

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

La Sabila Gives Formerly Homeless Senior a Happy Home



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Privacy, security and a place to prepare meals are just a few of changes one local senior is enjoying after moving into his new apartment at La Sabila in North County.

La Sabila is a new affordable housing development for residents ages 55 and older. The County invested \$10.8 million in the project, provided 42 Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs) through the housing authority , and committed 20 years of supportive services.

PBVs are rental subsidies tied to specific housing units rather than individual tenants. When a resident moves out, the voucher stays with the unit, helping low-income families keep housing costs at about 30 percent of their income.

Before moving into La Sabila, Edward Welch had been living in his car and in homeless shelters. Being homeless was something he never expected at this stage of his life.

Today, he is grateful to have a permanent place to settle in and call home.

More information about the County's housing initiatives is available through the County's Housing Hub .

County of San Diego news release · Mar 13, 2026



Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

COUNTY

County Secures \$99.5 million for Behavioral Health Wellness Campus

San Diego County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) received a \$99.5 million state grant to help build a new Behavioral Health Wellness Campus on Rosecrans Street. The award is the largest granted in the second round of California's Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) funding made possible through from Proposition 1.

County leaders announced the funding during a press conference today.

The integrated Wellness Campus will sit next to the County Psychiatric Hospital and expand access to specialty behavioral health care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with serious mental illness and substance use disorders. Once completed, the campus will add up to 140 treatment beds and provide crisis care and outpatient treatment for as many as 70 clients.

The new campus will include five core services:

Crisis stabilization unit: Immediate, short-term care for adults experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Mental health rehabilitation center: Support for people with complex needs transitioning from hospital-level care.

Peer-focused social rehabilitation facility: Intensive short-term care with peer-based recovery support.

Adult residential substance use disorder treatment center: A safe, structured environment for adults receiving residential treatment.

Outpatient community health clinic: Treatment and support for adults with mental health or co-occurring conditions.

The campus is expected to cost \$210 million and take about five years to complete. It will replace the approximately 60-year-old Rosecrans Health Service Complex, which has been closed for more than four years.

In addition to this award, the County has secured more than \$148 million in BHCIP funding for three other capital projects:

Edgemoor Acute Inpatient Unit (Santee) — \$16.7 million

Substance Use Residential and Treatment Facility (National City) — \$21.84 million

Children's Crisis Residential Care Facility (San Diego) — \$7.9 million

Together with the new Wellness Campus, these projects will add more than 310 new mental health and substance use treatment beds and service slots across the region.

Other local community-based organizations also received BHCIP awards in this funding round, bringing the total BHCIP grant funds awarded to other local entities to more than \$177 million in San Diego County.

If you or a loved one is in need of mental or behavioral health support, learn how you can get help. Call 9-8-8 or 1-888-724-7240 to speak to a trained specialist.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 17, 2026

COUNTY

County Notifying People Potentially Exposed to Measles from Out-of-State Traveler

County public health officials are

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

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County Notifying People Potentially Exposed to Measles from Out-of-State Traveler

notifying community members who may have potentially been exposed to measles at the Sharp Memorial Hospital Emergency Department on Frost St. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

An unvaccinated out of state adult who later tested positive for measles visited the emergency department that day during their infectious period. During the visit the patient was evaluated for fever, but had no other symptoms suggestive of measles.

Anyone who received care or accompanied someone at the Sharp Memorial Hospital Emergency Department between 11:22 a.m. and 4:35 p.m. is urged to contact County Public Health Services at (866) 358-2966 as soon as possible.

County staff are working closely with Sharp Memorial Hospital to identify and notify patients and employees who may have been exposed and assess their risk of developing measles.

No measles cases have been reported in San Diego County in 2026. Last year, the County identified one case linked to international travel.

As of March 16, 2026, California has reported 29 confirmed measles cases, and as of March 12, there are 1,362 confirmed cases nationwide

“Measles is extremely contagious and can be spread easily by coughing, sneezing or simply sharing the same air space as an infected person,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer.

