

Suspect in Kirk’s killing is arrested

Bay Area students working to bring conservative discussion to campuses

By Connor Letourneau, Nanette Asimov and Sara DiNatale
STAFF WRITERS

Sloane Wehman was riding home from shopping with her mother Wednesday afternoon when she learned from Fox News Radio that Charlie Kirk, the right-wing activist and influencer, had just been shot and killed during an event at Utah Valley University.

At first, Wehman didn’t believe it. Just two months earlier, the 19-year-old Stanford sophomore had met Kirk at a convention in Florida, where

he asked her about being conservative at a famously liberal university. Now there Wehman was, texting friends from Stanford’s newly formed Turning Point USA chapter about whether the 31-year-old co-founder of that national organization was still alive.

Many of her Stanford classmates might have considered Kirk a harmful provocateur or outright bigot. Among his most incendiary sound bites: calling the existence of transgender people “a throbbing middle finger to God,” claiming that Islam is not “compat-

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“We want to be there to show students that there is a conservative presence on campus ... and we’re here to fight for what Charlie’s ultimate goal was: intellectual, honest and open conversation.”

Sloane Wehman, Stanford sophomore

MORE INSIDE

Utah governor pleads for civility. **A8**

Utah governor: 22-year-old man had become ‘more political’ before shooting

By Eric Tucker, Alanna Durkin Richer, Jesse Bedayn and Hannah Schoenbaum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OREM, Utah — A 22-year-old Utah man who was arrested and booked on murder charges in the assassination of Charlie Kirk held deep disdain for the conservative activist’s provocative viewpoints and indicated to a family member that he was responsible for the shooting, authorities said Friday.

The arrest marked a major break in a case that shocked the country and raised fresh alarms



Robinson

about political violence in a deeply polarized United States.

Tyler Robinson had become “more political” in the run-up to

the shooting and mentioned during a dinner with family that Kirk would be visiting Utah, Gov. Spencer Cox said at a news conference. The governor cited as evidence engravings on bullet casings found in the rifle that authorities believe was used in the attack, as well

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S.F.’s first sober homeless shelter provides hope



Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle

Gary Noakes, a recovering methamphetamine and fentanyl user, sits in his room at the 58-bed Hope House in San Francisco.

Salvation Army, with \$8.1M city grant, offers ‘safest and cleanest environment’

By Maggie Angst
STAFF WRITER

Gary Noakes has spent the past few years bouncing between a handful of San Francisco homeless shelters — and he has unsettling stories to tell about each of them.

A bunkmate smoked fentanyl next to him in the middle of the night. Guests started brawls. Dirty bathrooms were strewn with feces and

discarded needles.

So when Noakes, a 43-year-old recovering fentanyl and methamphetamine user, was offered a room in the city’s first sober shelter, he was glad to have a new place to seek refuge.

“This has been the best experience thus far,” Noakes said about a week after moving in. “It’s the safest and cleanest environment, and now I’m able to really work on myself.”

Under a two-year, \$8.1 million con-

tract with the city’s homelessness department, the Salvation Army recently launched Hope House, a 58-bed homeless shelter for single adults seeking a sober environment. The new site sets itself apart from the city’s dozens of other homeless shelters for its no-tolerance rule on drug and alcohol use. Such a site has not been tested in San Francisco previously, as officials have long focused on a housing-

Shelter continues on A8

County losing hospital as feds step back

By Ana B. Ibarra
CALMATTERS

Absent a Hail Mary, Glenn County’s only hospital is set to close its doors in October.

Tucked between two national forests, the rural county is home to 28,000 people. Without a local emergency room, patients will have to travel at least 40 minutes to a neighboring county for critical care. The closure will put 150 health employees out of work; they’re already resigning to seek work elsewhere.

The planned closure of Glenn Medical Center follows a decision by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to strip the hospital’s federal “critical access” designation, a status that has provided Glenn Medical increased reimbursement and regulatory flexibility. Without that status, the hospital’s \$28 million in net annual revenue will take a hit of about 40% — a gap too large to fill any other way than closing the hospital, said Lauren Still, the hospital’s chief executive.

“It’s heartbreaking that we come to this. I am still kind of praying for that 11th hour miracle to come through,” Still said. “But honestly, we just have to be realistic, and this is the hand we’ve been dealt.”

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Some final bills still face risk of Newsom veto

By Sophia Bollag
STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO — Proposals to regulate AI, cap insulin costs and provide lawyers to children in immigration court are among the policies California lawmakers are debating this week as they conclude their work for the year.

But the Legislature isn’t the final hurdle: Once lawmakers wrap up their work on Saturday, the bills they pass will have to win approval from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Newsom, a Democrat, will probably sign most of the bills the Democratic-controlled Legislature sends him. But ones at particular risk for a veto include bills



Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle

Assembly Members Buffy Wicks, D-Oakland, center, and Sharon Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton (Orange County), talk Thursday.

with high price tags, which Newsom frequently targets. During the same period last year, he vetoed about 18% of bills lawmakers sent him, often citing cost concerns.

That dynamic could be exacerbated this year as federal cuts and budget pressures intensify demand for limited state funding. Newsom and lawmakers reduced state spending in their June budget agreement to make up for a projected \$12 billion deficit. That happened before federal lawmakers passed a massive spending bill with deep cuts to health care, food assistance and other safety net programs. President Donald Trump is also tar-

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