

The San Diego Hiion-Tibure

UNDAY

ISRAELI AIR, GROUND OFFENSIVE PRESSES ON AMID CALLS TO HALT WAR

Washington approves emergency sale of tank ammunition to Israel

BY WAFAA SHURAFA & BASSEM MROUE

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip

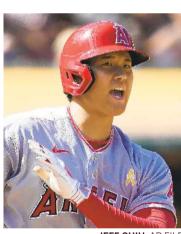
Israel's military pushed ahead with its punishing air and ground offensive in Gaza on Saturday, bolstered by a U.S. veto derailing U.N. Security Council efforts to end the war and word that an emergency sale of \$106 million worth of tank ammunition had been approved by Washington.

Unable to leave Gaza, a territory $25\,\mathrm{miles}$ long by about $7\,\mathrm{miles}$ wide, more than 2 million Palestinians faced more bombardment Saturday, even in areas that Israel had described as safe zones.

The sale of nearly 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition was an $nounced\,a\,day\,after\,the\,U.S.\,vetoed$ a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, a measure that had wide international support. The U.S. said Secretary of State Antony Blinken determined that "an emergency exists" in the national interest requiring the immediate sale, meaning it bypasses congressional review. Such a determination is

Meanwhile, a day after Israel confirmed it was rounding up Palestinian men for interrogation, some men released Saturday told The Associated Press they had been treated badly, providing the first accounts of the conditions from the detentions.

Osama Oula said Israeli troops SEE GAZA • A9



JEFF CHIU AP FILE

SPORTS

OHTANI SIGNS DEAL WITH L.A. DODGERS FOR \$700 MILLION

Shohei Ohtani has agreed to a \$700 million, 10-year deal to play for the Los Angeles Dodgers, he announced Saturday on Instagram. It is by far the richest contract in baseball history, eclipsing former teammate Mike Trout's \$426 million, 12-season deal. **D1**



Ian Paul, 4, of Colombia uses a tent rod to poke a fire at a makeshift encampment in the Jacumba Hot Springs area. Groups of migrants are crossing through Jacumé, then stopping at the encampments to wait for the Border Patrol to pick them up.

EFFORTS TO DETER MIGRANTS NOW MORE VISIBLE AT BORDER

Fence, more agents placed, but some say crossings will shift east

BY ALEXANDRA MENDOZA

Months into an ongoing increase in migrant border crossings — which have left hundreds of migrants on any given day unsheltered in San Diego County and strained local humanitarian resources — Mexican authorities have stepped up enforcement in an effort to deter passage into the United States.

Just south of the border wall in San Ysidro, Mexican officials have installed a chain-link fence reinforced with razor wire at the top and bottom that prevents entry to a section of the Tijuana River



Mexican officials recently installed a chain-link fence along the liscourage migrant crossing

channel, identified as one of the main points for migrants crossing into San Diego.

Behind the barrier, Mexican National Guard and immigration agents keep watch at all times.

Since its installation last month, the number of migrants crossing in that area has decreased. However, it has increased in others spots farther east, such as Jacumé in Tecate, just south of the border from Jacumba Hot Springs, according to Mexican officials. As a result, Mexican federal agents have increased their presence there, as well.

Immigration-rights advocates expressed concern over the new fence, arguing it forces people to seek more dangerous ways to reach the U.S. to seek asylum.

Mexican officials said the new SEE MIGRANTS • A8

MASSIVE NAVY BRIBERY CASE PROSECUTIONS IN PERIL

Leonard

Months after 4 officers' felony trial convictions dismissed, more likely

BY ALEX RIGGINS

Four defense attorneys submitted letters Friday to a San Diego federal judge suggesting the government has agreed to deals on lesser charges — and in one case will grant a complete dismissal of charges — with five military officers who previously pleaded guilty to more serious offenses in connection with the U.S. Navy's "Fat Leonard" bribery and corruption scandal.