Measles typically develops seven to 21 days after exposure. Early symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes. A red rash usually appears one to four days later, beginning on the face and spreading downward.

A person is considered contagious four days before and four days after the rash appears.

Infants under 12 months, unvaccinated children and adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at highly risk of severe illness.

Along with these groups, travelers heading to areas where measles is circulating may be eligible for an early or additional vaccine dose and should consult their health care provider.

“There is no treatment for measles and vaccination is the best protection,” said Dr.

Thihalolipavan. “We continue to see declining measles vaccination rates regionally, which is a concerning trend.”

Complications from measles can be serious and include diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia and in rare cases, encephalitis or death. Bed rest, fluids, and fever control are recommended.

For more information about measles, other vaccine-preventable diseases and the shots that protect against them, visit the County’s Immunization Branch online or call (866) 358-2966.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 18, 2026

COUNTY

Affordable Housing Options Open Up For Seniors in Clairemont

More doors are opening for low-income seniors in search of affordable housing.

Terrasini Senior Apartments celebrated a grand opening today at 5257 Mount Etna Drive, offering new opportunities for older adults seeking stable housing in Clairemont.

This new five-story, 95-unit affordable development for adults age 62 and older marks the completion of the Mt. Etna intergenerational housing campus on the former County Crime Lab site. The campus near Genesee Avenue and Balboa Avenue now includes four multi-story apartment buildings and 404 homes designed to serve seniors and families in need.

The campus features Terrasini, Modica Family Apartments with 94 units, Taormina Family Apartments with 136 units and Paul Downey Senior Residences with 79 units.

Recent Point-in-Time Count data shows older adults represent one of the fastest-growing populations experiencing homelessness, often due to job loss, illness or the death of a spouse. Affordable housing options like Terrasini are essential to helping seniors remain stable and independent.

New residents will be moving into studio and one-bedroom units equipped with full kitchens, including refrigerators, ovens and ranges. The Clairemont property is within walking distance of a pharmacy, grocery store, restaurants, retail, medical services and multiple San Diego Metropolitan Transit System bus lines.

All four housing phases at Mt. Etna were developed by Chelsea Investment Corp ., with supportive services provided by Serving Seniors .

The Mt. Etna campus reflects the success of

public-private partnerships and a regional commitment to increasing affordable housing. The County invested \$7.25 million from its Innovative Housing Trust Fund in Terrasini. Overall, the County invested \$15 million across the campus while also providing the property, valued at \$21 million.

Seniors interested in living at the Mt. Etna campus can access an interest list online.

Since 2017, the County of San Diego has invested more than \$334 million in affordable housing through excess County land, the Innovative Housing Trust Fund and other state, federal, and local sources. These investments have created more than 3,445 homes, with another 2,610 currently in development.

More information about the County’s housing initiatives is available through the County’s Housing Hub .

County of San Diego news release · Mar 18, 2026

COUNTY

Aerial Treatments Start to Prevent Mosquitoes

San Diego County Vector Control will begin its first routine aerial larvicide drop of the year on March 24, focusing on up to 50 local waterways where mosquitos commonly breed.

The treatments happen monthly through October at sites throughout the region. The larvicide used is a solid, granular product that is safe for people, pets and wildlife but effective at controlling mosquito larvae before they can grow into biting mosquitoes.

The County has used helicopters for these efforts since the early 2000s, when West Nile virus first appeared in the region. While West Nile is primarily a bird disease, it can spread to people when mosquitos feed on an infected bird and then bite humans.

Aerial drops are one part of Vector Control’s Integrated Vector Management Strategy . County Vector Control teams also:

Monitor approximately 1,600 potential mosquito-breeding sites each year

Apply larvicide by boat, truck and hand crews

Provide free mosquito-eating fish to the public.

