

STRANGE NEW WORLD

College football chaos upending sport's landscape

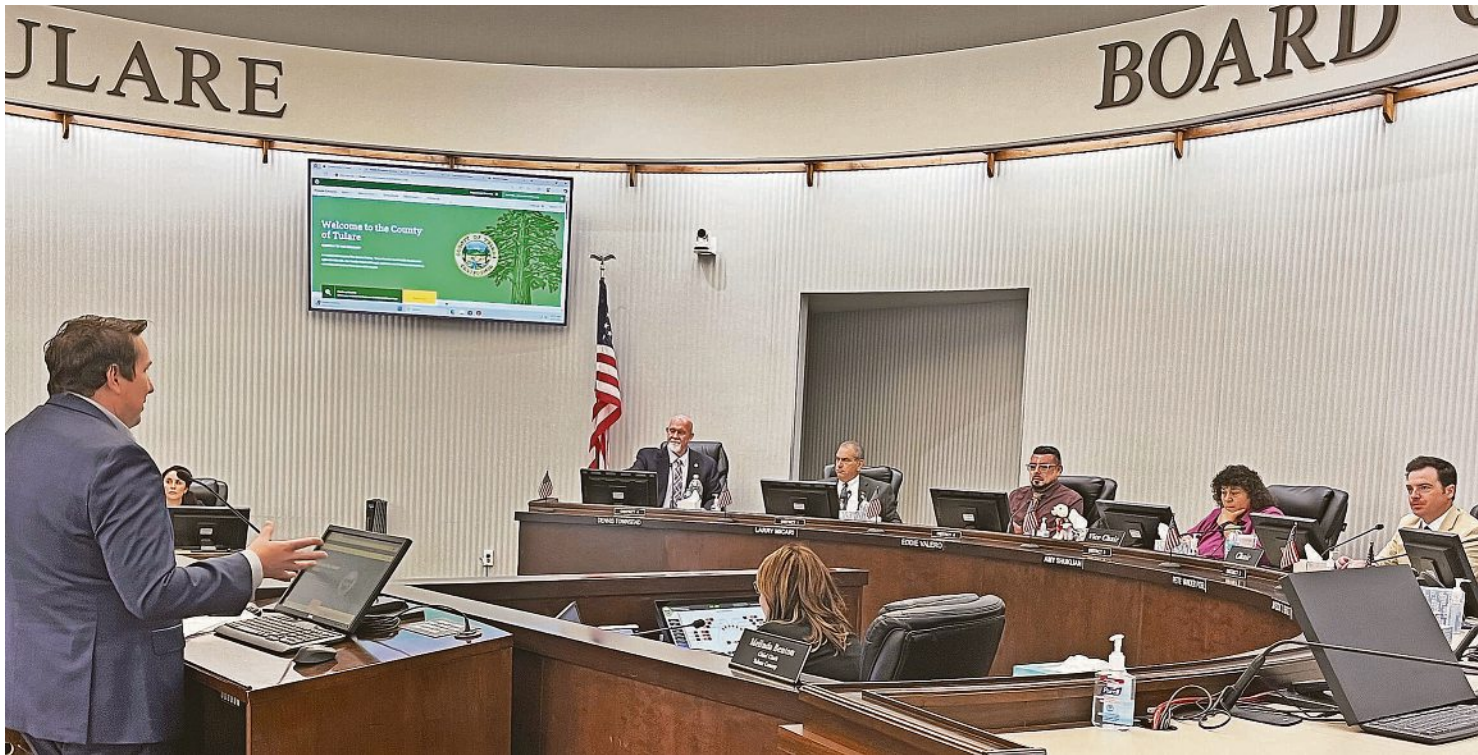
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VISALIA TIMES-DELTA WEEKEND Tulare Advance-Register

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TULARE COUNTY



Joseph Halford, county information and communications technology director, presents the new county website to Tulare County Supervisors at their Aug. 5 meeting. STEVE PASTIS/VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

New website user-friendly and service-focused

Steve Pastis

Visalia Times-Delta
USA TODAY NETWORK

The new Tulare County website, which includes input from every county department, was launched on Aug. 21.

Joseph Halford, county information and communications technology director, unveiled the new website to Tulare County Supervisors at the Aug. 5 meeting.

