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Historic church restoration



A veteran receives the vaccine at Veterans Village of San Diego. (Photo by Lisa Misraje)



Students from San Diego City College assist with vaccinations (Photo courtesy SD City College)



Veteran Johnny Bryant rests after receiving the vaccine (Photo by Lisa Misraje)

## Vulnerable populations receive vaccine

By Kendra Sittton

83-year-old Floyd Flagg received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on the morning of Monday, March 22 as part of a partnership between the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) and Family Health Centers.

Flagg said his arm felt fine after receiving the vaccine. The only hesitation he had in receiving the vaccine was mixed messages doctors gave him about whether he needed it after previously fighting a case of COVID-19.

The frail Navy veteran explained that he "had the virus but [is] still kicking."

He hopes others get the vaccine as well because people are dying and many people have lost their jobs.

"Just get back to normal," Flagg said.

For Flagg, receiving the vaccine came after a year of chaotic moves. He was admitted to Grossmont Hospital with COVID-19 for six days. After being released, he stayed in one of the county-funded hotels until he tested negative for the virus. At that point, he was moved to the mass shelter at the San Diego Convention Center before finally transferring to the Veterans Village transitional housing.

An area in the transitional housing building was converted into an open area to administer the vaccine for the residents and a few alumni of the program who are enrolled in the VA (Veteran's Affairs). Even an unsheltered veteran was able to walk into the clinic to receive the one-dose vaccine. The vaccination center being on site meant residents could easily access the vaccine and only have to make one trip before being fully inoculated. The effort from the VA, Family Health Centers and Veterans Village are part of an ongoing effort to ensure that vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by the virus also receive the vaccine.

"The vulnerable population deserves the best of the best. So if we know this is one time and go, then this is the population that needs that," said Lisa Misraje, the director of development at VVSD.

An army veteran who was vaccinated at the site, Johnny Bryant, said he was curious how the day would go because he had witnessed the chaos of the Petco Park mass vaccine site. He found the check-in process to be simple with almost no line.

"They said only one dose so that's even better," Bryant said. "It's convenient."

SEE **VACCINES**, Page 13

## Social workers provide key support to struggling families

By Kendra Sittton

Social work is a challenging profession at all times, but a year in pandemic meant many local social workers had to adapt quickly to changing conditions in order to serve some of the people most affected by coronavirus.

"I've come across, countless individuals who are unemployed and became homeless at the beginning of the pandemic or during and have connected their homelessness

directly to the pandemic," said Rosalias Read.

As a social worker for Home Start, she does outreach to unsheltered people in East County to help connect them to services and housing. However, many of those resources evaporated during the pandemic. There are also waitlists for emergency shelters and permanent housing as the number of people experiencing homelessness rapidly increased in the past year.

Karina Hernandez, another social worker with the nonprofit organization Home Start, also works with unsheltered individuals, particularly transition age youth who are 18 to 24. She found assisting them to be a challenge this year because there were not many available jobs.

"With the lack of the opportunities for employment, it has been really hard," she said.

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Karina Hernandez works with transition age youth who are experiencing homelessness. (Photo courtesy Karina Hernandez)

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Uptown // Downtown Briefs

MISSION HILLS GARDEN WALK RETURNS

Returning to tradition, the 2021 Mission Hills Garden Walk, themed “Where Flowers Bloom, so does Hope,” will again be held on the Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend, May 8. The theme, incorporating a phrase attributed to Lady Bird Johnson, is fitting to the beginning of emergence from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just as trees and plants are beginning to blossom, so too the community is feeling more hopeful.

Five of the nine gardens included in this year’s walk have never been included in a garden walk. Several favorites from past years have been significantly updated, offering surprises and ideas for novice and experienced gardeners. While two of the gardens are on clearly visible large lots, others’ expanses are hidden from street view. Visitors will enjoy intimate spaces and unique plant specimens in all the gardens. Knowing that many school youth have been learning at home, this year’s Garden Walk will include a scavenger hunt with a prize for all youth finding the treasures in the gardens.

Admission is free for children 10 and under, however strollers are not allowed in the gardens. The Garden Walk is designed to be a leisurely two-mile stroll through Mission Hills, known for its variety of home and garden styles. To assure safety again this year, participants will select a time slot for starting the walk, with a limited number of individuals in any one garden at a time. Guests should plan to wear face masks and use social distancing.

Participants will pick up their map at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton Dr., on the day of the walk at their selected start time. Tickets should be purchased in advance (\$30) at missionhills-gardenclub.org. There is no guarantee tickets will be available the day of the walk.

Proceeds from the annual Garden Walk support community improvement projects including the Gecko Garden at Grant Elementary School, restoration of Allen Canyon, plantings at Pioneer Park and Presidio Park, as well as scholarships to students studying agriculture and related fields.

For more information visit missionhills-gardenclub.org.

BLACK CHURCHES EXPAND FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Ahead of Easter Sunday and returning into indoor worship, the statewide Black Church COVID-19 Testing Partnership is expanding into San Diego. With support from the San Diego County Department of Public Health, this partnership with the Tabernacle Community Development Corporation and the African American Community

Empowerment Council adds churches across San Diego to the more than 30 church test sites statewide. Testing is free through June 30 and available to the community regardless of health insurance status.

For more information visit aacec-cal.org.



