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Thursday, April 09-April 15, 2026

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## Newsom touts Bloomberg News endorsement of economic policies

By Joe Taglieri  
[joet@beaconmedianews.com](mailto:joet@beaconmedianews.com)



Gov. Gavin Newsom. | Photo courtesy of California Governor/Facebook

Armed with a glowing column by a leading publication in the financial press that praised California's economic performance amid tenuous times at the national and global levels, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday fired back at critics behind headlines tracking the state's failings on a number of pressing issues.

Wildfires, droughts, floods, mass transportation, aging roads, education, homelessness, unaffordable housing, widening inequality and poverty — plus the exodus of billionaires, corporate headquarters and longtime residents — top the list of oft-repeated critiques against the termed-out governor who is considering

a run for the U.S. presidency in 2028.

According to the governor's office, "Under the Newsom administration, the California economy has continued to dominate, despite Trump's failed economic policies and sustained political attacks by Murdoch's right-wing media machine against the Golden State."

As Matthew Winkler, Bloomberg News editor in chief emeritus, recently wrote: "Of all the prevailing media narratives around Gavin Newsom, the one that is most conspicuous by its absence is how under its two-term governor California became the top performing economy not just among its 49 siblings but also any

developed nation. No wonder Elon Musk quietly sought Newsom's help when the world's richest man sought to move a bunch of Tesla Inc. engineers back to the state after relocating them to Texas."

Under the headline "Who Knew 'Slick' Gavin Newsom Was Such an Economic Maestro?" Winkler expounds on a long list of economic accomplishments since the governor's election in 2019, noting that California with population of 39 million people just supplanted Japan with 123 million as the world's fourth-largest economy.

The Bloomberg column reported that after Newsom

took office, the state's gross domestic product surged 40% to more than \$4 trillion, accounting for more than 14% of U.S. output. This outpaced major economies including China, which expanded 32%, and Germany's 16% GDP growth.

The Trump administration questioned Bloomberg's conclusions, noting the recent exodus of people and businesses from the state.

"If California's economy was doing so well under Gavin Newsom's watch, millions of Californians would not have fled to GOP-led states like Texas and Florida over the past 10 years," White House spokesman Kush Desai said

See Economic policies Page 10

## Artemis II moon mission crew with pilot from SoCal sets record

By Joe Taglieri  
[joet@beaconmedianews.com](mailto:joet@beaconmedianews.com)



NASA astronaut Victor J. Glover Jr. | Photo courtesy of NASA

The Artemis II mission and its crew with a Southern California native at the helm were on their way back home on Tuesday after flying around the far side of the moon and the farthest distance from Earth that humans have ever traveled.

The spaceflight surpassed Apollo 13's previous distance record set in 1970 at 248,655 miles. Artemis II set the record during its lunar flyby Monday, according to NASA. At its farthest point, the astronauts inside the Orion spacecraft will have traveled 252,756 miles, before looping back toward Earth, establishing the new record for human spaceflight.

The lunar loop took six hours and was the highlight of NASA's first mission to the moon since the Apollo era. Artemis II sent three Americans and a Canadian into lunar orbit as a step

toward a planned landing near the moon's south pole within two years.

The spacecraft is more than halfway done with its mission and was on a return trajectory toward Earth, with splashdown expected Friday off San Diego, NASA reported.

The mission launched Wednesday from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Artemis II astronaut Victor Glover was born in Pomona, went to Ontario High School and graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Glover is the pilot of the Orion spacecraft and is the first person of color on a lunar-mission crew.

Glover spent more than five months aboard the International Space Station in 2020-21, traveling there aboard SpaceX's first full crew rotation flight by a U.S. commercial spacecraft. That work made him the first Black

See Artemis II Page 31

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The Corona News Press has been adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in court case number R1C 172524 City of Corona, County of Riverside, State of California.



# Ontario warehouse fire contained, no injuries reported

By City News Service

A mega warehouse was destroyed Tuesday in a possible arson fire on the south end of Ontario, where multiple Riverside County Fire Department engines were sent to assist the Ontario Fire Department in battling the blaze for almost seven hours.

