

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

Wild Bat Found at Safari Park Tests Positive for Rabies



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County public health officials are asking anyone who may have come into contact with a bat found Saturday, July 11 at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park to contact them after the animal tested positive for rabies.

The deceased bat was found at 12:10 p.m. that day at the Oasis on the Rocks restaurant and was collected by a trained park employee. No human contact with the bat has been reported.

If you or someone in your family or group had direct contact with the bat, or you know of someone who may have touched the bat, County Public Health Services urges you to call (619) 692-8499 as soon as possible. Only those who have direct contact with the bat, such as touching or holding the animal, are at risk for rabies.

The bat was not one of the park's collection animals. It was delivered to the County Public Health Laboratory on July 13 where testing confirmed it was positive for rabies.

This is the 19th bat to test positive for rabies in San Diego County this year. In 2025, 21 bats tested positive.

“Rabies is an extremely serious viral disease, one of the deadliest, with nearly 100% fatality if not caught early enough,” said Dr. Ankita Kadakia, County deputy public health officer. “We are investigating to ensure anyone who came into contact with the bat receives care quickly. Once symptoms start there is no treatment for rabies.”

Public health officials remind residents:

If you have direct contact with a bat, wash the exposed area with soap and seek medical advice.

Rabies symptoms can take weeks to months to appear, and once symptoms begin, the disease is almost always fatal. Prompt treatment is highly effective.

Rabies remains rare in humans due to prevention efforts. California's most recent human rabies case occurred in 2024 in a Fresno County resident who was exposed to a bat in Merced County.

Find more information about bats and other animal testing for rabies visit the rabies dashboard for additional information rabies view the County's website.

Bats play an important role in our local ecosystem. Many species of bats live in San Diego County, feeding on insects such as mosquitoes. Other bat species feed on nectar from plants and pollinate them in the process. You may see bats occasionally around sunset when they are most active. It is important to respect wildlife and give wild animals space to play their role in our natural environment.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 15, 2026



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

COUNTY

County Releases Auditor's Report with Assessment of Contract Management Practices

The County is releasing the results of an independent assessment of its contracting management practices, detailing strengths and recommended improvements to ensure accountability.

The County announced in March it would formally review its internal contracting processes to improve oversight, following allegations involving a County contractor, the Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego (HRCSD). The Coalition had contracts for an anti-overdose medication and drug checking. Its former Chief Operating Officer has been accused by the District Attorney of embezzling funds from HRCSD.

The consultant conducted a thorough assessment , reviewing dozens of policies and procedures, as well as conducting interviews and walkthroughs with County staff from various departments. The consultant's report found the County has sound procurement practices, but once contracts are awarded, the County has an opportunity to create more cohesive monitoring practices across departments.

“We value the public's trust in the work we do to support our communities,” said Chief Administrative Officer Ebony Shelton. “Our team is committed

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Releases Auditor’s Report with Assessment of Contract Management Practices

to high procurement and contracting standards, and this report will help us strengthen oversight and make improvements where needed.”

Overall, the County has a sound procurement foundation for acquiring goods and services to support programs and services provided to our communities.

This includes defined selection procedures, approval authorities and training infrastructure.

The County has an opportunity to develop more centralized efforts across departments to better align monitoring, documentation and reporting to manage accountability and respond to emerging issues.

The report noted that the County’s Health and Human Services Agency already has established procurement and contract monitoring processes in place, and it includes recommendations to make enhancements that standardize policies, guidance and procedures across other parts of the County organization.

An enterprise-level contractor monitoring framework to set consistent expectations for risk assessment, documentation, oversight and communication

Formal organizational responsibility for contract monitoring governance

Standardized documentation and records management

Strengthened training and performance evaluation

Standardized site visit methodology as part of contract monitoring

The County is evaluating the recommendations to determine the next steps needed to strengthen contracting practices and protect public resources.

Employees, contractors and the public can report

concerns about waste, fraud or abuse. Reports can be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the County’s Ethics Hotline at 866-549-0004 as well as online , and to the District Attorney’s Office Public Integrity Unit .