THE NEW CHILDREN’S MUSEUM BECOMES THE FIRST OF SAN DIEGO’S MUSEUMS TO UNIONIZE

The New Children’s Museum workers and management ratified a collective bargaining agreement last week, making the museum the first of San Diego’s 45 museums to unionize. The agreement governs wages, benefits and worker protections, and comes after more than a year of negotiations amid the challenges of the pandemic. It covers the workers who serve museum guests, execute programming and play, implement health and safety measures and make connections with the children and families who come through the museum’s doors each day. Both museum management and staff praised the agreement’s enhanced benefits and increased wages as well as its inclusion of protections for laid off and furloughed workers.

“This contract demonstrates the power of union workers at the bargaining table. Our members were able to negotiate immediate increases in pay, along with annual pay raises, sustained health care, and opportunities for more input on the job,” said Nate Fairman, business manager for IBEW Local 465, which represents The New Children’s Museum staff.

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Driver who killed three under house arrest

By Neal Putnam

A judge, citing the danger of COVID-19 in jails, ordered Tuesday the release under house arrest of a 72-year-old driver who struck 10 unsheltered people on a sidewalk near City College, killing three of them.

Craig Martin Voss, who turned 72 in jail Monday, is restricted to his South Park home with the only exception to leave the house for medical appointments and for court.

Voss will not be released for several days because he has to be screened by a county program to set this up, both his attorney and San Diego Superior Court Judge Francis Devaney said.

Devaney ordered his driver’s license surrendered and for him to wear a device that detects drug or alcohol use as well as a GPS monitoring device.

“I sympathize with a veteran with medical conditions, but I also sympathize with the three dead people,” said the judge.

Voss was arrested March 15 minutes after he drove into a tunnel at 9 a.m. on B Street west of Park Boulevard. It was raining at the time and perhaps 50 people or more were gathered in blankets and tents on the sidewalk. Police have since cleared out the area.

He is charged with three counts of vehicular manslaughter in the deaths of Rodney

Diffendal, 40, Randy Ferris, 65, and Walter Jones, 61. Seven more people were injured, but several did not want to go to a hospital and were treated at the scene.

Voss takes medications for his heart, diabetes, restless leg syndrome, and an antidepressant, said Deputy District Attorney Cally Bright. He had a stroke previously and the medications’ side effect include dizziness and nausea, she said.

Bright opposed the release of Voss, suggesting the judge lower the bail from \$1 million to \$500,000. Bright said Voss takes approximately 10 medications and to date they do not yet know for certain if he was under the influence by those specific drugs or others.

“The danger to the community is just too high,” said Bright. “There’s no way to stop someone from getting behind the wheel of a car.”

Voss’s attorney, Kristen Haden, said Voss’s car was damaged and was impounded by police, so he cannot drive that one. She said his wife has a car, but she uses it to drive to a supermarket where she works.

“You will not drive a car,” said Devaney, who told Voss he could only leave his home for a medical appointment and also to attend the May 3 preliminary hearing.

Devaney set a Friday hearing to confirm whether Voss is successfully wearing a device that monitors his alcohol or drug use.

“He did admit to using methamphetamine and marijuana, though not on the day of the crash,” said the prosecutor.

A pipe with traces of meth was found in Voss’s pocket at the scene, which stunned the judge. “I’m frankly surprised, Mr. Voss, with you using that,” said Devaney.

“Mr. Voss is not perfect,” said his attorney.

Bright said traces of meth and marijuana were found in his system, but not enough to prove he was under the influence. She said he had a DUI arrest 40 years ago.

“I frankly don’t think Mr. Voss is a flight risk with his wife here,” said Devaney. “I’m confident Mr. Voss didn’t intentionally drive up on that sidewalk,” he added.

“I’m really concerned about Mr. Voss, his age, and medical conditions in jail,” said Devaney, who added that there are many deaths in jail due to COVID-19.

“Mr. Voss, good luck to you, sir,” said Devaney as the hearing ended.

Voss has pleaded not guilty to the three manslaughter counts and to numerous other counts involving serious injuries to the other people while under the influence of a drug.

Voss spoke on a video screen from the Vista Detention Facility. The attorneys also appeared remotely due to the coronavirus outbreak.

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter.

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# San Diego's landscape architects inspired by international projects

## Art on the Land

By DELLE WILLETT



Two of San Diego's local landscape architecture firms are working on inspiring international projects in China and Qatar.

David McCullough, Principal, McCullough Landscape Architecture, is engaged with Zizhu HiTech Industrial City, a new urban innovation city in Shanghai China.

In 2016, McCullough was invited by Gafcon, Inc. to be the landscape architect for the industrial

city, a new urban innovation city in Shanghai China.

Today, this new city is home to innovative technology corporations, including Scandisk, Intel, and Microsoft, as well as to research and manufacturers of automation machinery, biotech, energy, smart vehicle, and semiconductor technologies.

The Zizhu project is being developed in phases. Phase one includes a lake, known as the "Purple Lake," which will be surrounded by residential towers, yacht homes, a commercial district, lake gardens and a luxury hotel.

After the design and plan preparation for phase one was completed, McCullough and Gafcon were invited back for phase two, which includes enhanced amenities



Al Kahraba Square, a dance floor for the community



Native trees and plantings frame the Msheireb Mosque, one of three mosques within the project



Barahat Msheireb: The heart of the project and the largest open-air covered square in the Middle East



Msheireb Downtown Doha, a new city rooted in the past and looking toward the future. The smart city with a soul. (Images supplied by Msheireb Properties)

and features. Currently, these first two phases are well under

construction with the Gafcon/McCullough team.