The non-injury fire was reported shortly before 1 a.m. Tuesday at the Kimberly Clark Warehouse in the 9500 block of Merrill Avenue, near South Hellman Avenue, just north of the boundary separating Ontario and Eastvale.

Dozens of engine crews and truck companies from the Ontario Fire Department and surrounding agencies that responded to a mutual aid call, including the Riverside County Fire Department, were sent to the location. Firefighters encountered flames raging throughout the 1-million-

square-foot warehouse, according to the OFD.

The agency's Deputy Fire Chief Mike Widdell told reporters that a man had been taken into custody on suspicion of igniting the inferno, but no other details were immediately available.

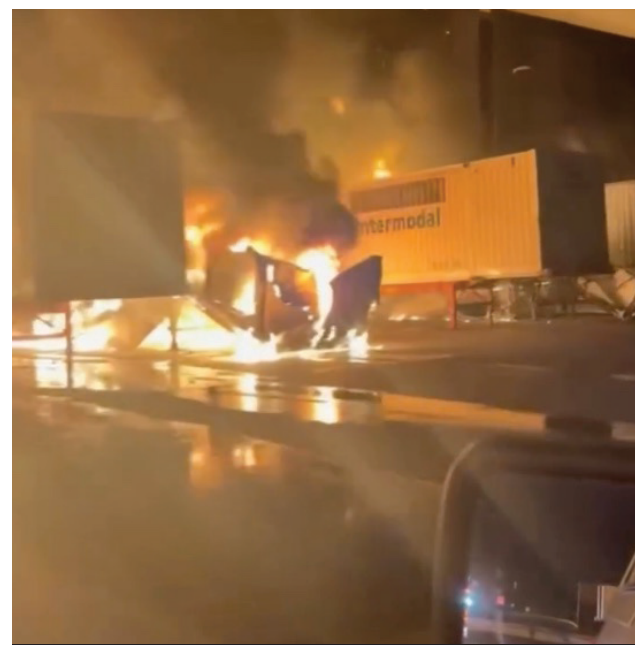
Images published via the fire department's social media pages showed flames tearing through the warehouse, as well as spilling over into cargo bays, burning trailers unhitched from trucks.

Widdell said nearly 200 firefighters worked to contain the blaze at its peak.

No other properties surrounding the 22-acre site were damaged.

At 7:45 a.m., the fire was declared contained, and most Riverside County Fire Department personnel departed.

Some street closures



A truck trailer burns during the fire at the Kimberly Clark Warehouse in Ontario. | Photo courtesy of the Ontario Fire Department/Facebook

remained in effect around the warehouse.

Officials advised area residents to remain indoors to avoid exposure to heavy drift smoke. Crews were expected to continue mopping up well into the overnight hours Tuesday.

# City of Riverside proposed 2026-28 budget to be reviewed this week

By City News Service

The city of Riverside's proposed 2026-2028 budget, including millions of dollars in proposed spending cuts designed to offset drops in revenue, will be reviewed next week by the city's Budget Engagement Commission.

The commission is scheduled to meet Thursday. The City Council is scheduled to consider the budget on May 19, with budget approval scheduled for June 23.

City officials said the proposed budget includes a series of cost-cutting measures in response to slowing revenue growth — including property taxes, sales taxes, utility users' taxes, franchise fees and other sources of revenue.

"This budget represents hundreds of hours of work by city staff and reflects important input from our community, both in person and through an online

survey," City Manager Mike Futrell said in a statement. "City finances remain strong, and the measures proposed in this budget will keep them that way."

General Fund revenues are projected to decrease by \$8.1 million in 2026-27 and \$9.1 million in 2027-28. At the same time, expenditures are projected to increase by \$19 million in 2026-27 and \$25 million in 2027-28, according to the city.

