

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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COUNTY

Saving Our Seniors From Elder Fraud



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Elder fraud and senior scams are a billion-dollar industry.

Criminals target older adults through technology, impersonating government officials, investment schemes and using scare tactics to trick seniors out for their money. The scammers are relentless, and their coordinated attacks are designed to take advantage of the most vulnerable.

San Diego County has a home-grown weapon against senior fraud, and it already has saved many would-be victims from losing thousands of dollars and the resulting consequences.

The San Diego Elder Justice Task Force (EJTF) combines the efforts of the County's Aging and Independence Services , the District Attorney's Office , the Federal Bureau of Investigations , local law enforcement, and the Law Enforcement Coordination Center to focus solely on the financial exploitation of older adults.

The task force investigates cases, prosecutes criminals, and seizes and recovers lost funds whenever possible. In San Diego County, the EJTF sees over 1,000 reported victims of senior fraud annually with over \$100 million in reported losses. The Task Force also is convinced the true numbers are much higher because elder fraud is chronically underreported due to shame and embarrassment.

The impact on the victims is cruel and catastrophic. In some cases, older adults are robbed of their entire life's savings, left financially devastated and live

shortened lives. Mortality rates are three times higher for seniors who have been victimized by fraud or abuse.

For San Diego resident, Chris, that reality came dangerously close.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 16, 2025

COUNTY

County Wins National Recognition for Innovative Programs

The County of San Diego has been honored with 51 Achievement Awards for programs it provides to the public by the National Association of Counties, which recognizes standout county government programs.

The County received awards in 15 categories for programs that run the gamut of the services the County provides from law enforcement to health services, to land use.

They included programs that streamline County processes to help customers; provide health services and education; support youth and families; protect public safety; plan for better communities; address housing insecurity; and safeguard the environment, including agriculture.

One of the programs being recognized provides Probation youth with education about the risks of opioid misuse and gives them life-saving training on giving someone Narcan, also known by its generic name, naloxone, used to reverse the effects of opioid overdoses.

Another program honored with an award, the Business Certificate Program, equips businesses with tools and knowledge to comply with public health regulations and foster safe environments for employees and patrons. These strategies foster long-term community health and strengthen public-private partnerships.

The County was also recognized for the Campo Road Corridor

Revitalization Specific Plan. The project, fueled by input from the community, will transform a community corridor from a four-lane to a two-lane road and create additional amenities for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

A program to better support neurodivergent job applicants—Neurodivergent Excellence: Inclusive Interviewing—was also honored. It expands hiring practices by creating a more accessible, supportive, and inclusive interview process for people who may have different ways of learning because of conditions like autism, attention deficit disorder and dyslexia.

Below is the full list of winning programs:

Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Category:

Red Envelope With Birth Certificate Issued During The 2024 Lunar New Year – Assessor Recorder County Clerk

Strengths-Based Case Management Art Show – Behavioral Health

Reimagining a Child Protection System to a Child and Family Well Being System Focused on Equity and Prevention to Strengthen Families – Child Welfare Services

Sheriff's Junior Women's Academy – Sheriff

Civic Education and Public Information Category:

Community Connections Program – Human Resources

Vector Control Program Media Campaign Translation – Environmental Health

Community and Economic Development Category:

Bridging Distances: Learning Podcasts for Rural Health and Community Support – Health and Human Services Agency

Engaging Businesses for a Healthy Tomorrow – Health and Human Services Agency

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Wins National Recognition for Innovative Programs

Levant Senior Cottages – Housing and Community Development

San Diego County Department of Child Support Services Annual CSAM Super Saturday – Child Support

Strengthening Food Security Through Farmers’ Markets – Agriculture, Weights and Measures

Strengthening Kinship Care: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Initiative – Health and Human Services Agency

County Administration and Management Category:

Archives Traveling Lecture Series – Assessor Recorder County Clerk

Farming Liaisons – Planning and Development Services

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Program – Finance and General Government

