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# The Desert Sun

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## U.S. submarine sinks Iranian warship

### Military helping citizens trying to leave region

Michael Loria, Jeanine Santucci,  
Cybele Mayes-Osterman, Bart Jansen  
USA TODAY

Trump administration officials pledged more firepower in the war with Iran after officials said a U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship, with reports of at least 80 people killed.

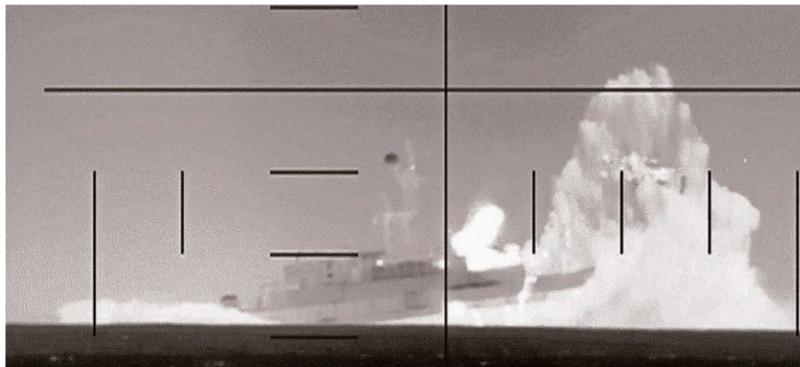
The United States and Israel will soon control Iranian airspace, and the leader of Iran's military unit that tried to assassinate President Donald Trump has been killed, Trump administration

officials said during a news conference on March 4 touting U.S. achievements in the war.

U.S. troops in the area remain under attack by Iran and its proxies, and over 1,000 U.S. citizens are still looking to escape the region as the war expands to neighboring countries, causing panic in the financial markets and oil prices to surge.

The United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran on Feb. 28. Iran's counterattacks thus far led to several U.S. embassies closing in the region, including in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Kuwait.

See IRAN, Page 9A



This frame from a video released by the Department of War on March 4 shows what the department says is footage of a U.S. Navy submarine firing on and sinking an Iranian warship. DEPARTMENT OF WAR/HANDOUT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Meet 'Transfer Man'



Scott Cooper, a longtime transfer counselor at College of the Desert, has trademarked himself as "Transfer Man." On sabbatical this year, Cooper is on a mission to visit every UC and CSU campus and create social media content to demystify the transfer process. He is photographed at COD in Palm Desert on Jan. 28. TAYA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

### COD's Scott Cooper helps students make the jump to four-year schools

Jennifer Cortez  
Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Scott Cooper is wrapping up an interview for his podcast with a former student from College of the Desert when he asks him to leave listeners with a final message.

"If you're planning on transferring, take the risk and do it scared," said Zach Perez, now a student at Cal State Long Beach.

Over the course of his 30-year career in the Coachella Valley, Cooper has seen capable students hold back —

not for lack of preparation, but because of self-doubt and fears over whether they'll fit in at a new school, compounded by worries about cost.

"The biggest thing holding people back from transfer is themselves," he said.

Each year, Cooper estimates that roughly 3,500 COD students complete the coursework required to transfer. But only a fraction — typically fewer than one in 10 — ultimately enroll at a four-year university. It's a pattern reflected statewide.

See TRANSFER MAN, Page 2A

### VALLEY REAL ESTATE

## Mixed bag for home sales, prices

Paul Albani-Burgio  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

February was another mixed month in the Coachella Valley real estate market as four of the valley's nine cities saw their median home sale price increase compared to a year ago, while the other five saw a decrease.

There was a similar split when it came to the number of sales that were closed during the month: Three cities saw more than in February 2025 while the other six saw fewer.

Some of the changes were dramatic. For example, the median home sale price was up nearly 50% in La Quinta, where 24 fewer homes sold than in February 2025. Meanwhile in Palm Springs, the median sale price was down by about 25%.

Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells and Coachella also saw median sale prices increase or decrease by more than 10%.

One thing that is clear, however, is that the valley saw some truly eye-popping sales figures last month, including the sale of a sleek and modern home in La Quinta's Madison Club for \$12.25 million and a French country-style estate in Indian Wells' Toscana Country Club for \$11.35 million. The inclusion of median sales prices in this report, rather than averages, is meant to ensure that sales of such outlier, ultra-expensive homes do not skew the figures.

See these numbers and more in our latest monthly market breakdown below.

See HOME PRICES, Page 5A



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