"The current outlook marks a reversal from several years of robust revenue growth from both one-time and ongoing revenue sources. Revenue growth has slowed; expenses continue to escalate. To respond, staff has recommended total cost reductions of \$17.95 million in 2026/27 and \$22.27 million in 2027/28 across the General Fund and Measure Z, all while mitigating service interruptions,"



| Photo courtesy of Needpix.com

city officials announced. City officials stressed that the city remains in a strong overall financial position with record reserves.

"Reserves are largely untouched to safeguard against a potentially more severe economic downturn, while maintaining flexibility to adjust spending in future years should revenue exceed current projections," according to the city. More detailed information on the proposed budget and spending cuts can be found on the Budget Engagement Commission agenda at [riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx](http://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx).

# Man Found Guilty of Moreno Valley Rage Killing in Front of Kids

By City News Service

A Moreno Valley man who fatally shot his ex-girlfriend's new lover — in front of their children — stemming from extreme jealousy over the pair's relationship was convicted of first-degree murder and other charges after only one day of jury deliberations.

Late Monday afternoon, the Riverside jury weighing the fate of Jerome Roy Jackson, 37, convicted him of the 2022 slaying of 38-year-old Jason Williams of Riverside. Along with murder, Jackson was found guilty of two counts of child endangerment and sentence-enhancing gun and great bodily injury allegations.

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Matthew Perantoni scheduled a sentencing hearing for June 26 at the Riverside Hall of Justice. Jackson is expected to receive a minimum of 50 years to life in state prison.

He's being held without bail at the Robert Presley Jail.

According to a trial brief filed by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, the defendant and Williams were one-time friends, but a conflict developed in 2021 when Jackson and his girlfriend, Corina Aguirre, split up, and he moved out of their two-story house on Tea Rose Lane, where he and Aguirre had been raising their four children.

Jackson and Aguirre had been a couple for 15 years, and after he left the house, "he repeatedly told her that he would hurt any man she dated after him," the brief stated.

In the early afternoon of Aug. 6, 2022, Jackson drove with his then-girlfriend, 48-year-old Danielle Ryan Rainey of Riverside, to the Tea Rose Lane neighborhood, parking about a block away on Snapdragon Lane.

Jackson had armed himself with a .380 semi-automatic pistol and a 9mm handgun. The brief said he contacted his eldest daughter, identified only as "K.J.," and directed her to

send him a message when the victim arrived to meet Aguirre.

When Williams pulled up in his Mercedes E350, K.J. did as instructed, at which point Jackson told Rainey to drive her Chevrolet Cruz over to Aguirre's house while he loaded his two pistols, prosecutors said.

After she parked, he got out of the car and "made contact with Williams in the driveway, where they began to argue," according to the brief.

"This resulted in a brief shoving match (until) Williams reached out his hand to shake the defendant's, seemingly to bury the hatchet," the narrative said. "The defendant took a few steps backwards, pulled out a gun and began firing."

The victim was struck by multiple rounds through both shoulders, lower back, right hip, right arm and right-side rib cage, court papers said.

Jackson emptied the .380, pausing only to walk over to the Chevy to obtain



Photo courtesy of Birkholz Law

the 9 mm. Aguirre, K.J. and one of the other children ran into the driveway, screaming at Jackson to stop his attack, prosecutors said.

Despite the severity of his wounds, Williams stumbled to his Mercedes and tried to enter it when the defendant walked over and aimed at the man's head, shooting him through the temple, killing the victim instantly, according to the prosecution.

Witnesses called 911, as did Jackson, who conveyed

to dispatchers that Williams had initiated the confrontation by trying to throw a punch, according to the brief.

During questioning by detectives, the defendant's story changed several times, until he ultimately commented that Williams had "pulled a gun and fired, bro," the brief said.

No firearm was found in the victim's possession. Statements from Aguirre and the children contradicted the defendant's version of what happened, along

with security surveillance videos captured via cameras attached to surrounding houses.

Rainey was originally charged with being an accessory after the fact. However, following a February 2024 preliminary hearing, the allegation against her was dismissed.