The County continues to cooperate with the District Attorney’s investigation into fraud and embezzlement allegations related to the Harm Reduction Coalition and also provided nearly \$150,000 to several local organizations that were subcontractors of the Coalition and had not received anticipated payments from the contractor.

Despite the termination of HRCSD contracts in 2025, naloxone distribution efforts have continued without interruption to ensure people have access to life-saving resources.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 13, 2026

COUNTY Foster Youth Celebrate Graduation at SeaWorld San Diego

Tacos and penguins and sloths, oh my! County Child and Family Well Being brought joy, celebration and accomplishment to local foster youth and teens enrolled in the Independent Living Skills program during a splashy high school graduation event at SeaWorld San Diego.

Nearly 200 graduates, family members and supporters attended the June 26 event to honor and cheer on 70 foster youth who earned their high school diplomas. For many, graduation marks not just an academic milestone, but a moment of resilience and triumph over challenges that can make educational success hard to achieve.

To help foster youth reach their goals, the County launched the Fostering Academic Success in Education (FASE) program in August 2020. Through FASE, students are paired with an Educational Social Worker who understands their unique needs and provides tutoring, technology support

and guidance on financial aid and planning for the future.

Thanks to the FASE program, dedicated County staff and strong community partners, the Class of 2026 is stepping forward with confidence, pride and a vision for what comes next. Their achievements show what’s possible when support, determination and opportunity come together, and they remind us of the bright futures being built every day.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 15, 2026

COUNTY Extreme Heat Forecasted, Here Are Tips to Stay Safe

The national weather service is predicting elevated and significant risks of extreme heat practically all across San Diego County this week, and the County is offering tips to help people and pets stay safe.

Forecasts are predicting extreme heat — into the 90s in the mountains, the 100s in the inland valleys, 80s in and along the coast and even high heat throughout the night. Officials suggest people stay prepared by drinking plenty of fluids, staying out of the sun and remaining indoors where it’s air-conditioned during the hottest days, and checking up on friends and relatives.

Officials also said the high temperatures could affect people in the South Bay, especially those living near the Tijuana River Valley, by increasing the hydrogen sulfide emissions in the valley, which are often recognized by a strong rotten egg odor. They said people can reduce the impacts by limiting outdoor activities when the odors are present, keeping windows and doors closed, and increasing air circulation with fans or air conditioning on recirculation and to consider using air purifiers with HEPA filters, activated charcoal, or potassium permanganate. People sensitive to air pollution should keep rescue medications ready and seek medical help if symptoms

worsen. People can get more information at the County’s Tijuana River Valley Environmental Dashboard .

Extreme heat can cause body temperatures to soar. And that can cause heatstroke, exhaustion, dizziness, nausea, confusion, headache and even death. People who are particularly at risk are children, older adults, people with chronic medical conditions, someone who is pregnant, and outdoor workers.

Here are some tips to help you, your friends and loved ones stay safe.

Cool Zones and Indoor Relief — Places to Stay Cool

The County’s Cool Zones, including the County’s 33 branch libraries , community centers and other locations, offer people safe, air-conditioned sanctuaries from the heat. Here is a complete list of County Cool Zone sites , their hours and locations.

You can also use the County’s interactive link that lets you search for Cool Zone sites by location, ZIP code, organization and by what animals are allowed.

What to DO if Someone Shows Signs of Heatstroke

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.

What to DO if Someone Shows Signs of Heat Exhaustion

Signs include being faint or dizzy, excessive sweating, cool/pale/clammy skin, nausea/vomiting, rapid/weak pulse and muscle cramps.

Get the person to a cooler, air-conditioned place.

Have the person drink water if fully conscious.

Place them in a cool shower or use cold compresses.

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.

Stay cool, check on vulnerable neighbors and keep pets safe!

County of San Diego news release · Jul 13, 2026

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BUSINESS
Member Spotlight:
Sailing RTW

Sailing RTW , led by Captain Jim Manos, Owner-Operator, and Bernice Holguin, Operations Manager, is a premier provider of luxury yacht charters on San Diego Bay.

As a locally operated business, Sailing RTW joins the Chamber excited to connect with fellow business leaders, build meaningful

partnerships, and contribute to the continued growth and vibrancy of the San Diego community.