Navigating Loss Program – Assessor Recorder County Clerk

Rebuilding Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce After the Pandemic – Public Health, a division of the Health and Human Services Agency

Professional Development Training Series – Parks and Recreation

Recorder/County Clerk Staffing Plan – Assessor Recorder County Clerk

The Agency Promise: A Foundation for Future Success – Health and Human Services Agency

County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability Category:

Systems Approach for Nursery Certification – Agriculture, Weights and Measures

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Category:

Contraband Narcotics Interdiction Team – Sheriff

EBT Theft Fraud Prevention – Health and Human Services

Agency

Youth Development Academy (YDA) Fire Program – Probation

Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Section – Public Health, a division of Health and Human Services

Illicit Fentanyl and Overdose Prevention Public Messaging – Public Health

LGBTQIA+ Health Telebriefing Series and Gender-Affirming Care Initiative – Public Health

No-Cost Transportation Program for Older Adults – Aging & Independence Services

Social Media Story Telling: Maximizing Partner Successes for Community Engagement – Health and Human Services Agency

TB Elimination Community of Practice – Public Health

The Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Program – County Fire

BenefitsCal Call Me and Web Chat – Health and Human Services Agency

Coordinated Eviction Prevention System (CEPS) – Health and Human Services Agency

Delivering Disaster CalFresh (DCF) Benefits at FEMA Disaster Response Centers (DRCs) – Health and Human Services Agency

Encampment Resolution Funds (ERF) Program – Health and Human Services Agency

LGBTQ+ Affirming Services – People At-Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness – Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities

SAR Courtesy Callback – Health and Human Services Agency

The CARE Act Program – Behavioral Health

Digital Platform for Staff Training – Planning and Development Services

Using Automation for Quick Customer Address Correction – Health and Human Services Agency

Combating Regional Hunger and Low Access Food Areas – Library

Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) Certification – Library

Waterfront Park Active Recreation – Parks and Recreation

Personnel Management, Employment and Training Category

Neurodivergent Excellence: Inclusive Interviewing – Human Resources

Campo Road Corridor Revitalization Specific Plan – Planning and Development Services

Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Annual Workshop – Planning and Development Services

Continuity of Operations Program – Assessor Recorder County Clerk

Fire Fuel Reduction and Restoration Program – Parks and Recreation

County of San Diego news release · Jul 16, 2025

COUNTY

County to Extend Mosquito Spraying Early Monday, Tuesday in La Mesa

The County plans to expand and extend ultra-low volume, truck-mounted, pesticide-mist treatments between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Monday and Tuesday mornings in parts of La Mesa to reduce mosquito populations and protect the public from the potential spread of West Nile virus.

County Vector Control announced this week that crews would conduct truck treatments through roughly 4,000 parcels in the community of Rolando, including parts of La Mesa and San Diego, between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Those treatments were done successfully Wednesday and Thursday and will continue Friday.

Treatments are now scheduled to be expanded into another 3,000 to 4,000 parcels in La Mesa after Vector Control detected more mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus. The new

treatments will be done between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Monday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 15.

County Vector Control truck treatments will continue to use AquaDuet—a pesticide approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that poses low risks to people and pets.

The County reported June 27 that it had detected West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected in the Rolando area, and more in mosquitoes in follow-up surveillance, necessitating the pesticide spray treatments.

More information, including a map of the treatment area, frequently asked questions, and contact information for Vector Control, can be found on Vector Control’s Adult Mosquito Control Information webpage.

While the treatments pose a low risk to people and pets and the pesticide dissipates in roughly 20 to 30 minutes, residents may wish—as a precaution—to stay inside, keep pets and pet bowls inside, and close windows during the treatment.

Normal activities can be resumed 30 minutes after the treatment. Also, beekeepers and those with insects kept outdoors are encouraged to shelter hives and habitats during treatments. Beekeepers registered with the County’s Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures can request to receive advance notice when pesticide spraying that may affect bees is applied to blossoming plants in their areas.