Court records indicated Jackson had a prior misdemeanor conviction for reckless driving, but no documented felonies.

# Average Riverside County gas price rises for 47th time in 48 days

By City News Service

The average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline in Riverside County rose to its highest amount since Oct. 6, 2023, Tuesday, increasing six-tenths of a cent to \$5.88.

The average price has increased 47 of the past 48 days, rising \$1.409, including six-tenths of a cent on Monday, according to figures from the AAA and Oil Price Information Service. It rose 42 consecutive days, dropped six-tenths of a cent on April 2 and resumed increasing the next day.

The average price is 3.3 cents more than one week ago, 81.7 cents higher than one month ago and \$1.064 greater than one year ago. It is 49.3 cents less than the

record \$6.373 set on Oct. 5, 2022.

Prices were rising slightly in line with seasonal norms before the joint U.S./Israel attack on Iran on Feb. 28 sent oil prices higher and drastically accelerated increases at the gas pump.

The national average price rose to its highest amount since Aug. 3, 2022, increasing 2.1 cents to \$4.14. It has risen 10 consecutive days, increasing 16.4 cents, including nine-tenths of a cent on Monday.

The national average price is 12.2 cents more than one week ago, 72.7 cents higher than one month ago and 88.1 cents greater than one year ago. It is 87.6 cents less than the record \$5.016

set on June 14, 2022.

"Gasoline prices are poised for another jolt this week, with many inland states -- including the Plains, Great Lakes, and parts of the Rockies -- likely to see sharp increases as last week's surge in wholesale costs has yet to be fully passed through to consumers," Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, which provides real-time gas price information from more than 150,000 stations, said in a statement released Monday.

"In addition, some price-cycling markets could also see another round of increases. As a result, the national average could rise by double digits, potentially reaching the \$4.20 to \$4.35 per gallon



Photo by GG/Unsplash

range in the days ahead.

"Recent escalations between the U.S. and Iran have further intensified concerns about prolonged

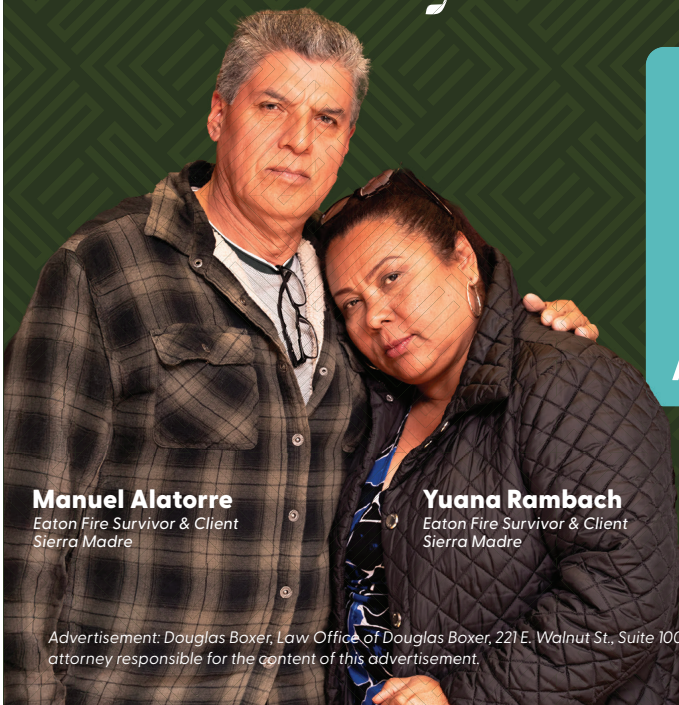
disruptions to global oil flows, keeping markets on edge. At this point, the trajectory of fuel prices remains highly uncertain and is largely

contingent on the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Until that occurs, the risk of further increases remains firmly in place."