Recently, Gafcon retained McCullough to study gardens that will surround the luxury business hotel. Eventually called the "Purple Garden," it will span nearly 100 acres, south of downtown Shanghai and will serve as an amenity for the hotel, the new town of Zizhu and several other southern Shanghai districts. Some of the amenities and features of the garden will include an imaginarium, an indoor arboretum, botanical gardens, an art academy, children's playgrounds and adventure zones and much more.

"We are grateful to be involved in such an exciting, highly creative, and cutting-edge project

and welcome the challenge," said McCullough.

McCullough has offices in San Diego and Los Angeles. Visit their website for more information at mlasd.com

Patrick Baldwin, Partner, Burton Studio in Solana Beach, is challenged by Msheireb Downtown Doha. Branded the "Smart City with a Soul," Msheireb downtown Doha is nearly completed as of 2021. The Burton Studio's work on the project began in 2010 and the final fourth phase of the project will be opening shortly.

Said Baldwin, "While our travel to the region has slowed, the

SEE CHINA AND QATAR, Page 10

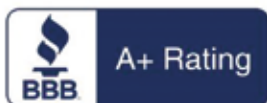


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# Needlecraft Cottage celebrates one year

**Fashion Files**  
By **DIANA CAVAGNARO**



Needlecraft Cottage opened last April with two new co-owners: Megan Hearle and Aaron Hughes. They took over this store which has been in Pacific Beach for 30 years. At a time when more people are staying home, needle work has become a new trend. People are looking for more DIY projects to do. The Needlecraft Cottage has you covered, offering needle crafts such as yarns for knitting and crocheting. They also carry beautiful fabrics for quilters. Quilting can be considered an art, a craft, or a hobby. In 2020 the size of the market was between 9-11 million quilters in North America.

I asked Hearle how they were affected by the Pandemic. She said they had to learn to adapt really fast and also how to sell products



Picture of Needlecraft Cottage (Courtesy photos)



Co-owners: Megan Hearle and Aaron Hughes



Yarns inside the store

without people being able to come into the store. Since the pandemic, there is an even bigger demand for fabric to be used for making masks. The store did really well with this. The future goal is to bring in supplies and classes for cross stitch, embroidery, and other needlework.

Right now, they offer classes on Zoom but may change to in-person depending on San Diego's tier level. Currently, they give a class to teach basic crochet stitches. They also offer a Sweater Club which has no cost to join. The

only requirement that the customer purchase their yarn for the project through the Needlecraft Cottage. The projects for March and April are Winters Beach and Gramps. If you are having trouble with your project, customers can make an appointment for knitting troubleshooting!

The yarns are sold at different price points so if you are an inexperienced knitter or crocheter, you can come in and find an inexpensive yarn to try it out for the first time. If you are an experienced knitter, you can come in

and find an expensive yarn for your project. Many people are allergic to wool or have extra sensitive skin and the store has yarns for them too.

Needlecraft Cottage also has "Knit Alongs" where people on similar projects can get together and work on their projects while having fun at the same time. They hope in the future to have in-person classes, a launch party to celebrate the opening and to attract a younger crowd. They are open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday. For

more information visit [needlecraftcottage.com](http://needlecraftcottage.com).

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in the San Diego. Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at [DianaCavagnaro.com](http://DianaCavagnaro.com)



Fabric inside the store



Inside store



Winters Beach project for March and April



Gramps project for March and April

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 7, 2021**  
Making Waves: Textiles Addressing Sustainability at Visions Art Museum with Professor Susan Lazear at 11 a.m. Registration is free. [bit.ly/3sq1ui](http://bit.ly/3sq1ui)

**April 16, 2021**  
Fashion Redux! Will be at 7 p.m. on zoom. This is a co-ordination between Mesa College and The San Diego History Center featuring a discussion panel with the top 4 Student designer. Registration at [bit.ly/3fcPjIz](http://bit.ly/3fcPjIz)

**April 22, 2021**  
FWS21 Spring Showcase from 6 p.m.-9p.m. For tickets visit: [FashionWeekSD.com](http://FashionWeekSD.com)

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP/HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Please join the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (Airport Authority) for a Public Workshop and Hearing on the 14 CFR Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study Update (Study).

**Thursday, April 8, 2021**  
**5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Public Workshop (Information and Questions)**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Public Hearing (Official Public Comment)**

The Study is being conducted to identify and evaluate current and future noise effects caused by aircraft operations at the San Diego International Airport (SAN). The purpose of the Public Hearing is to obtain public comments on the Study.

After the completion of the Public Workshop portion, the official Public Hearing will begin, and all members of the public may submit verbal comments that will become part of the public record. Airport Authority staff and expert consultants will be in attendance to answer questions during the Public Workshop and listen to public comments during the Public Hearing.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held virtually. To attend, please visit the study website below to register and receive the Zoom meeting link.

The Draft document can be viewed on the study website, [sannoisestudy.com](http://sannoisestudy.com), or at the Airport Authority's Liberty Station office at 2722 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. Viewing is by appointment only, please call 619-400-2309 to schedule.

In addition to verbal comments at the Public Hearing, members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments via the study website [sannoisestudy.com](http://sannoisestudy.com) or in writing to:

Mead & Hunt  
Attn: Jen Wolchansky  
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**Comments will be accepted through April 21, 2021.**

If you have a disability or require language translation, please call 619-400-2309 to discuss your needs with at least 48 hours' notice.