There have been no reported human cases in San Diego County this year. In 2024, the County reported 2 cases. However, West Nile virus remains a potentially deadly threat. Some people who become infected can suffer fever with other symptoms, headaches, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. But in rare cases, West Nile virus can make people extremely ill and even kill them. If you

have symptoms, seek medical care.

County officials said people should continue to follow the County’s “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines to protect themselves from mosquitoes. Those include finding and dumping out standing water around homes to keep mosquitoes from breeding.

Dump out or remove any item inside or outside of homes that can hold water—whether from rain or landscape irrigation. Those things can include plant saucers, rain barrels, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires and wheelbarrows. Mosquitofish, available for free by contacting the Vector Control Program, may be used to control mosquito breeding in backyard water sources such as stagnant swimming pools, ponds, fountains and horse troughs.

Protect yourself from mosquito-borne illnesses by wearing long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent when outdoors. Use insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, 2-undecanone or IR3535. Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good condition and secured to keep insects out.

Report possible mosquito activity and dead birds

Report increased mosquito activity, unmaintained green swimming pools, and other mosquito-breeding sources, as well as dead birds—crows, ravens, jays, hawks and owls—to the County Vector Control Program by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov .

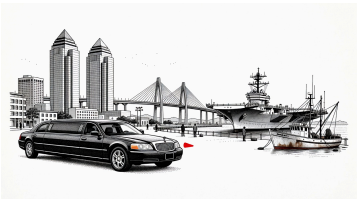
Go to San Diego County’s “Fight the Bite ” website to learn how to prevent and protect against West Nile virus and mosquitoes.

For more information about West Nile virus, go to the County Health and Human Services Agency’s West Nile virus webpage .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 11, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Royal Knights Limousine

Member Spotlight – Royal Knights Limousine

Estefanía Kramber, Chief

Operating Officer

We’re not here just to sound professional or to fit the typical mold of a limousine company.

We are people with a dream — a dream that started when we stumbled into the transportation world and stayed, not because it was planned, but because we saw an opportunity to build something different.

From the beginning, our

vision was bigger than just cars and rides. We wanted to create a company where executives, employees, and clients are part of the same foundation — where people are not just accounts or numbers, but real connections we value.

At Royal Knights Limousine, we aim to build meaningful relationships with the customers who trust us with their lives and their

time. We believe in being reachable, listening to real needs and concerns, and working together to create a way of doing business that feels almost forgotten in today’s fast-paced world.

We are a private transportation company based on strong values and integrity. Our goal is to deliver professional service without ever losing the human touch.

We are open to collaborating with anyone — individuals, families, corporations, high-profile executives — and we are committed to working hand-in-hand to find the best way to meet each client’s unique needs.

Whether it’s a CEO heading to an important meeting or a family celebrating a special day, we are here, ready to

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

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Member Spotlight: Royal Knights Limousine

deliver a service that feels personal, trustworthy, and exceptional.

As a thank you for your time and support, we are offering 15% off your first reservation when you mention the Chamber.

We look forward to making that connection.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 26, 2025

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Anila Care at Home

Spotlight: Anila Care at Home

— Compassionate, Personalized In-Home Care for San Diego’s Aging Community

Founded by Missa, a dedicated healthcare professional with deep roots in caregiving, Anila Care at Home is a trusted provider of non-medical, around-the-clock care across San Diego County. With experience spanning cardiac units, trauma centers, memory care, hospice, and one-on-one in-home support, Missa brings unmatched compassion and clinical knowledge to the community she serves.

Anila, which stands for

Accountability, Noble-heartedness, Integrity, Life enhancement, and Acts of kindness, was created to meet a growing need for personalized home care that goes beyond basic assistance. Missa built this company with one mission in mind: to deliver care that feels like family.