Locate and treat neglected swimming pools for mosquito breeding

Monitor mosquito populations for potential mosquito-borne illnesses

How Residents Can Help Prevent Mosquitoes

County officials emphasize

that community action is key to reducing mosquitoes in and around the home by using the “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines.

Dump or remove anything that can hold water—plant saucers, rain gutters, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires, and wheelbarrows. Residents can request free mosquito fish for backyard prond, unmaintained pools, fountain and horse troughs by contacting the Vector Control Program . For more tips, go to Vector Control’s Prevention Toolkit website.

Wear long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent when outdoors. Choose repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Check window and door screens to ensure they are in good condition and fit securely.

Report Increased Mosquito Activity and Dead Birds

Report increased mosquito activity, stagnant, unmaintained swimming pools, other mosquito-breeding sources and dead birds — including crows, ravens, jays, hawks and owls —by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov .

Residents who still experience mosquito issues after removing standing water can request an educational mosquito inspection.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 18, 2026

COUNTY

It’s Going to Be Hot This Week, Here Are Tips to Stay Safe

Summer is still weeks away, but temperatures are expected to climb sharply around San Diego County this week, with heat advisories in San Diego County valleys and several cities.

Extreme heat can raise body temperature quickly and can lead to heatstroke, exhaustion, dizziness, nausea, confusion, headache and even death. Children, older adults and people with underlying health conditions are particularly at risk.

Here’s how to stay safe during this early heat wave.

The County’s annual Cool Zones Program doesn’t officially begin until June 1. Until then, residents can still find air-conditioned relief at the County’s 33 branch libraries, open for regular business hours.

What to DO if Someone Shows Signs of Heatstroke or Heat Exhaustion

Call 9-1-1 immediately. Signs of heatstroke include dizziness, nausea, confusion and headache.

Begin cooling the person right away — move them into

the shade; spray them with cool water and fan them.

If they are alert, place them in a cool shower and monitor their body temperatures.

DO NOT give them fluids — a person with heatstroke may not be able to swallow safely.

Tips to Help People Avoid Heat-Related Problems

Stay in an air-conditioned space during the hottest hours of the day.

Don’t rely on electric fans alone when temperatures exceed 90 degrees.

Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and sugary drinks.

Never leave a child, elderly person, or pet unattended in a car — even briefly.

Limit outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.

Wear sunscreen and a wide-brim hat if you must be in the sun.

Avoid using the oven to keep indoor temps lower.

Tips to Keep Your pets cool in hot weather

Keep your pets indoors if it is cooler inside.

Exercise pets in early morning hours or early evening only.

Keep your pets’ water supply in a tip-proof container, always topped off, and be sure it stays cool (pets will not drink water that is too hot).

Consider a misting system to keep the outdoor areas cooler.

Be sure your pet has shade ALL DAY, if they are outside. Remember, the sun’s position changes during the day.

Avoid car trips — vehicles heat up dangerously fast. On an 85-degree day, a car can reach 102 degrees in 10 minutes and soar upward even with the windows down an inch or two.

Check pavement temperatures — if it is too hot for your bare feet, it’s too hot for paws.

Offer a shallow wading pool or misting area.

Watch for signs of heat stress: heavy panting, drooling, vomiting, lethargy, or stumbling. Seek veterinary help immediately if you notice these.

The sun is beautiful, but dangerous in extreme heat. Stay cool, check on vulnerable neighbors and keep pets safe!

County of San Diego news release · Mar 16, 2026

COUNTY

New CalFresh & Medi-Cal Rules Start Soon

Federal and state policy changes will roll out over the next few months that may impact some people in San

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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New CalFresh & Medi-Cal Rules Start Soon

Diego County who receive CalFresh or Medi-Cal benefits. The first of these changes starts April 1.

Most people will still qualify for benefits or coverage. However, the County is urging people who currently receive CalFresh or Medi-Cal benefits to make sure their contact information is up to date through their BenefitsCal portal. Keeping this information current ensures they receive text messages, calls or mail from the County about steps needed to confirm their eligibility.