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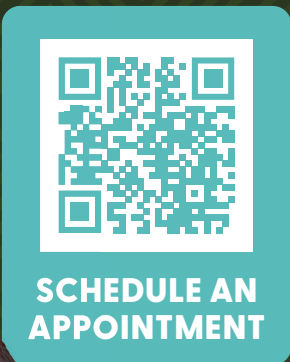
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## Weekend 1 set times unveiled for Coachella music fest

By City News Service



| Photo courtesy of Coachella/Facebook

Organizers have unveiled the set times for the first weekend of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which begins Friday in Indio.

Weekend one will take place Friday through Sunday at the Empire Polo Club, located at 81-800 51st Ave., with gates set to open at 1 p.m.

This weekend's headliners are Sabrina Carpenter (Friday), Justin Bieber (Saturday) and Karol G (Sunday). Carpenter will perform from 9:05 to 10:35 p.m., Bieber at 11:25 p.m. and Karol G at 9:55 p.m. — all on the Coachella Stage.

The full schedule can be found on the festival website, [coachella.com/schedule](http://coachella.com/schedule).

Friday's performers will include Teddy Swims, Dijon, Hot Mulligan, Blood Orange, Sexy Red, Hugel, Max Styler and others.

Saturday's performances will include The Strokes, Giveon, David Byrne, Morat, Jack White, Boys Noize and David Guetta.

The last day of Weekend One will include Young Thug, Foster The People, Iggy Pop, Suicidal Tendencies, Bunt, WhoMadeWho and Fatboy Slim.

Organizers also shared

on social media that this year's festival will include the "Bunker Debut of Radiohead Motion Picture House Kid A Mnesia," an exhibit of sketches, paintings, collages, audio recordings, handwritten notes and a 75-minute large-format film made from thousands of fragments created by Radiohead lead singer Thom Yorke and English artist Stanley Donwood.

Radiohead is not scheduled to perform at the festival.

The festival will conclude the weekend of April 17-19. More information can be found at [coachella.com](http://coachella.com).

## Annual Coachella Valley Local Government Vendor Fair set for next week

By City News Service

Local business owners interested in learning about getting started doing business with local governments and public agencies were encouraged to attend the third annual Coachella Valley Local Government Vendor Fair next week in Palm Springs.

"Local businesses are the backbone of the Coachella Valley, and they deserve a clear path to compete for government contracts," Palm Springs Mayor Naomi Soto said in a statement. "This Vendor Fair connect our business community directly with public agencies, creating opportunities that strengthen local businesses and keep

taxpayer dollars working in our region," Soto added.

The free event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon April 15 at the Convention Center, 277 N. Avenida Caballeros.

The fair will feature opening remarks followed by three presentations.

Participating cities and agencies include Cathedral City, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Desert Hot Springs, Rancho Mirage, Indio, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, College of the Desert, the Mission Springs Water District and the Riverside

Office of Economic Development.

City officials said the fair aims to raise local business awareness of "what we do and how to do business with these public agencies, which can often be an intimidating and complicated process."

Officials recommend that any businesses that provide the following services attend the event: general contracting, landscaping, plumbing, painting, engineering, electrical, janitorial services, security services, printing, graphic design and web development.

Tickets can be found at [eventbrite.com/e/coachella-valley-local-government-vendor-fair-tickets-1980012568894](http://eventbrite.com/e/coachella-valley-local-government-vendor-fair-tickets-1980012568894).

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# Around town: Taste of La Salle

By Staff

Since its inception in 2012, Taste of La Salle, a biennial food and beverage tasting event, has raised over \$90,000 for the Alumni Scholarship Fund, which benefits La Salle College Preparatory incoming freshmen and graduating seniors in need, especially those recently affected by the Eaton

Fire. This is the only fundraising opportunity that benefits this fund that extends the Alumni Association's mission to provide resources and opportunities for current students and future alumni. *Photos courtesy of La Salle Alumni Association*



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## Free pet adoptions continue this month for 'Barkchella'

By City News Service

As part of a co-celebration of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, the Riverside County Department of Animal Services is hosting "Barkchella," offering sheltered dogs and cats at low- or no-cost between now and April 19.