Anila Care at Home offers a wide range of services including:

Nutrition, hydration, and medication reminders

Meal prep, companionship, and social activities

Support for post-rehab recovery and aging-in-place

Education and guidance for families transitioning from hospital to home care

With flexible pricing, consistent caregivers, and multilingual support (English, Spanish, Arabic, Amharic), Anila ensures every client is matched with a caregiver who meets their physical, emotional, and cultural needs.

Anila’s care plans are custom-built in collaboration with clients, families, and professionals to support quality of life, independence, and comfort—wherever home may be. Whether you live in a private residence, with loved ones, or in a retirement

community, Anila Care at Home is there to support you.

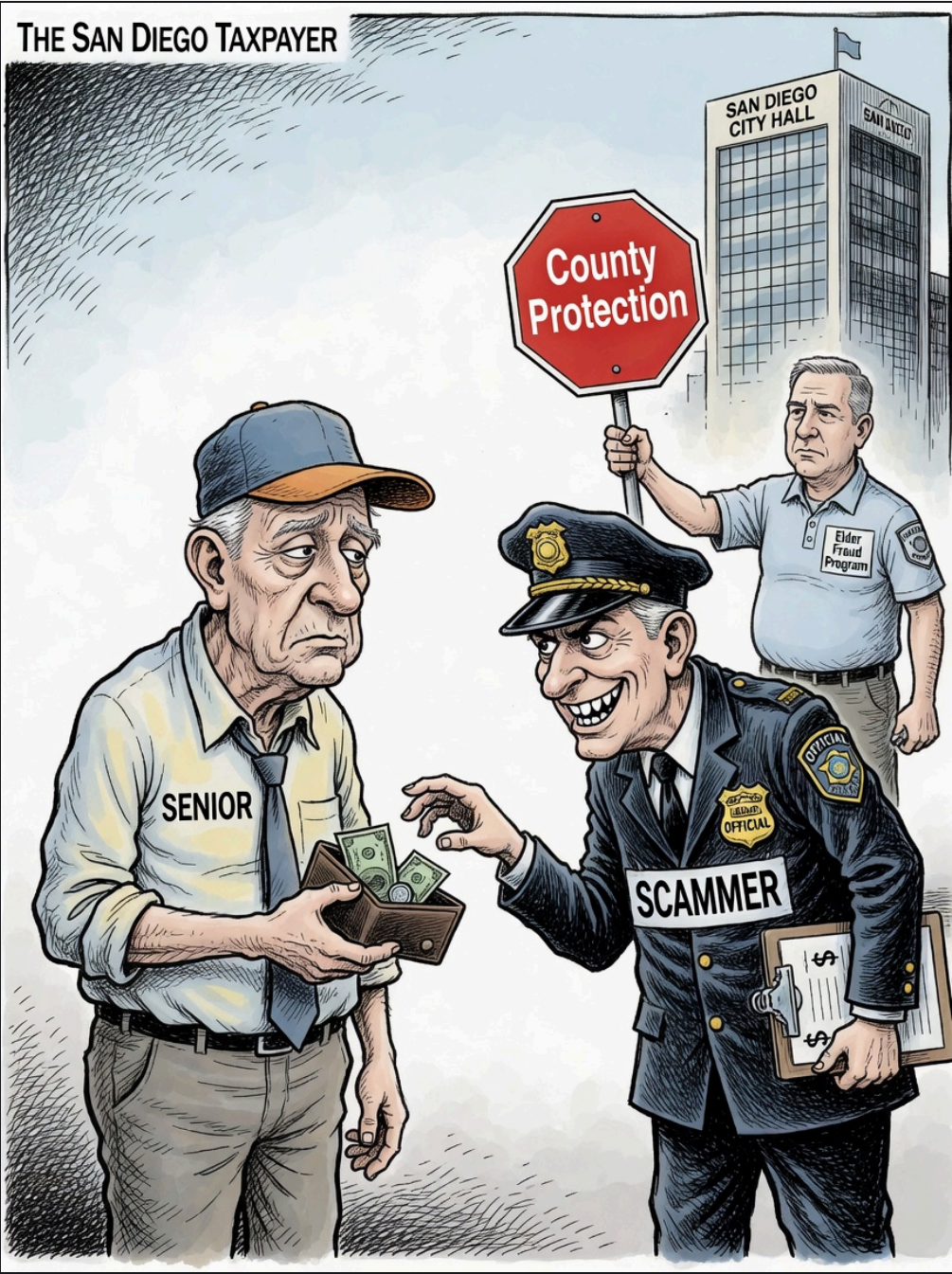
Missa personally trains and mentors every caregiver on her team, ensuring Anila’s heart-centered values are present in every visit. For her, care is more than a service, it’s calling. And through Anila Care at Home, she’s making a lasting impact on San Diego’s elderly population, one family at a time.