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# Optimism persists amid vaccinations

Notes from Toni

By **TONI G. ATKINS**

Happy April! This week many Californians are celebrating Easter and Passover. While the celebrations will look a little different again this year, I think we're all starting to feel some sense of optimism. If we continue to do our part—get vaccinated, keep wearing masks, wash your hands, and remember physical distancing.

Since my last update to you, millions of Californians have been vaccinated and millions more are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. As a sign of continuing progress, San Diego County has moved up into the red tier, allowing for the gradual reopening of more businesses, gyms and restaurants.

The vaccine supply issue continues to be our greatest hurdle, but now there are three options in our battle: Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson. We just ask for patience as we continue to receive vaccines.

- For information on scheduling an appointment, we recommend visiting [MyTurn.gov](https://myturn.gov) or San Diego County's website.
- New CDC guidance allows for folks who are already fully vaccinated to gather. Please refer to the CDC's website for the latest guidance.



Sen. Toni Atkins at her desk (Courtesy photo)

And remember, the statewide application for the tenant/landlord eviction relief enacted by the legislature and the governor is now available at the Housing is Key website.

This April, thanks to our efforts in Sacramento and the Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan, there is increased funding for both the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and the California Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC programs put cash into people's pockets and money into local economies. With the April 15 tax deadline being pushed back to May 17, we have extra time to spread the word, so please share this information with anyone you know

who is eligible—and you don't have to owe any taxes to qualify. [CalEITC4me.org](https://CalEITC4me.org) has more information about these important programs.

I'm very pleased to announce that as we move into April, several of the bills I have introduced are making significant progress. SB 1, which provides tools to help California and our communities push back against sea level rise, was approved by the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee, and after a couple more stops in the Senate we expect it to be taken up in the Assembly. I have to thank our own Dr. Margaret Leinen of UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Assemblymember

Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Laguna Beach), Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), California Coastal Commissioner Sara Aminzadeh, and Jennifer Savage of the Surfrider Foundation for joining me on World Water Day last month to promote SB1.

SB 7, my bill to jumpstart and expand a successful CEQA streamlining program continues to advance, as does SB 9, which seeks to bridge the gap between producing the additional housing we need while including protections for communities and neighborhoods. In fact, along with SB 7 and SB 9, the Senate's entire housing production package

continues to gain support, and we are working hard to get those bills to the Governor's desk and signed into law.

All in all, it looks to be a busy month in April. And, hopefully, an even brighter one.

—Toni G. Atkins is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. Having previously served as Speaker of the California Assembly, she began her tenure in the Senate in 2016. As Senator for District 39, she represents the cities of San Diego, Coronado, Del Mar and Solana Beach. Website of President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins: [ca.gov/Atkins](https://www.ca.gov/Atkins)

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Schmitt/Sensenbrenner Building (Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

Details on the Schmitt/Sensenbrenner building

## Two buildings, two notable men, one site

### Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



Like most sites in the Gaslamp, the Schmitt/Sensenbrenner Building lot had its origin in a sale from Alonzo Horton to John B. Boyd in 1872. And like most historic sites and buildings, it had a plethora of venues housed therein before establishing its ultimate name and identity. The property and the two-story wooden structure on it was the subject of a variety of exchanges between Boyd and several gentlemen. It was ultimately sold by Boyd to Dr. George H. Schmitt in 1888.

Dr. Schmitt hired P.J. McCormack as the principal contractor and Aime Pare as the architect for the construction of his new offices. The ornate three-story structure was in the Victorian commercial style with a gabled roof, large plate glass windows, and a recessed entrance. It was decorated with statues and an ornate coat of arms. The building was completed in late August of 1888, and was known as the Dr. Schmitt Dispensary.

**Schmitt's Dispensary (1888)**  
**Sensenbrenner Building (1920)**  
951 Fourth Avenue  
Architect: Quayle Brothers  
Architectural Style: Elements of Victorian Commercial

Dr. Schmitt advertised himself as practicing general medicine, surgery, ob-stetrics and gynecology. In connection with his private practice, he also conducted a free clinic for the poor. His methods included traditional medical practice as well as what was then considered exotic ancient remedies and methods. These might have included what is now known as alternative medicine, such as acupuncture, massage, ayurveda, homeopathy and meditation.

Unfortunately, by 1894 Dr. Schmitt's finances were in a precarious position. His dispensary and lot were sold to satisfy judgements against him. The building was then used as a lodging house, an Officer's Club, a billiards hall, a barber shop and an athletic club.

In 1908, the property was purchased by August Sensenbrenner. Sensenbrenner, a pioneer businessman in San Diego, founded the firm of A. Sensenbrenner and Sons, cigar makers and jobbers (wholesalers). This became one of the largest enterprises of its kind on the Pacific Coast. Sensenbrenner was an immigrant from Lahr, Germany, where he learned his trade working as an apprentice in a cigar factory. Upon his arrival in California he settled in San Francisco, but moved to San Diego in 1887, as he recognized the commercial advantages and was attracted to the marvelous climate.

He started with a one-man plant and continued to build his

business, which became known to tobacco merchants, cigar manufacturers and smokers throughout the Southwest. Most cigars made in San Diego used local tobacco grown in Mission Valley, Sweetwater Valley and Tia Juana (Tijuana), but Sensenbrenner imported his tobacco from Cuba and Sumatra. His personal label was Home Industry, but he also produced the popular Cabrillo, Emblem and Santa Fe labels. This proved quite lucrative, as according to a San Diego Union poll, cigar consumption in San Diego alone averaged 6,000 per day. He, additionally, exported his wares to the East coast. Sensenbrenner claimed that he produced over one million cigars yearly. At the Panama-California Exposition in 1915, he earned the coveted Gold Medal, as well as the Grand Prize from the Jury of Awards for the quality and workmanship of his product. Sensenbrenner's business lasted more than four decades. He passed away in 1918 at the age of 63, leaving his two sons, August, Jr. and Louis to carry on the business with constant reference to the ideals of their honored father. He is buried at Greenwood Memorial Park.

