



# The San Diego Union-Tribune

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## Attack at D.C. event thwarted

Trump, senior U.S. leaders evacuated unhurt; officer shot, L.A.-area man in custody

By Seung Min Kim, Aamer Madhani, Collin Binkley, Alanna Durkin Richer & David Bauder  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A man armed with guns and knives stormed the lobby outside the annual White House correspondents' dinner attended by President Donald Trump and multiple senior U.S. leaders on Saturday night, rushing toward the ballroom before Secret Service agents swarmed him and took him into custody. The president was uninjured and was hustled away.

Guests, including lawmakers, high-profile journalists and celebrities, went diving under tables as the scene unfolded and some reported hearing shots outside the vast subterranean ballroom in the Washington Hilton where the event was being held.

One law enforcement official said a gunman had opened fire. A law enforcement officer was shot in the bullet-resistant vest but is expected to be OK, several sources told The Associated Press.

The shooting suspect — described by Trump as a "sick person" — was identified as Cole

Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, two law enforcement officials told the AP.

"When you're impactful, they go after you. When you're not impactful, they leave you alone," Trump, safe and uninjured and still in his tuxedo, said at the White House two hours later. "They seem to think he was a lone wolf."

Trump posted two images on Truth Social showing a man he said was the attacker being detained and told reporters that law enforcement officials were heading to the suspect's apartment in California.

Washington Mayor Muriel

Bowser said she had "no reason" to believe anyone else was involved, and authorities said a potential motive was unclear.

"There does not appear to be any sort of danger to the public at this time," Bowser said at a separate news conference.

All officials protected by the Secret Service were evacuated. Those in attendance included Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio — and many other leaders of the Trump administration on a night when the

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## President calls off aides' trip for talks with Iran

Prospects for new round of negotiations uncertain

By Munir Ahmed, Samy Magdy & Jon Gambrell  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD — The latest ceasefire talks between the United States and Iran appeared to fail Saturday before they began, as Tehran's top diplomat left Pakistan and President Donald Trump said he had told envoys not to travel to Islamabad.

The negotiations were meant to follow historic face-to-face talks earlier this month between the U.S., led by Vice President JD Vance, and Iran, led by parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. But Iranian officials have questioned how they can trust the U.S. after its forces started blockading Iranian ports in response to Iran's war grip on the Strait of Hormuz waterway.

"If they want to talk, all they have to do is call!!!" Trump said on social media, adding: "Too much time wasted on traveling, too much work!" The White House on Friday said Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner would be going to Islamabad.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi left Islamabad on Saturday evening, two Pakistani officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

"Shared Iran's position concerning

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## CHICANO PARK DAY



Aztec dancers from multiple groups perform a blessing during Chicano Park Day, marking the 56th anniversary of the park's founding, in Barrio Logan on Saturday. The day honors the students and residents who began occupying the area underneath the San Diego-Coronado Bridge in April 1970 to stop the California Highway Patrol from using it for a new station. Story, A2. KRISTIAN CARREON / U-T



ANA RAMIREZ / U-T

### ARTS & CULTURE

## Diving into S.D.'s marine protected areas

Environmental groups are pushing for the state to expand a marine protected area off the coast of Point Loma to protect kelp beds, a move local fishermen fear could cost them their livelihoods. A new Union-Tribune film, "Future Oceans," takes a look at both sides of the issue. Photo essay, E12

## Report: City streets to degrade to 'poor' category within decade

By David Garrick  
UNION-TRIBUNE

A comprehensive new analysis envisions a grim future for San Diego's streets, including a prediction that their overall quality will plummet far below national standards by 2034 and fall into the "poor/at-risk" category.

The main reason for pessimism in the 24-page report is that city officials have essentially abandoned a plan to sharply increase funding over the next decade to slowly improve street quality up to national standards.

Because of a budget crisis, the city devoted only \$83 million to paving during the ongoing fiscal year instead of the \$259 million called for in the plan. For the new fiscal year, the mayor is proposing \$65.5



San Diego would need \$1.8 billion over the next decade to keep streets in "fair" condition. That would require \$1.1 billion beyond the \$700 million it's expected to have. NELVIN C. CEPEDA / U-T

million instead of the recommended \$273 million.

If the city continues to spend only money from outside sources like the state gas tax on paving, the report says it will fall \$1.3 billion short of having streets in "satisfactory" condi-

tion and \$1.1 billion short of "fair" condition.