To learn more, visit www.anilahomecare.com or call 858-230-8025.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 26, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



County program stops elder fraud

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

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COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

COMMENTARY

California May Stop Payments on Retiree Health Benefits for Two Years, Moorlach Writes

Moorlach argues in a California Policy Center piece that skipping payments on the state's nearly \$85 billion unfunded retiree medical liability would allow the debt to grow with interest and represents continued failure to address long-term fiscal problems.

As the California Legislature met its June 15 budget deadline and the governor signed the budget, one major challenge remained: how to cut \$12 billion in spending while also providing \$750 million in annual tax credits to Hollywood.

One strategy Gov. Gavin Newsom is negotiating, according to Moorlach, would involve nonpayment for two years of the state's nearly \$85 billion unfunded actuarial accrued liability for retiree medical benefits, known as an other post-employment

benefit or OPEB.

Moorlach writes that this would cause the debt to increase from interest costs instead of being paid down by the state and its employees. He describes the lifetime retiree medical benefit as one rarely seen in the private sector.

Moorlach argues that the "pay as you go" method only deals with immediate costs rather than upcoming higher bills. He says these future costs should be addressed systematically with an "annual required contribution," or ARC, every year.

Not doing so, Moorlach writes, fits the definition of "kicking the can down the road." He compares the situation to camping etiquette that calls for leaving a campsite better than it was found, noting that Sacramento has failed to improve California's balance sheet over the last decade even in strong economic times.

Moorlach writes that

reducing liabilities with higher payments would lower the annual minimum payment, similar to paying down a credit card balance. But he says leaders under both Govs. Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom failed to renegotiate or aggressively pay down the retiree medical liabilities.

Moorlach recalls reminding both administrations of this issue every year he served in the California State Senate from 2015 to 2020, but his calls for fiscal restraint went unheeded.

Quoting his own 2016 remarks, Moorlach said the state was at a critical juncture, "an inflection point," where it must seriously address its unrestricted net deficit and unfunded liabilities "or continue to hire more state employees who will pay more dues to the unions that appear to be running California." He warned that the budget relied on optimistic revenue estimates, spent up to that line, and

"will lead to a fiscal implosion" unless the course changed.

In later years Moorlach highlighted the risks of increasing spending despite warnings of a coming recession, urging that it was time to set aside extra funds and draw down debts.

Moorlach noted that in the middle of 2018 budget talks the state Controller reported the retiree medical liability had increased by \$44 billion and the unrestricted net deficit had risen from \$169.5 billion to \$213 billion. He observed that the state had approved its largest budget ever at the same time its unrestricted net deficit also reached a historic high.

Moorlach writes that the state is making "no systemic corrections or fixes" to pension plans or retiree medical obligations, so those costs will increase in future years. Now in 2025, he says, Californians face even greater debts, and the governor wants to skip payments on liabilities that

have grown at high interest costs of about 7 percent.

Moorlach warns that the move also risks that those benefits may not be fully funded when needed by future retirees. He writes that state leaders ignored repeated warnings to improve the state's financial position.

The result, Moorlach concludes, is "a fiscal train wreck in slow motion" that could have been avoided. He predicts the next governor will inherit a significant mess left by years of poor financial management.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jul 11, 2025

ABOUT THIS PAPER

San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first — City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

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