The deals, if accurate as described in the letters, would seem

to represent further crumbling of the massive, high-profile prosecution, which has been marred in

recent years by prosecutorial misconduct and the escape of Leonard Glenn Francis, its key figure and the mastermind behind worst corruption scheme in the Navy's his-

tory. In September, the U.S. Attorney's Office admitted to "serious issues" with the case and prosecution

Francis errors involving evidence. In that same hearing, U.S. District Judge Janis Sammartino called the government's conduct "outrageous." Sammartino previously ruled a prosecutor committed "flagrant misconduct" by withholding in-

formation from defense lawyers.

Submitted Friday by attorneys for three other Navy officers who had already been sentenced,

> the letters — one of which was particularly scathing in its accusations against the U.S. Attorney's Office claim prosecutors have made a deal to dismiss all charges against former Navy Cmdr. Stephen Shedd, who previously pleaded guilty to two brib-

ery charges. The defense attorneys wrote that Shedd, one of the key witnesses last year in the case's only trial, perjured himself while on the stand. They also claim the perjury was committed at the behest of prosecutors who are now dismissing Shedd's charges in order to cover up the extent of their trial mis-

conduct. U.S. Attorney Tara McGrath, who took over the office in October, said in a statement: "As in every case, the United States will re-

spond in court — with civility.' Shedd's attorney declined to comment or confirm that a dismissal agreement had been

reached. The letters submitted Friday represented a remarkable step by their authors, all longtime defense attorneys who said they'd never before taken such drastic actions. "I have been involved in other cases in which I believed 'cooperators' provided false evidence or testimony, and my cli-

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Final Two Weeks! Must Close December 24

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SEE SCANDAL • A7

STATE AUDIT: BIG CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK LACKED RECORDS TO JUSTIFY MILLIONS SPENT

BY KRISTEN TAKETA

Inspire, a home school charter network that once served tens of thousands of students statewide, for years lacked records to justify its claims for state funding and tens of millions of dollars in transactions among its schools and related organizations, a new state audit found.

The Inspire network, which included two schools authorized out of San Diego County, also overreported student attendance and, as a result, collected about \$609,000 more in public money than it was supposed to, according to the audit, which scrutinized the network's activities from 2017 to 2020.

The audit's findings suggest that Inspire's lapses resulted in part from some of the same financial practices SEE **INSPIRE • A10**



The Pacific Coast Academy in Poway is one of two charter schools in the county linked to the Inspire charter school network.

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Art San Diego 2023

Event shows off international, national and local artists

BY U-T STAFF

Art San Diego 2023 celebrated its 15th annual event at The San Diego Convention Center last month. It was presented in partnership with UBS Financial Services.

The event, an art and design fair, showcased a range of international, national, and local artists.

One of the standouts of Art San Diego was the exclusive display of The

Lennon Art Collection, sanctioned and endorsed by The Estate of John Lennon. More 50 originals, lithographs and prints by Lennon were featured. The exhibition celebrated the artistry and philosophies of peace and love for which he was known.

The San Diego Art Prize honored visual artists Anya Gallaccio, Janelle Iglesias, Joe Yorty and Mely Barra-

If your organization has

held an event, you're welcome to email a high-resolution photo along with information on the event to society@sduniontribune.com.

Please clearly identify those in the photo, make them aware their image might appear in print and online, include the photographer's name for credit and be sure to include the who, what, where, when and why information on the



Guests enjoy mingling and perusing the art at Art San Diego.

REDWOOD ART GROUE

OPINION

FROM **B1**

They rejected Elliott's assertion that MTS auditor Toufic Tabshouri had a conflict by serving on the committee.

"In the organization's hierarchy, the internal auditor is three steps removed from the board," the opinion stated. "Applying the threepart test, we conclude that the position of MTS internal auditor is not a 'public of-

The opinion from the California Department of Justice was sought early this year, after Elliott publicly opposed a plan to reappoint finance professional Stewart Halpern to the council's audit committee.