"This is a great opportunity to add a loving companion to your family," county Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez said. "The Barkchella lineup is full of amazing dogs and cats of all ages, sizes and breeds. I'm looking forward to RivCo pets taking center stage."

Microchipping, vaccination, spay and neuter fees will be waived through April 19 at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms; as well as the Blythe Animal Shelter, 245 S. Carlton Ave.; the Western Riverside County Animal Shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley; and the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus, 581 S. Grand Ave.

The shelters' hours of operation are generally 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., though the



Family adopts a new pet. | Photo courtesy of Riverside County Animal Services/Facebook

Blythe shelter's doors shut at 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The music fest runs both the weekend of April 10-12 and April 17-19 at the Indio Fairgrounds.

There are almost 1,100 canines and felines -- mostly dogs -- packed into the county's shelters, with virtually no space to spare as capacity constraints are pushed to the limit, according to the Department of Animal Services.

Along with "Barkchella," the agency is pressing

ahead with life flights, transporting dogs to shelters in other states for adoption, with the assistance of nonprofit organizations.

Although most adoption fees are waived for county residents, the purchase of dog licenses are still required. The fees vary, depending on where an adopter resides within the county, ranging from \$12 to \$25 for altered pets.

Additional information is available at [rcdas.org/](http://rcdas.org/).

## Riverside invites residents to participate in America 250 Art Poster Project

By City News Service



This painting by John Turnbull depicts the nation's founders sign the declaration of Independence July 4, 1776. | Photo courtesy of Jean Beaufort/PublicDomainPictures.net (CCO)

Riverside will hold an art project to promote the city, and artists of all ages and skill levels were encouraged Friday to participate.

The America 250 City Art Poster Project is a nationwide initiative led by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Entries are due by April 26 and should reflect Riverside's

unique identity, history and vision for the future, according to organizers.

Riverside's selected poster will be submitted as the city's official entry and showcased at national events hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors 94th annual meeting in Long Beach, in Los Angeles County. Selected works will also be featured in national print and digital publications.

"The arts have always played an important role in telling the story of who we are as a community," Mayor

Patricia Lock Dawson said. "Through the America 250 City Art Poster Project, we have an opportunity to celebrate Riverside's history, creativity and optimism for the future. I invite artists of all backgrounds and skill levels to take part and help us showcase the spirit of our city."

Artist honorariums are:  
-- \$450 first place;  
-- \$300 second place;  
-- \$150 third place.

More information on entry requirements is available on the city's website.

## Free flights, aircraft displays, career advice available at aerospace expo

By City News Service

Youths with a yearning to go aloft and work in aviation will get a chance to discover what opportunities may await by attending the second annual Aerospace Community Expo, planned during the last Saturday of April at Riverside Municipal Airport.

"This (is) a hands-on community experience showcasing the innovation shaping Riverside," Councilman Steve Robillard said. "Explore aircraft, interactive exhibits and cutting-edge technology while connecting with leaders in aviation, aerospace and defense. Whether you're curious

about the roles and work that drive the industry, exploring academic pathways, or thinking about a future career, this is a chance to discover what's possible."

The event was originally set for the second weekend of April, but approaching storms prompted organizers to postpone it to April 25. It's slated to run from 9 a.m. to noon.

Most of the activity will be in the airport terminal and the tarmac directly in front of it at 6951 Flight Road.

The inaugural expo was held last year and lasted about three hours, featur-

ing simulators, multiple aircraft displays, free rides around the airport hosted by the Young Eagles Foundation and a host of booths staffed by representatives from aviation academies and colleges with flying programs.

The Commemorative Air Force will make its C-53 World War II-era cargo plane "D-Day Doll" available for tours at the upcoming event.

Additional information is available from the city's Department of Economic Development, whose personnel can be reached via email at [econdev@riversideca.gov](mailto:econdev@riversideca.gov).