After their father's will was probated and settled, the sons contracted Arthur E. Keyes to construct a new building, designed by the Quayle brothers, on the site. It was completed in 1920. This is the structure now named

SEE GASLAMP HISTORY, Page 9

## Our Lady of the Rosary Church prepares for centennial with \$2.5M historical restoration

### Little Italy News

By CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ



Special byline  
Chris Gomez

"Quando le tempeste della vita minacciano la tua fragile barca, guarda la Stella—invoca Maria".

("When the storms of life threaten your fragile bark, look to the Star—invoke Mary".) This prayer of St. Bernard has not only guided fisherman from the earliest days of the church, but it served as inspiration for the families that helped build our beautiful Italian church.

Through the donations of some of the first families in the area, Father Rabagliati was able to purchase the house on Columbia Street and reinvent it into a small chapel where Holy Mass could be celebrated. Father Sylvester Rabagliati quickly learned they needed to expand, and after raising additional funds, they broke ground on the church in August of 1923.

Now, in preparation for its centennial, Our Lady of the Rosary completed a \$2.5M restoration.

"The generosity of the parish exceeded all expectations and we raised and collected over \$2.5 million in one year and six days," said Luke Vinci Chair of Our Lady of the Rosary Finance Committee.

The restoration included re-mastering the original paintings as well as the carpet being replaced with Calcutta marble. Rojo Alicante marble is also being used in the center and side aisles. The confessional rooms have been restored with new stained-glass designs including pieces of the prodigal son and merciful father.

"This restoration helps us ensure our community will be able to continue to enjoy the church for the next 100 years to come," said



The historic church in Little Italy  
(Photo courtesy Little Italy Association)

Father Joe Tabigue of Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

As Easter approaches, we invite you to visit our church and enjoy the beauty of the restoration for yourself. As you leave the church, see if you can spot Father Rabagliati in the newly restored murals. Our Lady of the Rosary Church is open daily for mass and is actively following COVID-19 guidelines. Holy Week's timeline includes mass on Holy Thursday at 7:30 a.m., Good Friday Veneration of the Cross at 3pm, and Easter Vigil Mass on Easter Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. For more information, please visit OLRSD.org.

With indoor dining now available at 25% capacity, be sure to stop by one of our delicious restaurants to enjoy a lovely family brunch to keep the celebration going.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy's district manager since 2000. Reach him at [chris@littleitalysd.com](mailto:chris@littleitalysd.com).

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# In our community: Italian icon artist Christopher Paluso

**Little Italy  
Culture & Heritage**

By **TOM CESARINI**



It's April in San Diego, spring is in the air, and a sense of hope and renewal can be felt through our city streets. This month also signals that baseball season is upon us—another crucial milestone being met, perhaps, in our collective grasp for a return to normality. While we root for a great season for our beloved Padres, however, another important connection to baseball comes to mind and one that is also a relevant part of San Diego's Italian American history: sports art.

Many legendary Italian American ball players (their names don't even need to be mentioned at this point, do they?), as well as sports figures in general, owe a great debt to one man for emblazoning their images in our minds and hearts through his uncannily realistic renderings of them. Christopher Paluso's talent is well known in sports circles, and his artwork can be seen throughout different channels and media: Elaborately designed pieces sit in museums, brilliant illustrations have graced magazine covers, and (departing from the sports realm for just a moment), even landmark signs in Disneyland Hong Kong capture his work. Mr. Paluso has met with and illustrated the best of the best—icons and legends alike. We sat down with Mr. Paluso for a brief interview to discuss his passion and his own legacy—combining both his artistic heritage and his Italian American one.

## What was the impetus that set you on your artistic path and how did you develop your craft?

Growing up in a family of five boys, there was always an emphasis in playing some kind of sport. So when a brother challenged me to do a summer school art assignment with him and my drawing turned out better than his, it was game on. From there it was taking commercial art classes at Mission Bay High School and getting the encouragement of both my family and my art teacher that gave me the confidence to improve. My dad's favorite phrase was "never say can't."

From that point, it became working to improve and showing what talent I had in our family unit.

## How did your Italian American upbringing influence your work?

Growing up I always saw in church or in prayer books paintings from the Italian Renaissance period and was inspired by the look and artistry along with the fact that I might have that ability in me. After all, both sets of grandparents came from Sicily. There was always a sense of pride coming from the old world.

## Who were some of your favorite subjects captured

## through your artwork? What characteristics stand out about them?

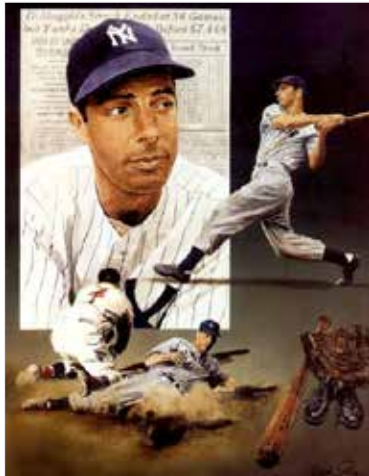
For sure Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Eddie Arcaro, and Lou Costello, because they were also Italian Americans, along with astronaut Capt. Eugene Cernan and Muhammed Ali. They all embodied that sense of pride in their endeavors and hard work to achieve their goals—something I wanted to show in my art of them. There was purpose to what and who they were.