Starting this week, CalFresh customers will receive a text message from the County with information about upcoming changes and resources. The County is here to help and will be sharing information on all upcoming changes digitally, in person and through the mail.

For details on all CalFresh and Medi-Cal changes, please visit the County’s website .

April 1, 2026: Certain lawfully present noncitizens will no longer be eligible for CalFresh, including asylees, refugees, and other groups. For a full list, please visit the County’s CalFresh Eligibility Changes website .

June 1, 2026: Some adult CalFresh recipients will be required to work 80 hours a month or participate in activities like training or volunteering to get or keep CalFresh benefits. The

County will screen for exemptions that will apply to certain people, including parents or caregivers of children under 14 years of age, and other groups .

Jan. 1, 2027: Some Medi-Cal recipients will also need to meet new work or community engagement rules to get to keep Medi-Cal.

For current customers, these changes will apply at their next renewal. Food, medical and employment resources can be found on 211’s website .

The County’s mission is to strengthen our communities – which include nearly 400,000 residents who receive CalFresh benefits and more than 800,000 who are enrolled in Medi-Cal, with innovative, inclusive and data-driven services through a skilled and supported workforce.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 16, 2026

COUNTY
Workshop Focuses on Improving Food Access

Food is a basic need for people’s health and wellness, and it reflects cultural identity. To explore better food access, the County brought together community members and food system partners at a regional workshop. People talked about eleven actions detailed in the County’s Food Justice Community Action Plan and ways the public could help shape future steps.

“It’s really important that the County hosted a space to hear directly from organizers

and the community on what needs to change, and how the County can best support transforming our food system,” said Rachel Chapa Oporta of the San Diego Food System Alliance.

Attendees walked through an “interactive gallery” of posters highlighting progress across County actions to date and offered perspectives and strategies on key food-access topics.

Input will help shape the County’s next steps outlined in an update to the Board of Supervisors this summer.

Learn more about the Food Justice Community Action Plan.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 12, 2026

COUNTY
Shake, Rattle and Whoa! Was That a Rattlesnake?

With a heat advisory in effect and temperatures soaring across San Diego County, there has been an increase in rattlesnake sightings throughout the region.

This sudden stretch of hot weather is creating ideal conditions for rattlesnakes to become more active. When temperatures rise, rattlesnakes come out to warm themselves, look for food, and find shady places to cool off. All this extra movement makes them easier to spot on trails and near homes, especially when the season heats up earlier than usual.

Rattlesnakes are common in San Diego, especially in

rural or canyon areas and when the weather warms up. They are part of our ecosystem and play an important role in population control of small mammals such as rats and mice. Because of the part they play in local ecosystems, they are fully protected within San Diego County Parks.

Rattlesnakes are easily identifiable by their large triangular head, narrow neck, and wide body with a pronounced ridge running down the middle of their backs. Rattlesnakes are also less shiny than most other snakes in the County. Although rattlesnakes can be seen year-round in Southern California, most sightings occur from April to June.

Rattlesnakes use their forked tongue to taste the smell of the air.

They can sense both reflected visual light (like humans) and infrared light which is given off by an animal’s body heat.

What should you do if you hear or see a rattlesnake?

You will likely hear the rattle before you see the snake. A rattle is the rattlesnake’s way of warning an intruder of its presence. Pay attention to this sign and be even more aware of your surroundings by staying on the trail, where it is easiest to identify a rattlesnake.

To prevent being bitten, the best advice is to leave the snake alone. Most bites occur when a person tries to pick up, tease or kill a snake. If

you give snakes an escape route, they’ll avoid you rather than strike.

If you are bitten, it is important to remember to:

Immobilize the bitten extremity – DO NOT apply a bandage or ice, and do not try to cut or suck out the venom.

Wash the skin – soap and water works best, or an anti-septic wipe.

Remove any jewelry or tight-fitting clothing , in case of swelling.