The San Diego city attorney said the reappointment would represent "a significant clash of duties or loyalties" because he was also serving on the audit committee of the San Diego As-

sociation of Governments, the regional planning agency known as SANDAG. the regional She said either committee could be tasked with auditing the other, presenting a potential conflict of interest.

Elliott raised her concerns over Halpern's service on the city panel in April 2022, months after Halpern publicly criticized her response to a city audit of San Diego real estate practices.

In a statement last week, the city attorney praised the opinion of the state attor-

"We appreciate the thoughtful opinion issued recently by the Attorney General confirming the conflict of interest our office formally identified on April 22, 2022, concerning a member of the city Audit Committee." she wrote. "It is unfortunate that the conflict we flagged 20 months ago remains unaddressed today."

Elliott did not raise concerns when Halpern was nominated to the audit committee in 2019, although he was on the SANDAG audit committee at the time.

The issue is moot now because Halpern's service on the SANDAG audit board and a related oversight panel concluded at the end of October, said Guillermo "Gil" Cabrera, an attorney who represents Halpern.

Cabrera said Elliott should have sought the state legal opinion back in the spring of 2022 and that his client would have followed whatever advice the state office said.

"They decided not to take that path and instead tried to argue before the City Council that this was a conflict," he said by email. "At that time, the City Council referred it to the attorney general.'

Halpern was among several audit committee members to raise questions about the city attorney's response to a 2021 audit into city real estate practices.

The audit two years ago

had criticized the city for how it acquired properties such as the former Sempra Energy headquarters at 101 Ash St. Among other problems, City Auditor Andy Hanau said the former mayor and others misrepresented and withheld key facts from the City Council in seeking approval to acquire the property.

Elliott, whose office had signed off on many of the transactions, challenged the report findings as incomplete because auditors had not spoken to several key people. She also said it was not

up to auditors to examine the legal impacts of a proposed real estate deal.

"The city attorney's response is inaccurate, absurd and baseless," Halpern said at the time.

The July 2021 audit raised serious questions about the city's process for handling major property acquisitions like the former Energy head-Sempra quarters at 101 Ash St., a deal that cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars for a building that cannot be safely occupied.

In her response to the attorney general's legal opinion, Elliott referenced the Ash Street transaction and the city's former volunteer real estate adviser Jason Hughes, who collected millions of dollars in fees after recommending the deal to then-Mayor Faulconer.

"An unreported conflict of interest by a volunteer cost city taxpayers millions of dollars in the acquisition of the 101 Ash St. property,' she wrote. "Failing to address this and other existing ethical loopholes is unacceptable.'

Hughes pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor conflict-ofinterest charge earlier this year and received a \$400 fine and one year of summary

repay the city \$9.4 million in Cabrera said his client's

probation. He also agreed to

ill-gotten profits.

longstanding volunteer work for the city was wholly unrelated to the Ash Street

"All of the purported conflicts that Mr. Halpern had were disclosed at the time of his application" to the city audit committee, he said. "Also, Mr. Halpern had nothing to do with 101 Ash Street.'

Elliott said the attorney general's legal opinion showed that the city's practices in filling positions on volunteer boards needs to be reformed, and she is drafting a plan to change the system.

"We plan to bring ethics reform legislation to the council next year with the goal of drastically reducing the possibility that a city volunteer has a conflict of interest impacting their service," she said.

The elected San Diego city attorney is limited to two terms. Elliott will be termed out of office late next year.

jeff.mcdonald@sduniontribune.com

_ife Tributes

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Everlasting memories of loved ones

Pauline Robinson

March 16, 1921 - November 10, 2023

CARLSBAD, CA — Pauline was born and raised in Pasadena where she attended kindergarten through the Sawyer School of Business and met the love of her life, Robert "Red" Robinson. They married January 31, 1942 and shared a lifetime of adventures until Rec passing at age 90, nine days before their 70th wedding anniversary.