## Tell us about some of the museums that have displayed your artwork?

Most art on display like that are associated with sports, like the San Diego Hall of Champions, Breitbard Hall of Fame housed now at Petco Park in the Western Metal Supply Building (172 members—all my artwork); the San Diego Air and Space Museum (26 members of their hall of fame); the Hawthorne Race Course Jockey Hall of Fame in Chicago; and the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in the same city.

## How did you get into teaching? And how did you manage both professional pursuits (commercial art and education) and what notable differences have you noted between the two in terms of your approaches?

I was able to enter the classroom through the East County ROP as a professional to teach graphic design and desktop publishing, fulfilling the desire to make a difference with young people. I was able to follow that seven years later getting the opportunity to start an art program at a public charter middle school. Through both I maintain a few of my clients and used my method of work teaching



The great Yankee Clipper, Joe DiMaggio, used as the cover of Red, White and Green Magazine for the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame.

the creative process. It is a building process taking a simple sketch and working towards a finished assignment understanding changes are needed along the way.

## Tell us about your fascination and passion for all things Disney. How did that begin?

From early on seeing Disney animation at the movies and watching Walt Disney every Sunday learning about his dreams and building on them, I wanted to work there. The first things I drew were some of the classic Disney characters, which gave me confidence I could draw. My dream came true when, in 2004, I got to paint on two signs for the Jungle River Cruise ride at Disneyland Hong Kong.

## What's next for you in your professional pursuits, considering that retirement is likely not in your vocabulary?

I would like to work with an organization like the San Diego Zoo and teach both children and adults using a time traveler-zoologist-explorer-conservationist-artist character, to learn how



Paluso at the Padres Ballpark near some of his art for the Breitbard Hall of Fame. (Photos courtesy of Christopher Paluso)

to draw wild animals and facts about these animals and their habitats—while in the process, understanding the need for conservation in the natural world and the fight against extinction.

## What do you see as your legacy, professional and personal?

I was told by an uncle that when the Union Tribune ran a full-page article on me as an artist, that I brought pride to our family, that I had the opportunity to be a historian of the past greats through my talent and honoring contributors to the fabric of America, especially Italian Americans.

—Tom Cesarini is the executive director and founder of Convivio and also serves as the Italian honorary consul in San Diego. Convivio cultivates community and fellowship, advances Italian cultural identity, and fosters multicultural awareness across myriad disciplines through education and research, social enrichment, and innovative programming. Visit: [conviviosociety.org](http://conviviosociety.org) or follow at [@conviviosociety](https://www.instagram.com/conviviosociety) on social media.

# Gaslamp history

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

the Sensenbrenner Building in historical references. It still remains in practically its original form with the exception being the roof, which was originally ga-bled, but is now flat with a decorative cornice.

The three-story commercial styled structure is a stucco over brick building with a basement, and white and green tile finishing the symmetrical facade. The main entrance is centered and recessed with evenly spaced windows on the second and third floors. The windows are double-hung sash style and accented by short horizontal opaque windows above each one. Metal fire escapes are placed in front of all the windows. There is a small balcony centered on the second floor.

The brothers maintained the cigar business at this location until 1929, and maintained the property until 1937. At this time, it was sold to the Braun family, who kept it until 1966. Various businesses traded there, including restaurants, a tailor and a doctor. The cigar business continued at another location and in 1957 finally merged with an enterprise in Detroit, Michigan. The only remaining son, Louis, wanted to retire and ultimately died in 1962.

By 1979, Palace Pawnbrokers had arrived, and has maintained business in the Sensenbrenner Building ever since. They are known for their friendly, courteous and excellent customer service.

—Santee Wilhoit is the Historian/Lead Tour Guide for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at [swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org](mailto:swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org).

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## China and Qatar

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

imagery we see has been thrilling and reflective.

"The project had a huge learning impact on the studio. Every line we drew required a story. This challenge has inspired the studio to take this into account on all of our projects. Whether that story lasts the lifetime of the project isn't the most important. We see it as a simple tool that helps bring all of the stakeholders and designers on the project to unite in single vision."

In 2018 Burton Studio learned the landscape of the project had been nominated for the Aga Kahn award. "The submittal process with the Aga Kahn committee was an incredibly enjoyable process and even though we were not shortlisted, the submittal process allowed us to relive the rigor and adventure this project brought to the studio," Burton said.

Recently, Msheireb launched the Doha Design District (DDD), the new design hub centered within Msheireb Downtown Doha. This district will serve as the center of Qatar's design and innovation. The curation of art was layered throughout their design work.

A public-art masterplan was woven through the project. Burton's design task was to curate the stage for the art, defining the space, backdrop, and lighting that



A series of canals connect boaters of all types back to Orchid Lake.  
(Images provided by McCullough Landscape Architecture)



A traditional Chinese garden dedicated to Mr. Shen Wen, the man behind the original vision of Zizhu.

the future artists will be using as their canvas.

Burton Studio is in Solana Beach. Visit their website, burton.studio.com for images of Msheireb Downtown Doha.

