



The San Diego Union-Tribune

\$1.85
PLUS TAX

sandiegouniontribune.com

THURSDAY • JANUARY 4, 2024



K.C. ALFRED U-T

WINTRY REFLECTION

A man captures an image of San Diego Bay near the Star of India Wednesday after a morning rain shower. A high surf advisory remains in effect along the coast until 10 tonight and cool weather is expected through the weekend.

SCORES KILLED IN ATTACK AT IRAN MEMORIAL

Deadly blasts spark confusion, speculation over responsibility

BY VIVIAN YEE & FARNAZ FASSIHI

A pair of explosions on Wednesday at a memorial for Iran's former top general, Qassem Soleimani, killed at least 103 people and wounded an additional 211, according to Iranian officials, sowing fear in a country where domestic unrest and the prospect of a spiraling regional war have left many on edge.

Iranian officials told state media that a pair of bombs had been placed in bags along the road toward a cemetery in the city of Kerman, and exploded as a huge procession of people made their way there to commemorate the fourth anniversary of Soleimani's death. The architect of the axis of regional militias backed by Iran's hard-line government, he was killed in an American drone strike.

The attack in Iran on Wednesday led to finger-pointing, confusion and speculation after no group took responsibility.

Many Iranians, already disenchanted by their leaders, were outraged that the authorities had failed to provide adequate security for an event attended by thousands of people. Officials in the government blamed the two countries Tehran has long cast as arch-enemies, Israel and the United States. International intelligence experts and analysts said the attack bore the hallmarks of terrorist groups, not of Israel.

Iranian officials said the roadside bombs appeared to have been detonated via remote control.

"I heard the explosion 25 meters away from me," a male witness to the bombing told the local Rah-e-Arman-e-Kerman News Agency. "On the ground, there were all women and children like withered flowers."

Videos posted on social media and verified by The New York Times show people screaming and

SEE IRAN • A6

TRUMP ASKS COURT TO KEEP HIM ON COLO. BALLOT

Petition follows ruling that former president is not eligible to run

BY ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday to keep him on the primary ballot in Colorado, appealing an explosive ruling from the state Supreme Court declaring him ineligible based on his efforts to overturn the 2020 election that culminated in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

That ruling, Trump's lawyers wrote, marked "the first time in the history of the United States that the judiciary has prevented voters from casting ballots for the leading major-party presidential candidate."

Trump's appeal adds to the growing pressure on the U.S. Supreme Court to act, given the number of challenges to Trump's eligibility and the need for a nationwide resolution of the question as the primaries approach.

"The issues presented in this petition are of exceptional importance and urgently require this court's prompt resolution," Trump's lawyers wrote.

Trump's petition followed a similar one last week from the Colorado Republican Party. The six voters who had prevailed in the Colorado Supreme Court filed a motion urging the justices to put the case on an exceptionally fast track.

The U.S. Supreme Court has not yet ruled on requests to expedite its consideration of the case. It is likely to act on them in the coming days.

The top Republican Senate campaign group filed a brief Wednesday in support of Trump's appeal of the Colorado ruling.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee argued in its

amicus brief that the Colorado Supreme Court had overstepped its jurisdiction with its decision, which it argued threatened to "unleash electoral chaos" on the 2024 presidential race.

"So even if the Colorado Supreme Court were correct that President Trump cannot take office on Inauguration Day, that court had no basis to hold that he cannot run for office," the committee said in its court filing.

The Colorado case is one of several involving or affecting Trump on the Supreme Court's docket or on the horizon. After an appeals court rules on whether he has ab-

SEE BALLOT • A7

REPUBLICANS IN U.S. HOUSE TURN UP HEAT FOR DEAL ON IMMIGRATION

BY KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

WASHINGTON

House Republicans threatened Wednesday to starve the entire federal government of funding if President Joe Biden and Democrats fail to institute a crackdown at the U.S.-Mexico border to choke off the flow of migrants streaming into the country.

The warning came as Speaker Mike Johnson led a visit by more than 60 House Republicans to Eagle Pass, Texas, to raise pressure on Biden and Democrats to agree to strict new immigration policies.

"No more money for this bureaucracy of his government until



ERIC GAY AP

House Speaker Mike Johnson attacked President Joe Biden for an increase in migrant crossings during a visit to Texas.

you've brought this border under control," said Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz. "Shut the border down or shut the government down."

In a news conference Wednesday, Johnson attacked Biden for a surge in migrant crossings, de-

manding that he clamp down by deporting people who try to enter the country illegally and reinstitute a Trump-era policy of keeping migrants in Mexico until their day in immigration court.

SEE BORDER • A5

LOCAL MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS SEE UPSIDE TO MIGRANT BENEFITS

Those ages 26-49 now eligible for coverage even if they're undocumented

BY PAUL SISSON

San Diego health systems see financial and operational benefits in the state's latest expansion of Medi-Cal benefits for undocumented immigrants.

The change, which took effect on Monday, allows those ages 26 to 49 to enroll in the state's health insurance system of last resort regardless of immigration status. The move by Gov. Gavin Newsom fills the remaining age gap in the coverage picture. In 2020, California expanded Medi-Cal access to undocumented immigrants age 26 and younger and took the same step in 2022 for those age 50 and older.

Political support for these moves has been largely divided along party lines, with Democrats generally supporting the governor and Republicans often saying the cash could be better spent on American citizens. San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond, for example, said in a statement released Tuesday that he would halt the expansion.

"Our local resources are meant to address our community's needs, not fund services for those who have just entered our country," Desmond said. "If the Federal government chooses to allow migrants into our country, they should foot the bill. Not our residents."

Local medical providers, however, have a more pragmatic view.

In an email, Chris Van Gorder, chief executive officer of Scripps Health, noted that hospitals and

SEE MEDI-CAL • A5

DIGITAL ACTIVATION

Your U-T print subscription gives you unlimited access to our local coverage and comes with special benefits available once you activate your digital account online. Scan this code or follow the directions found on A2.



U-T INDEX

Business	A9	Dear Abby	B9	Lottery	A4	Stocks	A10
Comics	B7	Editorial	B3	Obituaries	B4	Television	A8
Crossword	B9	Horoscope	B9	Scores	D5	Weather	A12



"A triumph! A beautifully crafted exploration of the human experience that leaves a lasting impact on its audience."

— Chicago Splash Magazine

Intimate Apparel

by Lynn Nottage

NORTH COAST
REP

JAN 10-FEB 4 858-481-1055 | NORTHCOASTREP.ORG