In 1948 the couple moved to Carlsbad where they happily raised their two daughters and lived in eight different homes - three of which they designed and built. In 1967 Pauline and Red purchased a beautiful beach-front property which would prove to be their most beloved home and a family treasure for over 50 years.

Pauline and Red traveled extensively but their hearts remained in Carlsbad, where they were an active part of the community and growing city. Red was a successful businessman and Pauline was a generous and gracious partner and homemaker. She was a Charter and Lifetime Member of the Pink Lady Auxiliary at Oceanside Hospital, the Jr. Women's Club of Carlsbad, Friends of the Library and the



Country Friends of Rancho Santa Fe. Pauline is perhaps best described by the Henri Frederic Ariel poem she always carried with her: "Life is short and we never have enough time for gladdening the hearts of those who travel the way with us. Oh, be swift

to love! Make haste to be

kind."

Her memory will be cherished by daughters Karen Kelly and Tina Trejo, sons-in-law Vinny Di Figlia and Conrad Trejo, six devoted grandchildren and their spouses, eight great-grandchildren and countless others whose lives she touched through 102 years of love and kindness.

No formal services are planned.

Please sign the Guest Book online

Christine Elizabeth Bruington

February 19, 1946 - November 3, 2023

CARDIFF BY THE SEA Christine passed peacefully, surrounded by family, after a valiant fight with cancer. Born in Pasadena, she was nurtured by the California sun. Later, as a student at San Marino High School, in her senior year she cut class every Wednesday and still graduated.

She proved herself at San Diego State University and earned a degree in Sociology, while keeping it cool at Alpha Ki Omega sorority. It was at SDSU where she began a 56-year journey with her husband Neil, and her true love Fleetwood Mac. Never to be outdone, she later earned a master's degree in educational technology from her alma mater.

And journey they did, with their two amazing children, Ryan and Dana, they traveled the world. Christine's devotion to her family included time for racket sports and hiking. The occasional house exchange opened her eyes to different countries and cultures.

school educator, Christine was a tireless and



enthusiastic teacher. Cardiff School and Solana **Beach School Districts** were lucky to have her, and they knew it. For her creativity in pedagogy, she was awarded teacher of the year.

Christine is survived by two of her three sisters, her husband, and her two children. A Celebration of Life will be held at Cardiff Elementary School. January 27th, 2024, from 12 to 3 PM.

The Cardiff Elementary School Library will accept donations in memorial. **Cardiff Elementary** Library, 1888 Montgomery Ave., Cardiff by the Sea, CA, 92007.

Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

Joseph Mawhinney, M.D.

November 22, 1941 - November 14, 2023



SAN DIEGO, CA — Joe passed away Nov. 14, with his wife, Terri, by his side. Mass & celebration of life reception will be on Fri December 15, 10a.m. at St. Brigid Catholic Church, 4735 Cass Street 92109. Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

Carole B. McDonald August 5, 1931 - December 3, 2023



SAN DIEGO, CA -Faith, family and friends were near and dear to Carole's heart. Memorial service: 12/15, 11a.m., St. Catherine Laboure, 4124 Mount Abraham Ave., SD. Refreshments will follow. Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

DEATH NOTICES

Damineni, Hari Haranath Ravi K 05/22/1977 - 12/05/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com

Del Rosario, Mariano Librojo 04/14/1939 - 12/01/2023

01/22/1998 - 12/03/2023 www.californiacremation.com

La Vista Mortuary & Crematory Ganino, Patricia Carol

Alhiser-Comer Mortuary Garcia, Marie Eleanor

11/30/1956 - 11/25/2023 www.Glenabbeysandiego.com Hoffman, Kristofer Richard

Kimbell, Michael 09/17/1968 - 12/03/2023

www.californiacremation.com Kinsey, Pamela Fay 12/24/1943 - 11/12/2023

Lashelle, Kirk Wellington 05/04/1947 - 11/28/2023

Mach, Te 05/28/1943 - 11/30/2023

www.EastCountyMortuary.com Magbutay, Maria

06/05/1962 - 11/30/2023

11/03/1939 - 12/03/2023

www.californiacremation.com Munday , Lillian

DEATH NOTICES

Padilla, Maria Luisa 06/06/1922 - 11/30/2023 glenabbeysandiego.com

Rasch, Angustia 08/01/1972 - 12/02/2023 www.eastcountymortuary.com

Romayha, Raied Nori 11/15/1957 - 12/06/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com

