



LOG IN

SUBSCRIBE

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Part of the McClatchy Media Network

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Politics](#) [Opinion](#) [Obituaries](#) • [Personal Finance](#) [Food & Drink](#) [Bee Cu](#)

CALIFORNIA

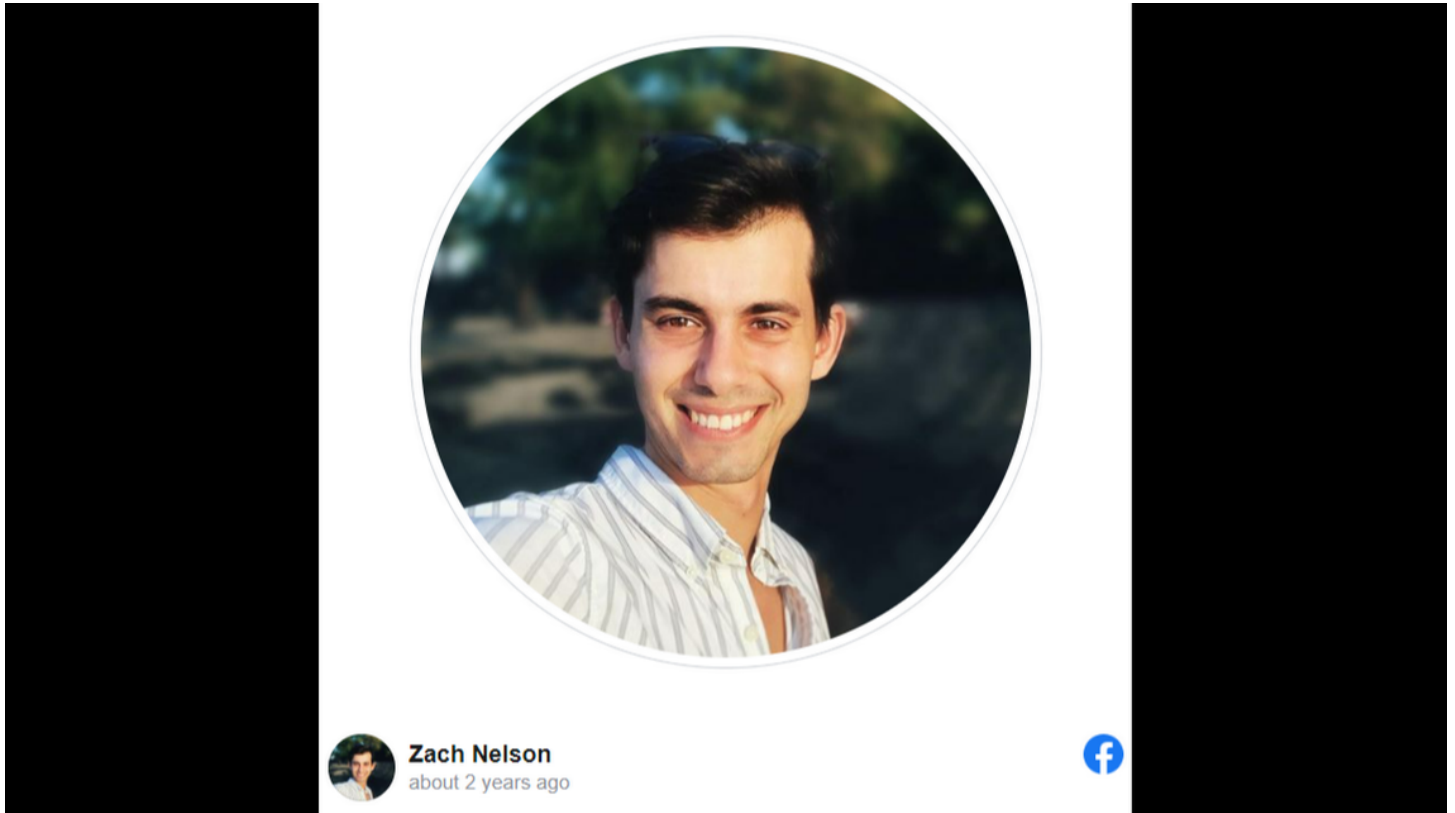
Missing diver found dead days after rip current swept him away from group, CA cops say

BY [DANIELLA SEGURA](#)

FEBRUARY 06, 2023 10:55 AM



X



A missing diver who disappeared after a rip current swept him away from his group has been found dead, California authorities said. *Screengrab from Zach Nelson's Facebook page*



Only have a minute? Listen instead

Powered by **Trinity Audio**



1.0x

00:00

02:07

A missing diver who disappeared after a rip current swept him away from his group has been found dead, California authorities said.

[Zachary Nelson, 27](#), of Newark, entered the water off Fan Shell Beach in Pebble Beach on Jan. 28 with three other scuba divers, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office said.

The group, however, decided to call off the dive “due to equipment issues.”

TOP VIDEOS

X

While three of the divers made it to shore, Nelson “was struggling in the surf about 100 meters offshore,” the sheriff’s office said. A large wave hit him, sending him underwater before he never resurfaced.

Multiple agencies, including the sheriff’s office, California State Parks Lifeguards and U.S. Coast Guard, searched the waters for Nelson, the sheriff’s office said.

Get unlimited digital access

Try 1 month for \$1

CLAIM OFFER

After a two-hour search, efforts to find Nelson were called off as it grew dark, the sheriff’s office said.

The following day, the sheriff’s office said its dive team and U.S. Coast Guard continued to search the area.

Search operations were called off [shortly after noon](#) because of “high surf and deteriorating weather and water conditions,” deputies said.

X



Five days later, human remains were found on Fan Shell Beach's northern area, the sheriff's office said.

The coroner identified the remains as Nelson, the sheriff's office said.

Rip currents are “powerful, narrow channels of fast-moving water” that happen on the coasts of the U.S. and in the Great Lakes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

About 100 people are killed by rip currents each year in the U.S., NOAA reported. Lifeguards rescue thousands of people from rip currents annually.

Experts say people can take steps to stay safe from rip currents, including:

X

- Check the local water conditions before getting in.

- Talk to a lifeguard at the beach about the conditions.
- Only swim at beaches where lifeguards are present.
- Don't assume great weather means good swimming conditions.

Pebble Beach is about 75 miles southwest of San Jose.

READ NEXT

CALIFORNIA

Diver swept away from group by rip current still missing, California rescuers say

JANUARY 30, 2023 6:46 AM

READ NEXT

CALIFORNIA

Kayaker vanished on fishing trip with friends. He was found dead days later, CA cops say

FEBRUARY 03, 2023 9:00 AM

READ NEXT

CALIFORNIA

Empty boat found floating near CA marina weeks ago. Now missing angler's body is found

JANUARY 13, 2023 8:55 AM



DANIELLA SEGURA



macOS Ventura: 4 new apps you'll love

Genius productivity apps in macOS Ventura. These tools will elevate your Mac.

CleanMyMac by MacPaw | Sponsored

Try Now