Call for help – call 911 to get medical attention as soon as possible; if you have to find a phone, walk at a relaxed pace.

Safety is a priority at County Parks. When you use your best common sense, it is easy to stay safe around rattlesnakes whether you are on a trail, out camping, or even in your own backyard.

If you see a rattlesnake on your property and you live in the County’s unincorporated areas or the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, San Diego, Santee or Solana Beach, keep an eye on the snake from a safe distance and call County Animal Services at 619-236-2341. Animal control officers can safely remove the snake and relocate it away from the public.

If you live in any other city, please contact your local animal control agency for assistance.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 17, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration from a photo by Dietmar Rabich · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight – Episcopal Community Services

Evening on the Bay: An ECS Fundraising Reception

Episcopal Community Services invites you to Evening on the Bay, a purpose-driven fundraising reception designed for meaningful connection and real community impact. With a breathtaking setting at San Diego’s stunning new waterfront venue and a streamlined program, the focus stays where it belongs, on people and purpose. Your participation directly supports ECS programs in early childhood education, behavioral health, homelessness

services, and substance use disorder treatment across San Diego.

The event will feature heavy hors d’oeuvres, hosted bar, and local impact.

Evening on the Bay will take place on Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm at Eve, located at 975 Waterfront Place San Diego, CA 92101.

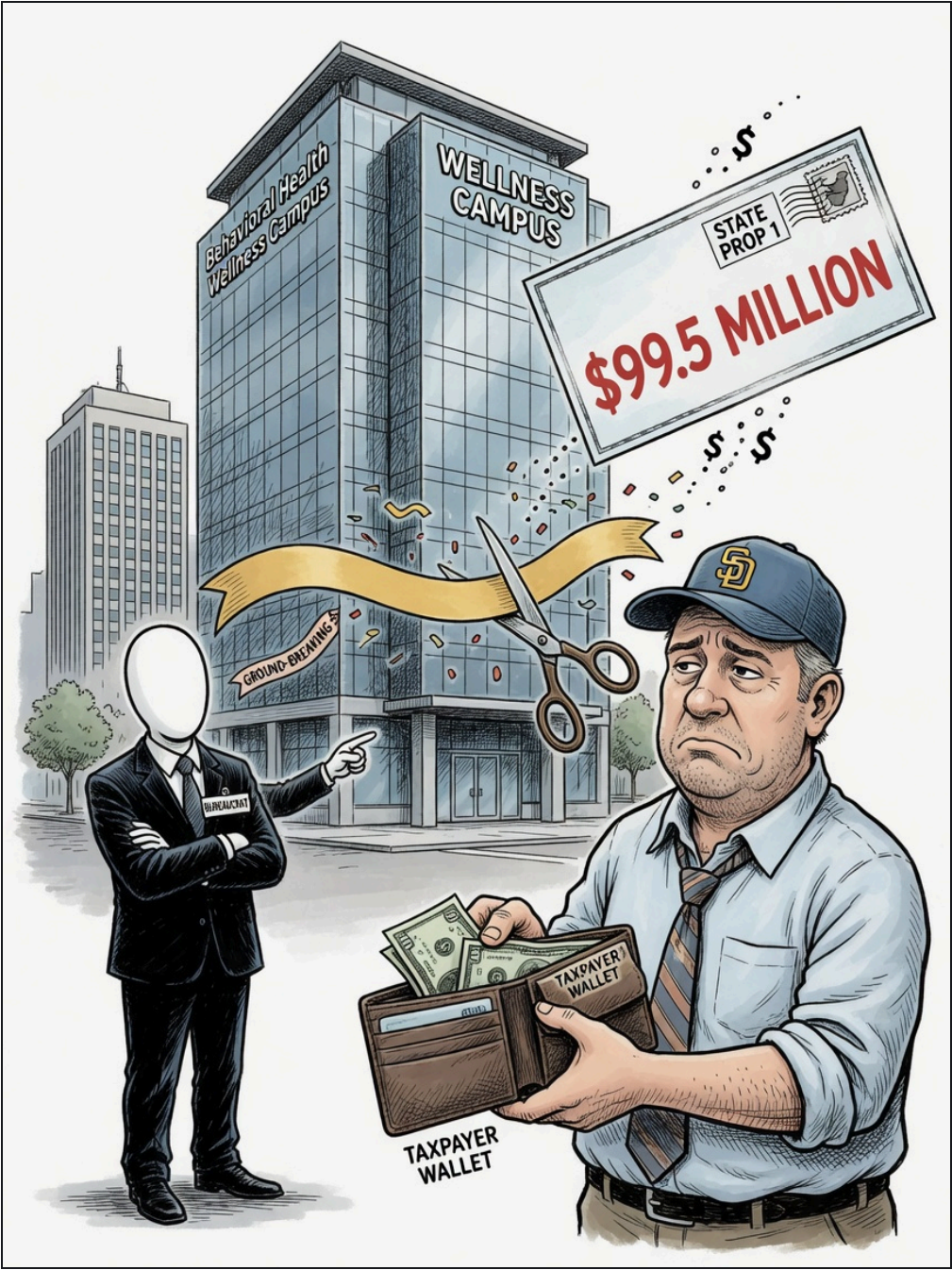
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY and transform communities with ECS.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Feb 26, 2026