"Based on the current funding outlook, the overall condition of city streets will slowly degrade to 'poor' within the

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## SDG&E eyes new electric transmission line through state park

Utility's proposal to bolster Calif. grid draws opposition

By Rob Nikolewski  
UNION-TRIBUNE

San Diego Gas & Electric has released a preliminary route for a new electric transmission line running from Imperial Valley in the east to the border of San Diego and Orange counties in the west.

A desert conservation group has already come out in opposition to where SDG&E wants the proposed 145-mile corridor to go, while another critic says the line, dubbed the Golden Pacific Powerlink, may not be needed at all.

The debate will begin in earnest in a few weeks, when SDG&E hosts a pair of virtual open houses about the proposed energy path-way.

That kicks off a years-long process that includes public hearings, environmental impact reviews and regulatory proceed-

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## A PATH FORWARD STEVEN P. DINKIN

## Meeting the moment: When the status quo is no longer an option

For the past several weeks, I've been working on my speech for the Peacemaker Awards dinner next Saturday. The National Conflict Resolution Center has hosted this event for 38 years now, to recognize individuals and organizations working with passion and purpose toward a better future for all Americans.

Our theme this year is "Meeting the Moment." It has me thinking about ways NCRC has responded when the status quo was no longer an option — nor was giving up. "Meeting the moment" is about showing curiosity and engaging when the stakes are highest, rather than retreating into the safety of an echo chamber.

One of the stories I'll tell is about NCRC's work in middle and high schools, where hate speech and bullying have practically become commonplace. Just recently, I heard about a group of high schoolers who taunted an African American student with a vulgar racial slur, just to see his reaction. The young man smiled because he didn't know what else to do. Then he walked into an empty classroom, sat down, and

started to cry.

NCRC is teaching youth to meet moments like these as upstanders — to do or say something, rather than joining in or giving tacit approval with their silence. It's a courageous thing to do, but it's never easy.

Perhaps my speech preparation has brought on a bout of "red car syndrome," but it seems the news has been filled with powerful examples of people "meeting the moment." (Red car syndrome occurs when your brain, newly exposed to a specific item — like a red car — subconsciously begins to look for it. You think red cars are everywhere, but really, your awareness has increased.)

Recently, the nation of Hungary — standing at a democratic crossroads — met the moment, with record numbers of citizens turning out to elect a new leader, Péter Magyar. If you watched the post-election celebrations, you couldn't help but feel the joy as a massive, grassroots movement reclaimed the political narrative. Hungarians demonstrated that a moment of divisiveness can be converted into a moment of

collective agency.

Several days after his defeat, five-term prime minister Viktor Orbán broke his silence. In a YouTube interview, Orbán took full responsibility for the loss. He said, "This is the end of an era. We must bear this defeat with dignity." Orbán met the moment.

At Yale University, a committee of professors wanted to know why public trust in higher education had collapsed. It examined skyrocketing tuition costs, opaque admission practices, and uneven academic standards, among other factors. The panel's report, which was commissioned last April, amounted to a "damning depiction of academia's role in cultivating the political and cultural forces that are reshaping higher education's place in American life," said Alan Blinder in *The New York Times*.

Co-chair Beverly Gage said the report takes the "long view." She acknowledged that distrust, which has built over time, will take time to reverse, "requiring not just changed communication but real, substantive action and self-critique."

University leadership is "meeting the moment" in two ways: commissioning the report to begin with and embracing its recommendations. It requires a willingness to be vulnerable, but also to take responsibility.

Recently, *New York Times* reporters Manny Fernandez and Sarah Hurtes broke a disturbing story: that Cesar Chavez, co-founder of the United Farm Workers and civil rights icon, had groomed and sexually abused girls who worked in the movement. The (now) women decided to go public more than 50 years after the abuse occurred. Among those who spoke up was Latina activist Delores Huerta, who the reporters said, "framed her silence at the time not as an absence of pain, but as a kind of strategic necessity, particularly as a woman fighting for respect in the male-dominated world of 1960s union organizing."

Their actions show the importance of upstanding, even if it doesn't happen in the moment.

On Saturday night, I will ask the Peacemaker audience: "How are you meeting the moment?"

The throughline connecting the people of Hungary, the leaders at Yale, and the Chavez survivors is bravery. These were big, bold actions having uncertain outcomes.

But we can meet the moment in small, invisible ways, too: how we handle a disagreement with a colleague at work, how we support a friend amid a personal crisis, how we navigate a divisive election with loved ones. "Meeting the moment" is about individual actions taken not in isolation but in recognition of our shared humanity.