—Delle Willett is PR advisor to the American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego chapter, and is a freelance journalist. You can reach her at [dellewillett@gmail.com](mailto:dellewillett@gmail.com)



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### What Cash Bail Reform Means For Families In California

April 22, 2019 - Expert Advice



In September of 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill abolishing the state's cash bail system. The bill was intended to completely eliminate cash bail for defendants, replacing it with a system of evaluation and recommendation for release or incarceration prior to trial. Ultimately, judges would decide which defendants posed a "threat to the community" and who did not. Proponents of the measure insist that it will eliminate unfair biases in the system that they say treat rich and poor defendants differently.

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# Social workers

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Both Hernandez and Read continued their jobs in person since they are on the front lines of reaching out to unsheltered individuals and holding office hours. They helped people navigate systems made even more challenging when they went virtual.

Home Start was contracted by a few cities to distribute rental and utility assistance during the pandemic. Grants and private donors helped the organization provide financial help to many low-income families.

Some social workers were able to shift to primarily safer virtual work. Ebony Brown is a therapist for Home Start who works with children who have experienced trauma. For most of her clients, she conducts telemedicine appointments although she does meet with two clients in person whose needs she felt could not be met virtually.

“My work has changed tremendously from going into people’s homes and having them come into my office to be totally remote. It was very challenging because I’m used to doing play therapy with children. play therapy is the most crucial key to building rapport and building a connection,” Brown said. “Just imagine going from being in person to going remote, which was very difficult to build connections with kids with high-risk needs.”



Laura Tancredi-Baese is the CEO of Home Start. (Photo courtesy Laura Tancredi-Baese)



Ebony Brown is a therapist for children who have experienced trauma (Photo courtesy Ebony Brown)



Laura Tancredi-Baese is the CEO of Home Start. (Photo courtesy Laura Tancredi-Baese)

Some of Brown’s clients did not continue therapy at the start of the pandemic. Through those that did, Brown has seen families struggle to keep kids engaged in virtual school and feel frustrated being stuck in the home.

Despite the difficulties inherent in this past year, all three women said being social workers is still rewarding and worthwhile for them.

“I feel that this is my life’s purpose to be in this field. I just really enjoy being of service to individuals,” [Rosa] said.

Brown and [Karina’s] mothers were both social workers. The women watched them navigate the field growing up so they saw the positive and negative aspects of it.

“My mother was a social worker. She actually tried to talk me out of this profession because she

saw the trials and tribulations of being a social worker,” Hernandez said.

Although they are in the same field as their mothers, each took significantly different roles than their parents because of the wide variety of jobs under the social work umbrella.

“My mom was a social worker, and I was inspired by what she does. She mainly worked for [Child Welfare Services], which was a very, very difficult field to work in. I did see the dangers and things that she did go through to be a CWS worker but I wanted to do it on a different note where I provide one-on-one therapy services rather than to be in the field,” Brown said. “I look at my role as a supportive role. I don’t look at it as the enemy trying to break up a family, even though that’s the how most people see it.”

Brown tries to provide the resources and support that help families stay together. This has long been an aspect of Home Start’s mission. The organization was founded 49 years ago in a five-year experiment to see the outcomes of people visiting at-risk homes to provide parenting lessons and tools. According to Home Start CEO Laura Tancredi-Baese, the county found that the children in households visited by Home Start social workers had better outcomes as their parents learned best practices for raising kids.

From that time, the field has changed significantly even before the pandemic. Tancredi-Baese emphasized that trauma-informed care is a major focus now.

“I think our recognition of trauma and the impact of trauma is

something that we’ve learned a lot more about in the last 10 years than when I was first in the field. Having that lens of how trauma impacts the individuals and families and communities that we serve and keeping that front and center in everything that we do is key,” Tancredi-Baese, who has been in the social work field for over 30 years, said.

That trauma-informed lens helps social workers strengthen families and provide supportive services.

“[Social work] is rewarding. It also can be hard at times, but in the end, I feel like if you help even just one person, it’s gonna make an impact on your life and feel like you’re doing the right thing,” Hernandez said.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).

## COX CONTOUR TV NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS



### New feature lets customers with physical disabilities control TV with their eyes

Cox Communications has unveiled the Accessible Web Remote, a new feature on Cox Contour TV that enables people who have lost fine motor skills – whether from degenerative conditions or paralysis – to browse their video guide with a glance of their eyes.

The Accessible Web Remote feature is a free web-based remote control navigable with various assistive technologies owned by the customer, including eye-gaze hardware and software, switch controls, and sip-and-puff systems, which users control by gently blowing into a tube.

Eye-tracking technology gives people living with conditions like paraplegia, Parkinson’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) the same

access to their TVs as customers with the latest edition of Contour.

Cox partnered with organizations like Team Gleason to ensure accessible design and development of its products, increase awareness and education, and improve processes and procedures focusing on disability inclusion.

“We appreciate that companies like Cox continue to empower their users by adopting products like the Accessible Web Remote, which allows every customer to do something most people take for granted, like controlling their TV,” said Steve Gleason, founder of Team Gleason and a former New Orleans Saints football player who has been living with ALS since 2011.

Approximately 16% of people in the U.S. have difficulties with their physical functioning that make things like using a traditional TV remote either a challenge or impossible, depending on the condition.

Cox Contour customers can visit <https://webremote.cox.com> to sync their device and begin changing channels, set a recording, search for programming within the Contour guide, and access integrated streaming apps all with a glance of their eyes.

### Spring into Contour TV movies on demand.

There’s a lot happening in April – including the start of baseball season, Earth Day and the Academy Awards – so why not ... Contour TV?