Sailing RTW specializes in personalized, on-the-water experiences for a wide range of occasions—from corporate events and client appreciation outings to bachelor and bachelorette parties, weddings, engagements, and private family gatherings, along with its popular anchor-and-swim charters. Each event is thoughtfully curated with both elegance and ease in mind, whether it’s an energetic celebration or a peaceful sail along the coast.

Sailing RTW also offers ash scattering ceremonies and full-body eco burials at sea, carried out with the utmost care, professionalism, and respect—providing families with a meaningful and serene way to honor their loved ones. A video offering a glimpse into a beautifully

conducted full-body eco burial at sea can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5KOYegxKIo>

Through its extended fleet and trusted partnerships, Sailing RTW offers flexibility in both vessel options and group size, accommodating intimate outings as well as larger events of up to 200 guests.

Sailing RTW looks forward to welcoming the San Diego community aboard for moments that are both memorable and meaningful.

For a closer look at the yacht and the experiences offered, visit Sailing RTW's YouTube channel for charter highlights and virtual tours: <https://www.youtube.com/@SailingRTW>

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jul 13, 2026

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight:
Maritime Museum of San Diego

The San Diego community and civic leaders are invited to experience this new secret speakeasy experience along the downtown waterfront aboard the iconic Star of India , the world’s oldest active sailing ship and centerpiece vessel nested among the Maritime Museum of San Diego fleet. Star of India celebrates her centennial anniversary homeported in San Diego next year when the Maritime Museum of San Diego next sails the historic vessel and honors her 164th birthday since launching in the Isle of Man in 1863. SAY San Diego is a nonprofit organization that has provided essential services to children, youth, and families in San Diego County for over 50 years.

According to Christina

Connett Brophy, Ph.D., President & CEO for the Maritime Museum of San Diego, “This fun San Diego downtown waterfront event launches a co-beneficiary fundraiser youth fashion show planned for Spring of 2027.”

Guests can step aboard the legendary Star of India Thursday, July 16 for this after-hours special event featuring cocktails, live music, sunset nibbles, hidden clues, harbor views, and access to a secret lower-deck speakeasy.

Check-in at 6:30 p.m. with speakeasy experience 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. \$60 per person, 21 and up only.

🎫 Tickets can be purchased at sdmaritime.org .

Proceeds from the event will be shared by the Maritime Museum of San Diego and SAY San Diego.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jul 10, 2026

AROUND CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA
Republican Leaders
Flora and Alanis Voted
for Tax Measure
Opposed by Most of
Their Caucuses

The two GOP Assembly leaders supported Senate Bill 762, which would allow certain local governments to exceed the statutory cap on transactions and use taxes.

Most members of the Assembly Republican Caucus voted against Senate Bill 762 on July 2.

Republican Minority Leader Heath Flora and Republican Caucus Chair Juan Alanis were the only two Republicans to vote yes on the measure authorizing 14 cities and counties to impose

transactions and use taxes above the 2 percent statutory limit.

The bill is authored by Sen. Jesse Arreguin (D-Berkeley) and Sen. John Laird (D-Monterey).

The California Taxpayers Association and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association stated that the transactions and use tax is regressive and "has the most harmful impact on low-income residents" because it increases the cost of everyday necessities.

Assemblywoman Alexandra Macedo (R-Tulare), who voted no, said she opposes raising taxes on Californians, that the cost of living has reached an all-time high, and that the Legislature must prioritize cutting costs

instead of increasing them.

Assemblywoman Natasha Johnson (R-Riverside), who also voted no, issued a nearly identical statement opposing new or higher taxes while the state collects record revenues.

Assemblyman David Tangipa (R-Fresno), who voted no, said that with record revenues the state clearly has a spending problem rather than a revenue problem.

Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez (R-Rancho Santa Margarita), vice chair of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, said she voted no on the bill in committee and that Californians want government to cut excess waste and focus on core

functions.

Assemblyman Stan Ellis (R-Bakersfield) was absent but his office stated that had he been present he would have voted no and that he does not support raising taxes at this time.

The remaining Republican members either voted no, were absent, or did not respond to requests for comment after the Independence Day holiday.