*NCRC's Peacemaker Awards dinner will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 5 p.m. For information, or to register, visit [ncrconline.com/peacemaker](http://ncrconline.com/peacemaker).*

*Steven P. Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), a San Diego-based organization that is working to create innovative solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit [ncrconline.com](http://ncrconline.com).*

## SURF

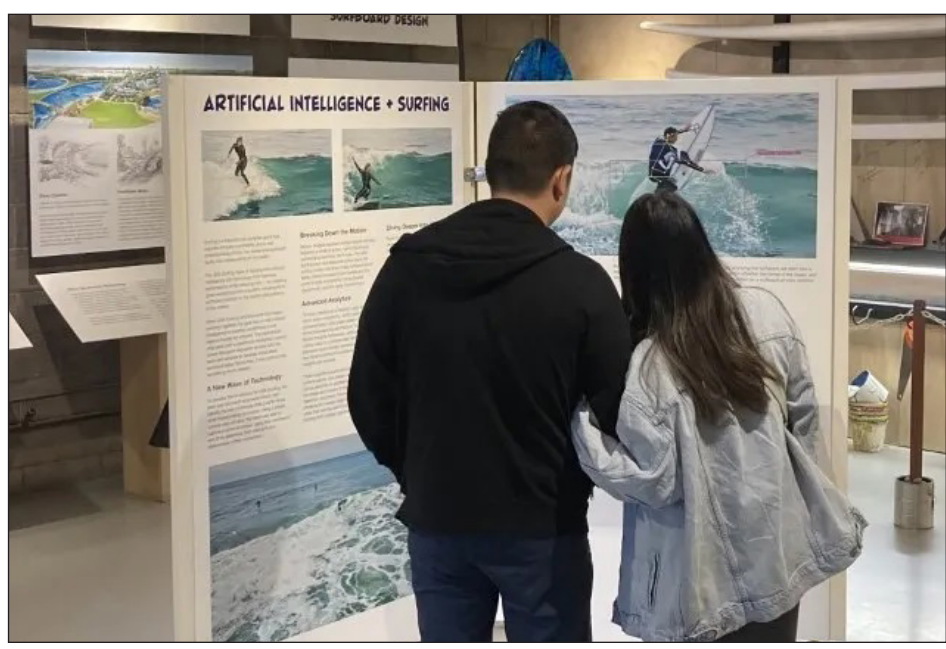
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surfer, Stuart Resor, with help from the community, including a former Smithsonian employee. They formed a board of directors and set out on a mission "to collect and preserve surf history for generations to come."

"We wanted most of all for the museum to get people turned on to surfing — the magic of surfing — it's a supernatural feeling and you can't explain it. The museum is about sharing the spirit of aloha and sharing the stories of the early surfers and the legends and the history," said Kevin Kinnear, one of the museum's founders and a member of the original board, which included its president, Resor, along with Mike Cates, June Chocheles, Don Fine, Steve George, Parry Payne, Jane Schmauss, Ian Urquhart and Catherine Woolsey.

Some of the original board members are still involved with the museum, but hundreds more joined the effort, some volunteering, others donating surf boards and memorabilia, and many sharing their stories, including famous surfers from Eddie Aikau, Nat Young, Greg Noll and Donald Takayama.

"We're all here because we love it and it's so important to carry on surfing history, not as something frozen in



Visitors to the California Surf Museum view an exhibit that had featured the science behind surfing. **CALIFORNIA SURF MUSEUM**

time, but something that keeps changing," said Tom Dahnke, longtime docent at the California Surf Museum, which was a top pick in *USA Today's* "10 Best Attractions for Sports Fans" in 2023.

The museum's first big fundraiser, themed "Summer Surf Stomp," was in August 1986 at the Belly Up in Solana Beach. They netted about \$200.

In August 1987, the museum opened its first exhibit "Catching Waves: Trestles to Tourmaline," which included photographs, stories and surfboards at

Moonlight Plaza in Encinitas, in a space offered rent free by local businessman Paul Rotscheck, a regular at George's. Surf legend Mike Diffenderfer, a renowned surfboard shaper who is now in the San Diego Surfing Hall of Fame, was among attendees at the exhibit's grand opening. A second exhibit, "Iron Men and Wooden Boards," opened the following summer featuring stories of legendary surfers like George Freeth, Bob Simmons and Tom Blake.

"We want people to get a sense of what surfing is about,

the power and magnificence of the waves and what we mean when we say, 'I'm stoked,'" said Jim Kempton, executive director of the California Surf Museum. "We want people to understand what's special about surfing. It's different from other sports. We even hesitate to call it a sport. It's more than that. It's a culture, it has its own language and style, music and heritage."

