his playing career, a decision that means he is stepping down as the managing director of USA Basketball’s men’s 3×3 program and will return to the court for the first time in more than two years.

Fredette and USA Basketball made the announcement on Sept. 15. The 37-year-old Fredette, who held the managing director job for about 18 months and intended to guide the program through at least the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, is expected to play this weekend in a FIBA 3×3 tournament in Phoenix.

Fredette said he’s all-in on his comeback, which would indicate that playing in those 2028 Olympics is in his plans.



FILE - Jimmer Fredette spins a basketball during practice for the USA Basketball 3x3 national team, Oct. 31, 2022, in Miami Lakes, Fla. AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File.

the U.S. by rule could not replace him on its four-man roster for the Paris Games, so the Americans had to play the rest of the Olympics with three players and no substitutes. The U.S. lost five of its seven games in Paris and finished seventh.

“I won’t lie to you and say that there’s not a little bit of a feeling of unfinished business,” Fredette said. “But I think generally it’s more of me thinking I can still play. There’s a lot of time between now and the Olympics. And so, that’s not even something that I’m actually focusing on at this point. It’s more of I just want to go back out into a tournament, one tournament, and just see how I play and see how I feel and then go to the

next tournament and see if I can get back to the form to where I was.

“There’s a lot of things that can happen before now and the Olympics. I’m not saying that me coming back is going to be a fairytale ending because you absolutely never know — and most of the time in sports, it’s not that way. This is more about me just being able to compete again because I feel like I can, and I feel like if I don’t at least give myself that opportunity then I’ll have some regrets.”

The U.S., as the Olympic host, is already qualified for the 2028 Games.

Fredette was the 2011 AP men’s college basketball player of the year after averaging a nation-leading 28.9 points per game as a senior at BYU,

became an NBA lottery pick, spent parts of six seasons in the NBA, played internationally in Europe and Asia and twice scored at least 70 points in games while in China.

He then got talked into trying 3×3, went to the Olympics, and now might be headed there again.

Fredette had the conversation with his wife, Whitney, a few months ago when he thought about playing. She told him that she had been waiting for such a talk — and that she always suspected he would go back.

“Once I got her approval and support, then I felt good about it,” Fredette said. “That’s when I felt like I can go all in on this again and try to be able to come back. And now, we’ll see what happens.”

He insists it was not an easy decision to leave his job at USA Basketball and didn’t want to put the national federation in a tough spot. USA Basketball officials ultimately assured him that if he wanted to play, he should.

“USA Basketball is grateful for the extensive time Jimmer gave to our 3×3 men’s program as Managing Director,” said Jay Demings, USA Basketball 3×3 national team director. “We are excited to have Jimmer return as a player on Team Miami, a team he is a founding member of, at the FIBA 3×3 Phoenix Challenger.”

Fredette’s spot in the federation office is not being filled immediately. USA Basketball’s board of directors has asked the federation’s 3×3 National Team Committee to “fill the role of identifying coaching staffs and players for major international competitions at the senior and junior levels through 2028.”



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