A source told the Globe that Flora is a leader in title only, that the rest of the Assembly Republicans are a tight group leading themselves, and that his vote appeared to be pure self-interest.

The Legislature is on break until August 3.

Flora and Alanis both represent rural counties that could be affected by the local tax authority granted in the bill.

Several Assembly Republican offices did not return calls or messages; an intern for Assemblyman Trin Ta hung up twice during one attempt to reach the office.

The source article raises questions about whether the two leaders' votes were intended to provide political cover for Democrats who did not want the tax-increase vote on their records ahead of reelection.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Jul 10, 2026

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

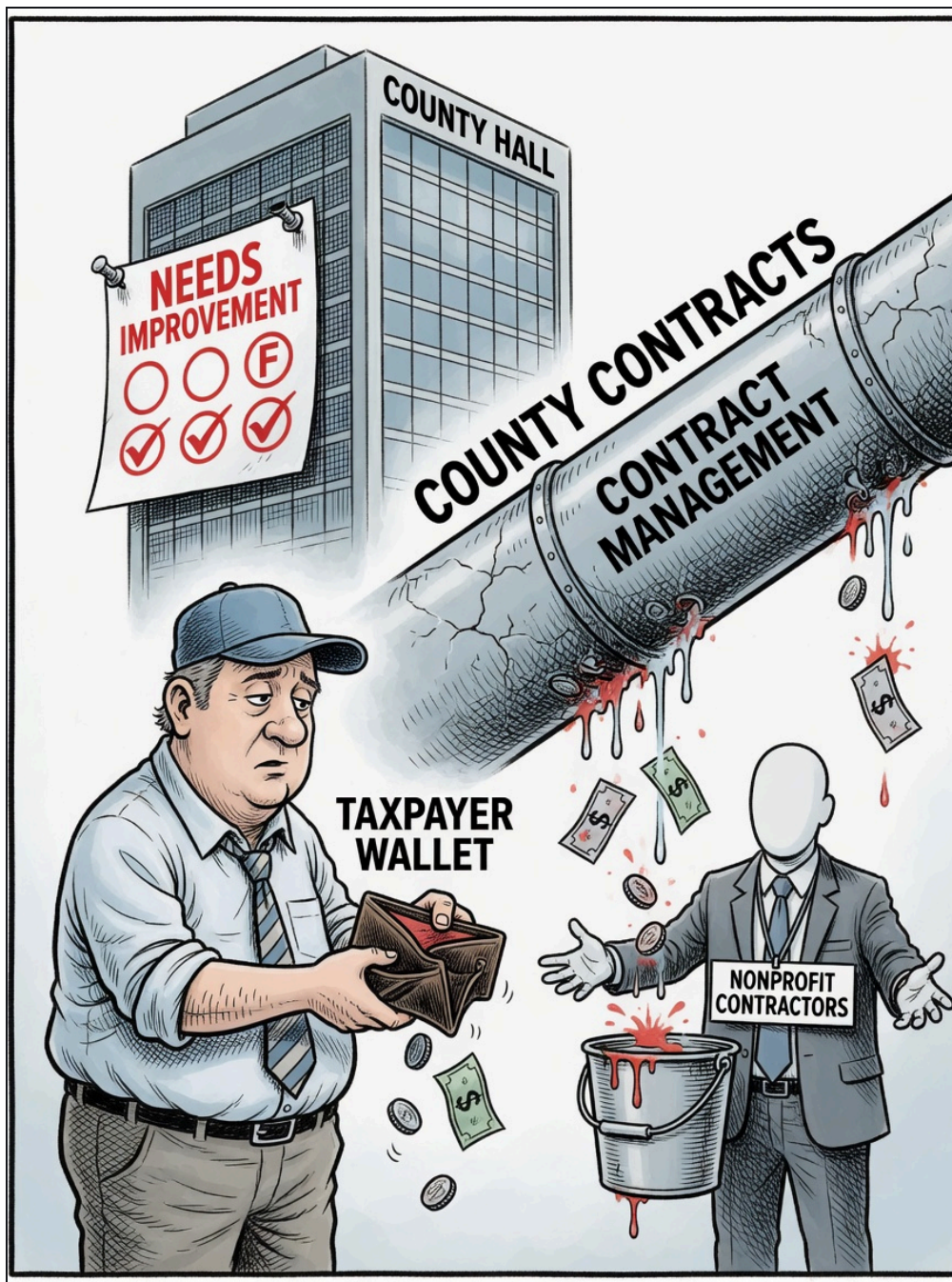
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THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion

*We'll get right on that.*

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

Bonta's Notice of Intent to Sue Over Offshore Wind Lease Cancellation Shows Misguided Priorities, Op-Ed Argues

California's attorney general is doubling down on expensive green energy projects that would drive up costs for residents already struggling with the state's high prices, according to an op-ed by Edward Ring of the California Policy Center.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta continues to champion policies that critics say are making the state even less affordable, argues an op-ed by Edward Ring, director of water and energy policy at the California Policy Center.

While many blame former Gov. Gavin Newsom for the state's business-hostile environment, the op-ed notes that California operates as a one-party state where other officials like Bonta play key supporting roles in sustaining harmful approaches.

Appointed by Newsom and later elected, Bonta has already had five years to reassess the extreme environmental rules that have pushed millions of residents

and thousands of companies to leave.

Instead of acknowledging the economic damage and limited environmental gains from these policies, Bonta is intensifying his efforts.

In what the op-ed calls Bonta's most indefensible display of supposedly environmentalist activism yet, the attorney general has filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The action targets the department's deal with Golden State Wind LLC to cancel its federal offshore wind lease along the Central Coast.

This comes as California households face electricity rates of \$0.35 per kilowatt-hour, more than double the national average.

Bonta is fighting to preserve what the op-ed describes as the priciest form of subsidized power: massive floating wind turbines located far offshore in deep seas.

The op-ed explains that offshore wind presents serious drawbacks compared to other sources.

Citing the International Energy Agency, the op-ed points out that offshore wind

requires 50 percent more minerals per megawatt than solar, nearly twice as much as land-based wind, three times nuclear levels, seven times coal, and 15 times natural gas.

The analysis covers fixed-bottom turbines in shallower waters, but California's plans involve even more challenging floating platforms.

The state's updated Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan from June 2024 aims for 25 gigawatts of capacity.

Achieving that goal would need 2,083 floating towers, each rising about 800 feet from the water to the blade tip, with turbines positioned hundreds of feet above the surface.

These would be anchored by cables in water 4,000 feet deep and linked by underwater power lines stretching 20 miles to shore.

At realistic performance levels, such a project could supply 28 percent of the state's annual electricity use based on 2024 consumption figures.

Yet the price tag would be enormous: \$184 billion for the turbines themselves, plus \$12 billion for port upgrades

and \$36 billion for transmission improvements, totaling \$232 billion.

Financing those costs at typical bond rates would require annual payments of \$14.9 billion, resulting in a wholesale price of \$0.19 per kilowatt-hour before adding maintenance, storage for intermittent output, delivery fees or utility expenses.

By comparison, the op-ed calculates that solar photovoltaic systems, even with lower efficiency and necessary backup storage, would cost only about \$0.03 per kilowatt-hour under similar assumptions.

Solar also allows for smaller, distributed setups on rooftops or private property, reducing the need for major grid expansions.

The op-ed calls criticism of federal lease cancellations an incredible inversion of economic reality.

While some advocates claim canceling projects wastes money and kills jobs, the op-ed counters that planning efforts have perhaps already cost taxpayers tens of millions, and full construction would drain hundreds of billions from the economy indefinitely.

The op-ed suggests industry supporters may overlook these issues because they benefit financially and focus on claimed climate gains while downplaying certain environmental damage from the turbines.

Bonta, however, should prioritize the needs of California's 39 million residents rather than wind industry interests.

If truly concerned about people or the environment, Bonta would instead challenge rules that have stifled timber harvesting, limited controlled burns, restricted brush clearing and blocked new housing on open lands, the op-ed argues.

He would also fight restrictions on practical infrastructure for water, power and transport that could help lower housing costs.

The op-ed concludes that Bonta is woefully misguided in his approach, much like Gov. Newsom, and appears more focused on appealing to environmental voters than addressing skyrocketing home prices and fuel costs.