The museum moved a half-dozen times, but grew and became an institution attracting visitors from around the world. The

nonprofit, largely volunteer-run museum moved to Pacific Beach and then to Oceanside at 308 North Pacific St. in 1991, 223 North Coast Highway in 1998, and later to its current location at 312 Pier View Way in 2009.

The 5,100-square-foot museum, designed in the shape of a wave, maintains a collection of vintage and signature surfboards that are rotated between displays. Some boards date as far back as the late 19th century, and some have connections to legendary surfers such as Duke Kahanamoku, Whitey Harrison, Bob Simmons, Phil Edwards, Kelly Slater and Bethany Hamilton. Thousands of photographs and historical documents are stored in archives and the collections section of the museum houses an assortment of memorabilia.

A new exhibit opened recently on "Surfriding: Hawaiian Royalty's Gift to the World," which features replicas of historic 17 foot wooden surfboards created by Santa Cruz master surfboard shaper Bob Pearson. The display tells the story of Hawaii's longtime influence on the world of surfing.

"We are planning a future exhibit that chronicles the ancient history of wave riding in all of the Americas that goes back thousands of years," said Parry Payne, a founder of the museum and

one of the original board members as well as current board member. "Today, one can still view the fishermen in Northern Peru riding on their Caballito de totoro reed surf craft that began as far back as 9,000 years ago with the Chan Chan civilization. The museum has so much more to share with the world."

Over the years, the museum has received its share of accolades. It was featured on the History Channel TV show "American Pickers" and on *Huell Howser's* "California Dreamin'" (2011).

The museum was part of public television's *Great Museums* series in 2007, and was one of several museums featured in *Smithsonian Magazine's* 2011 edition on "American Curiosities."

But when folks talk about the museum, they talk about people: the surfers and board shapers who made history and those at the museum sharing the history.

"We're like 'ohana' — extended family — that's the spirit of the museum," Kempton said.

"The California Surf Museum doesn't simply tell the story of surfing. It protects its soul and continues to inspire its future," wrote museum board member Severino Ricci for the exhibit on the museum's 40th anniversary.

## MAYOR

From Page 1

another term. Tamayo, a former school board trustee, is running on a platform of economic development and housing affordability. And Gersten, a 34-year-old county analyst and political newcomer, is making the case that fresh eyes and practical thinking are what Chula Vista needs.

Council members and the mayor are limited to two terms. Under the city's current charter, a mayor or council member who has served two consecutive terms must wait at least one year after their second term ends before running for the same office again — a provision that was also in place under the 2000 charter, which governed when McCann first took office in 2002. That means McCann, who has held a seat on the Chula Vista City Council or in the mayor's office for the better part of two decades, is eligible to seek another term.

The mayor's annual salary is \$161,519.80, according to the city — a benchmark that typically increases annually under the city's charter and is tied to the salary of a Superior Court judge.

In the interest of consistency, each candidate was asked the same three questions covering the city's development goals and its push to bring a four-year university to Chula Vista, the recently passed ordinance limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, and the city's multifaceted approach to homelessness — including the Palomar Point motel renovation and one of the county's strictest encampment bans.

Each candidate was also given the opportunity to raise an additional issue of their choosing.

## YAIR GERSTEN

Yair Gersten, a 34-year-old administrative analyst for the County of San Diego, is making his first run for elected office in the Chula Vista mayoral race, positioning himself as a pragmatic outsider

focused on delivering results on the city's most pressing issues.

On bringing a four-year university to Chula Vista, Gersten said the city should focus on removing obstacles it controls — streamlining approvals, aligning land-use decisions and improving internal coordination. He expressed support for building on the existing San Diego State University partnership and said all major development projects, from the bayfront to the film studio, must deliver measurable community benefits.

"The path forward isn't just finding consensus," he wrote. "It's making Chula Vista the easiest place for these projects to succeed, while making sure our community sees the results."

On immigration, Gersten framed his support for protective local policies around public safety, arguing that community trust is essential to effective law enforcement.

"Without it, communities are less likely to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement, making everyone less safe," he wrote. He said transparency and clear communication would be central to his approach as mayor.

On homelessness, Gersten supported the city's current strategy, but raised pointed concerns about cost and scale, noting that Palomar Point's per-unit price tag of more than \$500,000 means such projects alone cannot meet the full need. He called for lower-cost, higher-capacity alternatives and stressed that encampment enforcement requires sufficient shelter availability to be fair and effective.