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| Graphic courtesy of the city of Riverside

## Indio City Manager Bryan Montgomery set to retire this summer

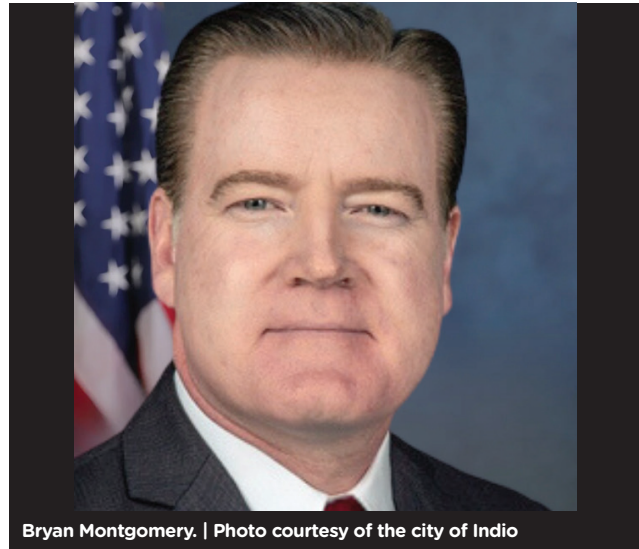
By City News Service

The city of Indio has announced Friday that City Manager Bryan Montgomery will retire later this year after serving the city for five years.

"I recently completed my 33rd year in local government, and it has been a fun, fast-paced and deeply rewarding career. Serving the Indio community has been a highlight, and team Indio has accomplished so much over the past five years, and I am confident that the best is yet to come!" Montgomery said in a statement.

Montgomery, who has been in the role since May 2021, is set to retire during the summer. Council members will discuss the next steps for a transition in leadership at a City Council meeting scheduled for April 15.

During his time in the role, he has helped transform the city through numerous



Bryan Montgomery. | Photo courtesy of the city of Indio

key projects, including the development of Center Stage, a new public library, a new City Hall and Civic Center campus and the Indio Sports Park, and has helped strengthen the city's fiscal position and capital improvement project funding, city officials said.

"Bryan's leadership

has been instrumental in shaping the Indio we see today. His commitment to public service, strategic vision and steady and progressive guidance have left a lasting impact on our organization and community — he has led what has truly been a renaissance for Indio," Mayor Elaine Holmes said.

## Tori Spelling Describes Temecula Crash, Says 'Could've Been So Much Worse'

By City News Service

The Temecula collision that injured actress Tori Spelling's four children and several of their friends "could've been so much worse" but for the fact "guardian angels" were watching over them, she said in a social media post widely circulated Wednesday.

"We're OK, but it's been really overwhelming," Spelling said in the video. "We're so grateful and so lucky because it could've been so much worse."

The collision happened shortly before 6 p.m. last Thursday in the 28000 block of Rancho California Road, near Ridge Park Drive, on the western edge of the city.

"The driver that hit us was speeding. He was going way too fast," Spelling said. "We believe he went through a (red) light, and I'm just grateful that, in that split second, guardian

angels were definitely with us."

The "Beverly Hills 90210" alum was at the wheel of an SUV that appeared to have sustained moderate damage, while the sedan that impacted it was turned into a mangled heap, according to published images.

"I looked to my right and saw that he was coming full-on. It was a full-on impact into the side of our car," Spelling recalled. "I turned hard left, as hard as I could and as fast as I could to avoid the impact."

The SUV was occupied by four of her kids and three of their friends, all minors. They were taken to Inland Valley Medical Center in Wildomar for treatment and have since been released. Spelling did not disclose the types of injuries the youths suffered.

"I thank all of the first

responders at Inland Valley ER ... (who) took such great care of the kids and myself," she said.

The identity of the other driver and the extent of his injuries weren't disclosed by sheriff's officials. He was not arrested.

Spelling suggested she may initiate legal action against the driver. It was unclear where she was headed, or where she'd been that day.

"I'm still putting my thoughts together about everything that happened," she said.