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Another \$99.5M state 'wellness' campus. Taxpayers still waiting for results.

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

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 sandiegonewslne.com.	
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MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

DOWNTOWN Gaslamp Quarter Easter Brunch, Events & Things to Do in San Diego Date & Time : Saturday, April 4, 2026 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Location Wild Hare Bar Garden: Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter 401 K Street, San Diego, CA 92101 Celebrate the season in full bloom at Hop, Sip & Bloom , a vibrant spring brunch experience at Wild Hare Bar Garden inside the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter. This garden-style brunch brings together seasonal flavors, spring cocktails, and playful activations designed to welcome the season in style.	Enjoy a festive patio atmosphere featuring spring-inspired cocktail specials, charming garden photo moments, and local pop-ups throughout the space. • Spring-inspired cocktail specials • Live bunnies to pet, play with, and adopt through Tailas Tails • Headed West Permanent Jewelry & Charm Bar • Number Eleven Candles pop-up • Garden photo moments throughout the patio Hop, Sip & Bloom blends elevated brunch with fresh spring energy in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter. Gaslamp Quarter Association news release · Mar 13, 2026	COUNTY State of North County Event Held in Oceanside San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond delivered his annual State of the North County Thursday evening at the Frontwave Arena in Oceanside. Desmond, who has represented the County’s 5 th Supervisorial District for the past eight years, focused on the progress made in North County in expanding behavioral health services, making the area an education hub and support of first responders and law enforcement. “North County is about opportunity,” said Desmond.	“North County’s future isn’t something that’s going to happen to us, it’s something we’re going to build.” Desmond also honored several community members as “Unsung Heroes,” during the event. Desmond was elected to represent the 5 th District in 2018 and again in 2022. The County of San Diego has five supervisorial districts, each represented by a County Supervisor. The district is the largest geographically, covering more than 2,000 square miles in the North County, stretching from the County’s easternmost border to the coast.	The district has roughly 700,000 residents. It includes unincorporated areas in Escondido, Oceanside, Vista and San Marcos. It also includes more than 30 unincorporated communities and Census Designated Places, including: Bonsall, Fallbrook, Rainbow, Palomar Mountain, Valley Center, Twin Oaks Valley and Warner Springs. It is also home to the Indian reservations of La Jolla, Los Coyotes, Mesa Grande, Pala, Pauma/Yuima, Rincon, Santa Ysabel and San Pasqual. See the full State of North County video. County of San Diego news release · Mar 13, 2026
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SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

The news, every day.

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