As an additional issue, Gersten highlighted education, arguing the city has a meaningful supporting role even though schools are primarily governed at the state and district level. He called for stronger coordination between schools and childcare providers, expanded after-school programs and a city fund to help teachers cover classroom costs — a need, he said, he witnessed firsthand at Loma Verde Elementary.

Gersten has no prior political

experience and a bachelor's degree in business and management from Excelsior College.

## JOHN MCCANN

John McCann, the incumbent mayor of Chula Vista who owns a real estate and property management company, is seeking another term in office, running on a record of economic development, public safety and neighborhood investment.

On the university project, McCann pointed to concrete progress made under his leadership, including a 10-year lease agreement with San Diego State University's nursing program and a 30-acre master plan developed through the city's University Subcommittee, which he led. He proposed a "Compact for Success" modeled after an existing partnership between SDSU and Sweetwater Union High School District, which would guarantee admission to local students who complete defined college preparatory coursework and meet a minimum GPA. He called the university "the transformational investment our residents deserve" and said it would anchor the city's future economy, "powering workforce pipelines, fueling housing demand, and driving long-term commercial vitality."

On immigration, McCann, who had previously recused himself from the issue citing his dual role as a federal employee through the Navy Reserve, stopped short of taking a direct position on the ordinance, saying he was serving on active military duty overseas when it passed. He said California state law already governs how local police interact with federal immigration authorities and that his department's existing practices predate the measure.

"Our officers do not ask about immigration status, do not detain individuals on civil ICE holds, and do not share protected personal information," McCann said. "Our department has always followed state law."

He framed the issue in public safety terms rather than politi-

cal ones. "When immigrant families feel safe calling 911, our entire community is safer," he wrote. "That trust is not a political position; it is a public safety strategy."

On homelessness, McCann took ownership of the city's current strategy, citing the creation of the Homeless Outreach Team, the opening of a transitional shelter called the Chula Vista Village at Otay and the encampment ban as products of his leadership. He described his approach as "compassionate" and "results-driven," adding that "compassion for those experiencing homelessness and safety for our residents are not competing values — they go hand in hand." He said he would expand mental health and substance abuse treatment partnerships and track outcomes rigorously going forward.

As an additional issue, McCann highlighted infrastructure investment in older, underserved neighborhoods, pointing to park renovations, the 29-acre Sweetwater Park addition and the Citrus Park homeownership project — which he described as the largest new homeownership development on the city's west side in more than three decades.

McCann, 57, holds master's and bachelor's degrees in economics and is an honor graduate of the U.S. Navy Supply Corps School. He is a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

## FRANCISCO TAMAYO

Francisco Tamayo, a 45-year-old technology director and former school board trustee, is running for Chula Vista mayor on a platform of execution-focused leadership, housing affordability and stronger investment in working families.

On the university project, Tamayo acknowledged recent progress — including degree programs launching at the Millenia Library this fall — but was candid about the gaps that remain. "The physical campus still has no construction funding, no groundbreaking date, and a task force that won't report to the Legislature until July 2027," he wrote. "The gap between

ribbon-cutting and reality is where projects like this go to die." As mayor, he said he would treat the effort as "an execution problem, not just an advocacy problem," integrating the university, the bayfront and the film studio infrastructure into a unified economic development vision.

On immigration, Tamayo offered unequivocal support for the ordinance, grounding his position in personal experience with affected families during his 11 years as a Chula Vista Elementary School District trustee. "I have seen children come to school unable to focus, unable to learn, consumed by a fear that no child should carry: the fear that when the school day ends, their parents may not be there," he wrote. He argued that delaying medical care out of fear of deportation made the entire community less safe, and said he would pair the ordinance with expanded language access and community liaison programs citywide.

On homelessness, Tamayo supported the city's current strategy but argued that enforcement without adequate housing supply is "a cycle, not a solution." He called for a dedicated city funding strategy for permanent supportive housing, a faster shelter-to-housing pipeline and direct partnerships with behavioral health and substance use treatment providers.

As an additional issue, Tamayo highlighted housing affordability, proposing the "Chula Vista Heroes Plan" — a homeownership initiative targeting teachers, nurses, first responders and other essential workers. "The people who make Chula Vista function should be able to afford to live here," he wrote. He also called for annual housing production accountability targets and mandatory affordability requirements built into major developments, including the bayfront and the University Innovation District.

Tamayo has served as an elected trustee on the Chula Vista Elementary School District Board of Education for more than 11 years and currently serves as director of technology and security at Calbright College. He holds an MBA.