Spelling is the daughter of longtime television industry money man Aaron Spelling, who had a constellation of executive producer credits spanning decades before his 2006 death. Among them was the 1990s show featuring his daughter, "Beverly Hills 90210."

## Artemis II

crew member on the ISS.

He also was a test pilot at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in the Mojave Desert and earned a master's degree from Air University at Edwards Air Force Base.

Glover's crewmates are Commander Reid Wiseman and mission specialists Christina Hammock Koch and Jeremy Hansen, a Canadian Space Agency astronaut.

"As we surpass the furthest distance humans have ever traveled from planet Earth, we do so in honoring the extraordinary efforts and feats of our predecessors in human space exploration," Hansen told mission control Monday. "We will continue our journey even further into space before Mother Earth succeeds in pulling us back to everything that we hold dear. But we, most importantly, choose this moment to challenge this generation and the next to make sure this record is not long-lived."

The crew also suggested that an unnamed lunar crater be named in tribute to the

mission commander's late wife Carroll Wiseman.

"It's a bright spot on the moon, and we would like to call that Carroll," Hansen said.

They named another crater after their Orion spacecraft that's called Integrity.

During the flyby, Artemis II astronauts took photos of the lunar surface and recorded observations while briefly losing contact with mission control for about 40 minutes as Integrity moved behind the moon. The crew's fleet of digital cameras captured high-resolution images of lunar features that humans have never directly seen, NASA officials said.

On Friday, NASA released high-resolution images of Earth captured by the crew after the spacecraft completed a key engine burn placing it on a trajectory toward the moon.

Astronauts said they were "glued to the windows" taking photos of Earth as it receded into the distance, with Hansen describing "a beauti-



Six days into the Artemis II mission, NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Pomona-born Victor Glover and Christina Koch and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen surpassed the record for human spaceflight's farthest distance from Earth. | Photo courtesy of NASA

ful view of the dark side of the Earth, lit by the moon."

Wiseman later asked mission control how to clean the spacecraft's windows after the earthward gazing left the glass smudged. He added that taking pictures of the Earth from deep space turned out to be a challenge.

"It's like walking out back at your house, trying to take a picture of the moon," he told mission control. "That's what it feels like right now."

NASA's Deep Space

Network, which Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena manages, is involved in the communications between Artemis II and mission control.

"At NASA, we dare to reach higher, explore farther, and achieve the impossible. That's embodied perfectly by our Artemis II astronauts — Reid, Victor, Christina, and Jeremy," Lori Glaze, acting associate administrator for NASA's Exploration Systems Development Mission Direc-

torate, said in a statement. "They are charting new frontiers for all humanity. Their dedication is about more than breaking records — it's fueling our hope for a bold future. Their mission to return to the Moon's surface, this time to stay as we establish a Moon Base."

Officials expect Artemis III to launch sometime next year to test lunar landers being developed by Hawthorne-based SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. In early 2028, Artemis IV is expected to launch with the goal of astronauts returning to the moon's surface via a lunar lander.

Artemis V, another lunar surface mission, is expected in late 2028, with subsequent missions planned about once each year.

The first humans on the moon were U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969, during the Apollo 11 mission. A total of 12 men have walked on the moon, the last being Apollo

17 astronaut Gene Cernan in December 1972.

The current mission's progress is charted online at [nasa.gov/artemis-ii](https://nasa.gov/artemis-ii).

### Satellite launch

Another Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base near Lompoc is set for Friday after the latest launch sent eye-catching visuals across the sky visible from the Los Angeles area to Central California.

The rocket carrying 25 Starlink satellites launched at 7:50 p.m. Monday, the first flight for the first-stage booster supporting the mission, SpaceX announced.

This was the first flight for the Stage 1 booster supporting the mission. Following separation, the first stage landed on the Of Course I Still Love You dronship stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

Unfavorable conditions postponed the launch Sunday.

The launch scheduled for Friday will also carry 25 Starlink satellites and will be the 32nd flight for its Stage 1 booster.

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