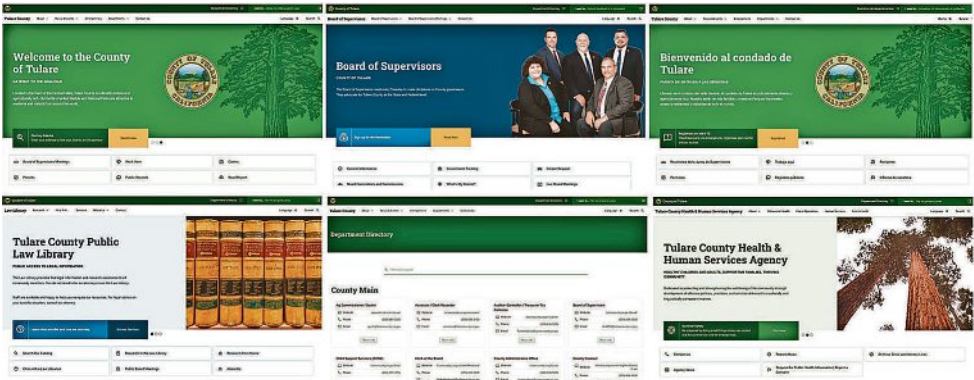
Halford started his presentation by thanking all the people who played key roles in creating the new website.

"We've had over 75 people involved throughout the project, which is pretty extensive," he said. "With all the content management updates and weekly meetings, a lot of people have put effort into this, so it's really exciting that we're at that point of launching."

Halford explained why the website that had served the county for more than 20 years was outdated.

"If you go to our current website, every page looks completely different from department to department," he said. "That creates other challenges for content creation. It bottlenecks our ability to update the system. We've also got poor mobile experience, accessibility challenges, and it doesn't really align with our modernization priorities."

He added that there was interest among departments in having a chatbot,



The new Tulare County website includes these six homepages. PROVIDED BY COUNTY OF TULARE

"We want it to be accessible by design and then, of course, service-focused. Our current website has been very department-focused. You have to know where you're going to find something."

Joseph Halford Tulare County Information and Communications Technology Director

automation and social media integration on the website.

"Those things really aren't possible with our current platform," Halford said. "The vision for the new website is that it wants to be secure, scalable and user-friendly, so we want to be able to scale up

and down as needed.

"We want to empower departments to manage their content independently," he continued. "They've typically done that with our current platform, but we really

See WEBSITE, Page 8A

Three CA housing markets rank best

Roseann Cattani

Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

With steady mortgage rates, WalletHub named three California cities among the year's top 10 real estate markets, with one ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Irvine in Orange County, with an estimated population of 307,000, was given the top honors among all large cities in the 2025 study, and was identified as having the third-best real estate market of all cities regardless of population size.

According to the study, Irvine has the third-highest share of houses that were built between 2010 and 2023, at nearly 32%, which is good news for people who want all the benefits of a recently constructed home.

Additionally, Irvine is the 11th-cheapest city for phone service and the 20th-cheapest for maintenance and energy. It also has the 15th-lowest mortgage delinquency rate and the 16th-highest median credit score, an affirmation of the residents' financial responsibility and ability to meet payment deadlines, according to the study.

This is not the first time Irvine has earned national recognition. Irvine was named the best California city to reside in, according to Niche, and a previous WalletHub study placed it as the third-happiest city in the United States.

How the study determined its findings

WalletHub compared 300 cities across two key dimensions, "Real Estate Market" and "Affordability & Economic Environment," to determine their findings. It evaluated the two dimensions using 17 relevant metrics such as home value forecast, foreclosure rate, housing affordability, and building permit activity.

The cities were then each given an overall score based on the city's weighted average across all metrics.

Each city was categorized by population size: large (population over 300,000), mid-size

See HOUSING, Page 2A

Ukrainian marine's journey highlights hidden toll of war

Michael Collins and Stephen J. Beard
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Yuri Saiko heard the whistling sound from his hospital bed and took cover under his blanket.

A split second later, the window in his room exploded, spraying glass in every direction.

An air bomb had hit the hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, where the young ma-

rine was recovering from surgery to amputate his left leg.

Saiko and his comrades came under fire on March 10, 2022, after delivering baby formula, food, clothing and other supplies to three patients who had given birth in a hospital bunker. Russian soldiers pounded them with artillery fire as they headed back to their positions near

See TOLL OF WAR, Page 2A



The Ukrainian government initially fitted Yuri Saiko with a mechanical prosthetic, but it was too heavy, not particularly functional and required the use of his own body strength to generate movement, he said.

NATHANIAL GARY/USA TODAY

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