



# The San Diego Union-Tribune

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NELVIN C. CEPEDA U-T

Skip McCullough from Bird Rock rides a wave during a downpour Thursday, just north of the La Jolla Tide Pools.

## McCARTHY STRAINING TO REACH DEAL WITH HOLDOUTS

He offers concessions in bid to be speaker as losses grow

BY CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON

Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, contorted himself on Thursday to try to win over his party's holdouts as his battle to become House speaker limped toward a fourth day, offering concessions that would substantially weaken his authority and empower his right flank.

After a three-day stretch of 11 consecutive defeats in an election that is now the most protracted such contest since 1859, McCarthy dispatched his emissaries to hammer out a deal with the rebels, including agreeing to conditions he had refused to countenance in a last-ditch effort to sway defectors.



Rep. Kevin McCarthy

They included allowing a single lawmaker to force a snap vote at any time to oust the speaker, a rule that would effectively codify a standing threat that McCarthy would be at the mercy of his party's dissenters at all times, and could be removed instantly if he crossed them.

That concession and several others, which McCarthy hoped would win over a large bloc of dissidents, would diminish the speaker's power considerably and make for an unwieldy environment in the House, where the slim Republican majority and a hard-right faction with an appetite for disarray had already promised to make it difficult to govern.

SEE HOUSE • A6

## MORE RAIN NO QUICK FIX FOR DROUGHT

Even though more storms may hit, long dry stretches common, can erase gains

BY GARY ROBBINS

From Crescent City in the north to San Diego in the south, California is dripping wet from the latest in a series of winter storms. And it's not going to dry out anytime soon.

A UC San Diego researcher said Thursday that four atmospheric river-style systems might hit the state by mid-January.

But hold the applause. California isn't close to emerging from the drought.

"The drought is deep and the big reservoirs will take a lot more than this to recover," said Marty Ralph, director of UCSD's Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes.

**"The drought is deep and the big reservoirs will take a lot more than this to recover."**

Marty Ralph • director of UCSD's Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes

History also has to be considered. The state's seasonal rains can come to an abrupt halt, like a faucet being shut off.

San Diego got about 3.5 inches of precipitation from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021. Then it got almost no rain in January and February — traditionally the wettest month of the year. The city finished the season with 6.75 inches of rain, far below average. The

story was similar across the state.

And while weather forecasting has improved, it still gets things wrong. Thursday's storm in San Diego was weaker than expected, even though it closed the aging Ocean Beach pier. Some of the systems envisioned for the next couple of weeks might not materialize. It's easy to believe that scien-

tists can predict exactly what will happen next. They produce eye-catching photos and graphics of atmospheric rivers, the plumes of moisture from the subtropics that have been enriching the North Pacific storms hitting California.

Atmospheric rivers are hard to miss. UCSD says that the vapor in some of these plumes carry 25 times as much water as can be found in the Mississippi River.

But researchers only have a basic understanding of the forces at work. California is getting drenched because the jet stream dropped unusually far south and is cycling storms

SEE RAIN • A7

## N. CALIFORNIA PUMMELED BY STORM

Some coastal areas hit hard; residents brace for next round

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA CRUZ

The latest in a series of atmospheric river storms pummeled Northern California on Thursday, toppling trees, battering the coastline and swelling rivers and streams into furious torrents as residents braced for more intense weather set to arrive in the near future.

Storms over the last week have killed at least five people, including two who drowned when a levee broke near Sacramento and a toddler killed when a tree crashed into a residence in Sonoma County.

While many parts of Northern California escaped major damage, some coastal areas were swamped by high surf and flooding that left beaches in shambles. People living near the Russian River remain on edge, given the chance that waters could rise to dangerous levels over the next few days.

But the biggest concern remains the effect more stormy weather will have across the already inundated region.

"It's going to remain wet and unsettled for the coming days," said Scott Rowe, a lead meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. "Through the weekend and next week we're expecting at least two, three, possibly even more storms to be impacting Northern California, so it's something

SEE STORM • A7



JESSICA GARRISON LOS ANGELES TIMES

A 2-year-old boy was killed Wednesday when a redwood tree slammed into his family's mobile home in the Sonoma County town of Occidental.

## AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO ARREST SON OF EX-CARTEL LEADER 'EL CHAPO'

Pre-dawn capture in Culiacán sets off violence across city

BY MARIA VERZA & CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN

MEXICO CITY

Mexican security forces captured Ovidio Guzmán, an alleged drug trafficker wanted by the United States and one of the sons of former Sinaloa cartel boss Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, in a

pre-dawn operation in Culiacán Thursday that set off gunfights and roadblocks across the city.

Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval said Army and National Guard personnel had captured



Ovidio Guzmán

a son of "El Chapo." Sandoval identified him only as Ovidio, in keeping with govern-

ment policy.

Ovidio Guzmán, nicknamed "the Mouse," had not been one of El Chapo's better-known sons until an aborted operation to capture him three years ago. That attempt similarly set off violence in Culiacán that ultimately led President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to order the military to let him go.

Thursday's high-profile capture comes just days before López Obrador will host President Joe Biden for bi-

lateral talks followed by their North American Leaders' Summit with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Drug trafficking, along with immigration, is expected to be a top talking point.

"This is a significant blow to the Sinaloa cartel and major victory for the rule of law. It will not, however, impede the flow of drugs into the U.S. Hopefully, Mexico will extradite him to the U.S.," Mike Vigil, the DEA's former chief of international opera-

tions, said Thursday.

Vigil said that Ovidio Guzmán was involved in all of the cartel's activities, especially the production of fentanyl. A 2018 federal indictment in Washington, D.C., accused the younger Guzmán of conspiring to distribute cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana in the United States.

The CDC said last July that more than 107,000 Americans had died from a drug overdose during the year ending January 2022,

most of them involving opioids including illegally made fentanyl.

Lopez Obrador's security approach reversed years of what came to be known as the kingpin strategy of taking down cartel leaders, which led to the fragmentation of large cartels and bloody battles for dominance. Lopez Obrador put all his faith in the military, disbanding the corrupt Federal Police and creating the National Guard under mili-

SEE MEXICO • A8

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**NIGHT & DAY**

The San Diego Union-Tribune

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(from left) Wai Yim, Adeoye, Christiana Clark, and Cruz Gonzalez-Cadel in  
*The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* at Goodman Theatre. Photo by Liz Lauren.

# dine&drink

For more events, go to [sandiegouniontribune.com/entertainment/things-to-do](http://sandiegouniontribune.com/entertainment/things-to-do)



THE HENRY

## SAN DIEGO RESTAURANT WEEK RETURNS

**T**he California Restaurant Association's San Diego chapter has announced its next San Diego Restaurant Week promotion March 26 through April 2. Now in its 20th year, the event features more than 100 restaurants countywide offering various prix fixe menus over an eight-day period. Options include two-course lunches and three-course dinners starting at \$20. Among last year's participants were the Henry in Coronado (pictured), Provisional Restaurant in the Gaslamp Quarter, 94th Aero Squadron in Kearny Mesa and Dockside 1953 on Mission Bay. The full list of participating restaurants and featured menus will be available on the website in early to mid-March. [sandiegorestaurantweek.com](http://sandiegorestaurantweek.com)

**Oceanside distillery strikes gold:** Four-year-old Pacific Coast Spirits recently earned a gold medal and "best of category" award for its California Blue Corn Whiskey at the American Distilling Institute's 2022 International Spirits Competition. It was the company's fifth gold medal in 2022. Other honors earned last year were four medals at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, including a double gold for its American Single Malt and gold medals for its California Bourbon, Triticale Bourbon and Golden Sunset Barrel-Rested Gin. 404 S. Coast Highway, Oceanside. (760) 453-7150, [paccostspirits.com](http://paccostspirits.com)

**Bivouac Ciderworks releases new brew:** In honor of winter, San Diego's Bivouac Ciderworks has release Summit Cider Winter Cherry, the final release in its West Coast "Road Trip" series of seasonal ciders. The

new cider and its can design pay tribute to Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state. The four ciders in the Road Trip series paid homage to scenic stops along the Pacific Coast Highway from California to the Canadian border. First Summit Cider is available in 16-ounce cans at Bivouac's North Park taproom and at Total Wine & More and Bottlecraft stores. 3986 30th St., San Diego. [bivouaccider.com](http://bivouaccider.com)

**Breakfast Republic offers private dining:** The breakfast/brunch chain Breakfast Republic has announced that it has opened a private dining room inside its North Park location. The new room is designed to accommodate large parties in a private space away from the main dining room. 2730 University Ave., San Diego. [breakfastrepublic.com](http://breakfastrepublic.com)

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