California is already unaffordable, and Bonta's actions would only worsen that

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COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Bonta's Notice of Intent to Sue Over Offshore Wind Lease Cancellation Shows Misguided Priorities, Op-Ed Argues

situation.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jul 9, 2026

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.

MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

County Celebrates Pride in Full Color with Free Health Services and Community Activities

County of San Diego employees are back at San Diego Pride this year, marching in the parade and offering a variety of community services and activities throughout Pride Festival weekend.

On Saturday, July 18, County Libraries will join the Lit Café to help festival goers sign up for library cards and take part in family-friendly activities, including story time and crafts. A special Rainbow Storytime will be held in the Children's Garden at 2 p.m.

County Public Health Services will staff the colorful Live Well on Wheels mobile unit at Marston Point in Balboa Park from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and again on Sunday, July 19, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

Access to HIV post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

Providing sexually transmitted infection (STI) information

County health officials continue to remind the community that completing the

two-dose JYNNEOS mpox vaccine services remains one of the most effective ways to stay protected. Additional preventative steps include avoiding close, skin-to-skin and intimate contact with anyone who may have mpox symptoms.

“As we continue to see mpox cases in the county, we want to make sure those most at risk are completing the two-dose JYNNEOS vaccine series which remains one of the best ways to stay protected,” said Dr. Ankita Kadakia, M.D., County Deputy Public Health Officer.

In celebrating Pride, and throughout the year, the County affirms its commitment to supporting a vibrant, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 13, 2026

COUNTY

Multi-Drug Resistant TB Exposure Reported at California State University San Marcos and Sprinter Train

County health officials are working with California State University San Marcos to notify students and staff who may have been exposed to multidrug resistant tuberculosis (TB) between Dec. 15, 2025, and May 14, 2026.

Officials say the exposure occurred on the CSU San Marcos main campus at 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road in San Marcos.

Additional brief exposures were reported on the North County Transit District Sprinter, eastbound between the Melrose Drive and Civic Center – Vista stations at various times between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on May 18, 20, 26, and 27, 2026.

TB transmission is more likely during prolonged exposures. Short periods of contact, such as those on the Sprinter, are not considered highly likely to cause infection. Still, riders with certain health conditions may face increased risk. This information is being shared to help anyone who may have been exposed to discuss the risks with their healthcare provider.

The case is not linked to any previously announced multidrug-resistant TB exposures.

TB can be difficult to diagnose, and people may be sick for months before learning they have the disease. Anyone who believes they may have been exposed, or healthcare providers caring for those with known exposures, should call the County Tuberculosis Control

Program at (619) 692-8621 for guidance, especially if they test positive for TB following the exposure.

Standard TB medications are not effective when treating multidrug resistant TB, and people infected with this type of TB require treatment with alternate medications.

TB spreads through the air when a person with TB coughs, speaks, sings or breathes near others. People who have been exposed to someone with TB should get tested.

Anyone with symptoms of active TB, including persistent cough, fever, night sweats or unexplained weight loss or those who are immunocompromised should see a medical provider promptly to rule out active TB disease and to discuss treatment.

“Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis can be more complicated and lengthier to treat since it does not respond to the usual medicines,” said Ankita Kadakia, M.D., County Deputy Public Health Officer. “The good news is that TB, including drug resistant TB, is treatable and curable with the right medication. If you believe you may have been exposed, please contact the County Tuberculosis Department right away. Early

screening and treatment are important to help protect your health and the health of our community.”

Active TB disease can often be prevented through the diagnosis and treatment of a latent TB infection. People who test positive without symptoms should get a chest x-ray to rule out active TB and talk to a medical provider, as they most likely have latent TB infection.

Those with latent TB are not yet sick but can prevent future illness by completing a short course of medication. LTBI treatment for people exposed to MDR TB involves different medications than the standard LTBI therapy.

An estimated 175,000 people in San Diego County who have latent TB, between 5 and 10 percent will develop active TB disease without treatment.

San Diego County's active TB cases have risen steadily since 2020,increasing from 193 cases in 2020 to 265 cases in 2025.

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis is less common, with three cases in 2024 in San Diego County and two in 2025.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 10, 2026

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