Ruffin, Ebony 05/23/1994 - 11/09/2023 www.californiacremation.com

Salah, Margaret Lisa 09/25/1943 - 12/04/2023 www.featheringillmortuary.com

Sanders, Jack Robert 04/21/1943 - 11/21/2023 Cortez Cremations (619)240-7620

Shabo, Istafo K. 04/05/1926 - 12/02/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com Shaw, Geraldine

04/19/1934 - 12/05/2023 www.californiacremation.com Sittig, Vernon

09/23/1929 - 12/04/2023 www.californiacremation.com Tobin, Joseph L.

08/02/1929 - 12/02/2023 Featheringill Mortuary .com Weckback, Jack W

11/02/1946 - 11/29/2023 www.eastcountymortuary.com

Zayoon, Najiba 07/01/1926 - 12/02/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com

CEMETERY LOTS Greenwood Memorial

Park 3 plots. Located behind

Salli Lynn Chapel in Garden of Faith. #520-sp. 2, #521 sp. 1&2. Value: \$15K each. Asking \$7K each. Contact Mrs. Moss. 209-984-6423

05/03/1929 - 12/01/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com

Geraldine R. 'Gerry' Swales

April 9, 1936 - November 3, 2023



EL CAJON, CA -A loving wife and a wonderful person, Gerry will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She and husband Jerry were married 69 years. Rest in peace Gerry.

Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

Mary Lee Saurwein August 3, 1950 - November 28, 2023



SAN DIEGO, CA — A service for Mary will be held on December 15. Please visit California **Funeral Alternatives** website - www.cafuneralt. com for full info, obituary and life tribute video. Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

A lifelong elementary

Joy Peterson DEATH NOTICES July 1935 - November 2023 Asmar, Naeim 01/07/1932 - 12/05/2023



BONITA — Joy, 88, a subscriber to this newspaper since 1969, would be delighted to see her name in print — and aghast at what it cost. Her life story is at Legacy.com Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

DEATH NOTICES

Alexander, Megan Nicole 11/15/1985 - 11/06/2023 www.featheringillmortuary.com

www.EastCountyMortuary.com

Barry Jr, Joel 04/12/1967 - 11/26/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com Barry Jr, Joel 04/12/1967 - 11/26/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com Baulknight, Charles 07/08/1956 - 11/29/2023 Cortez Cremations (619)240-7620 Cabral , Felicidad Inocencio 02/14/1929 - 11/13/2023 sandiegoglenabbey.com

09/09/1934 - 11/30/2023 **Goodbody Mortuary** Chance, Carlene Golda 02/15/1951 - 12/04/2023 Glen Abbey Bonita, CA

Castiglione, Andrew Joseph

Coleman, Stacey 11/12/1974 - 12/03/2023 www.californiacremation.com Corn, Raymond 07/29/1948 - 11/30/2023

www.californiacremation.com

Cuyler, Daniel

10/25/1959 - 11/30/2023 www.californiacremation.com Dakoo, Raheel Toma Gorgees 07/01/1943 - 12/04/2023 www.EastCountyMortuary.com

glenabbeysandiego.com Evans III, JD

Fisher, Sergio Gonzalez 02/01/1937 - 12/02/2023

05/17/1965 - 12/06/2023

12/03/1992 - 11/23/2023 www.featheringillmortuary.com

In the Care of Glen Abbey, Bonita

Cortez Cremations (619)240-7620

www.californiacremation.com Miller, Alvin

12/21/1943 - 12/02/2023 Alhiser-Comer Mortuary

Nguyen, Nhu-Nguyen