**Sports Fans:** Search for comedies, dramas and classics about America’s favorite pastime.

**“A League of Their Own” (On Demand)** – This baseball classic is a funny, heartwarming tribute to the professional women’s baseball league formed after male baseball players were called to serve during World War II.

**“42” (On Demand)** – The late Chadwick Boseman stars as Jackie Robinson, Major League Baseball’s first black player.

**Outdoor/Nature Enthusiasts:** Celebrate Earth Day (April 22) by watching a documentary that highlights the beauty of the natural world.

**“Planet Earth: One Amazing Day” (On Demand)** – This film captures the awesome beauty of nature over the course of a single day.

**“Brave Blue World” (Netflix)** – Narrated by actor Liam Neeson, the film explores how humans are using technology and innovations to help solve the world’s water crisis.

**Movie Buffs:** Go to Cox Contour TV On Demand and search the “Award Winners” section featuring the Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Animated Film and Best Foreign Film movie categories.

Titles include recent winners such as “Parasite,” blockbusters like “Lord of the Rings, Return of the King” and classics including “The Sound of Music” and “Rocky.”

For more information, visit [cox.com](http://cox.com).





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## News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

"Workers are the heart of the museum and deserve the respect that a fair contract brings."

"The museum's largest annual investment is in our people. Our employees are creative and diligent and care deeply about our mission," said Museum Interim Executive Director/COO Reed Vickerman. "We are proud to invest in our employees and acknowledge their contributions to the Museum and San Diego's children."

## SAN DIEGO AMONG TOP TARGETS FOR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT IN 2021

A survey of commercial real estate investors ranked San Diego as a top 20 target among America's metros. San Diego jumped three spots from No. 20 to No. 17 in CBRE's 2021 Americas Investor Intentions Survey.

"Record venture capital investments in San Diego's life sciences and technology sectors are driving job growth to an already thriving ecosystem in a supply constrained market," said Natalie Dahl, San Diego region managing director of CBRE.

"Strong economic fundamentals driving rent growth are the number one factor for market preference in 2021," said Chris Ludeman, global president of capital markets for CBRE. "The metros most favored by investors this year were buoyed by proven labor market resilience during the pandemic and a steady growth outlook. Remote working has also boosted labor migration to relatively low-cost markets with well-developed suburbs."

## MAMA'S KITCHEN DELIVERS 10 MILLIONTH MEAL

Alongside Mayor Todd Gloria, Mama's Kitchen delivered its 10 millionth meal on Wednesday, March 31 to home in Skyline Hills.

Mama's Kitchen is a local nonprofit meal delivery service dedicated to individuals and families vulnerable to malnutrition due to critical illness, including HIV, cancer, congestive heart failure, Type II diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

When the pandemic first struck a year ago, Mama's Kitchen saw a significant increase in demand for its home-delivered nutrition services. As of today, Mama's Kitchen currently home-delivers more than 11,000 medically tailored meals a week, all throughout San Diego County to keep its clients safe, healthy and at home. Due to the increase in demand, Mama's Kitchen reached its 10 millionth meal milestone sooner than anticipated. The organization commemorated its nine millionth meal delivery in 2019.

For over three decades, Mama's Kitchen has prepared and delivered nutritious meals to local individuals in need. The organization started as a volunteer response to the AIDS epidemic, and now delivers three medically-tailored nutritious meals a day, seven days a week, free of charge to local individuals and families in need.





People celebrate the vaccination event at Veterans Village. (Photo by Lisa Misraje)

Vaccines

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Family Health Centers has been critical in vaccinating vulnerable communities. San Diego City Council President Jen Campbell, who is also a doctor, partnered with the organization and nonprofit People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to administer

vaccines to residents in transition-housing.

Early in March, the CEO of PATH, Joel John Roberts, called on Governor Gavin Newsom to prioritize the state's 280,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for people experiencing homelessness.

"There are many barriers to accessing a second vaccine dose for an individual that is unhoused.

This population often lacks transportation and cellular devices to schedule an appointment and can be very hard to reach. Even for people who are stably housed, accessing a second shot has proven difficult," Roberts said.

For VVSD, the vaccine distribution was a festive occasion. Staff applauded the veterans after they

SEE **VACCINES**, Page 15

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**Covered California has extended its Special Enrollment Period from February 1 to May 15, 2021 without a qualifying life event.**

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6. Prescription drugs
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Vaccines

CONTINUED FROM Page 13

received the inoculation from COVID-19 and the check-in area was filled with balloons and donuts. Misraje said that although she is a single mother of six, she decided to purchase a new dress for the event. VVSD intake coordinator Danelle Harrington was dancing around because of her excitement.

“It’s exciting to see them all come in and some off the streets, some of our alumni that have already graduated from this program from like 10 years ago showed up today,” said Harrington.

DOUBTS ABOUT THE VACCINE

Despite the joy of the day, it did come with roadblocks. The center had 112 doses of the vaccine



Inside the vaccination event at Veterans Village (Photos by Lisa Misraje)

but only 26 residents signed up ahead of time. Harrington and an official with the VA went door to door to make sure residents were aware of the event. While some were already vaccinated because of their age, many remained wary of the vaccine and declined to receive it. Harrington said residents cited religious reasons, never receiving a flu shot either and conspiracy theories about being injected with a chip as

common reasons they declined. The official with the VA tried to educate them on the vaccine but Harrington said many remained unwayed.

Emily Carpenter, a San Diego City College nursing student and president of the Nursing Students’ Association, said at Family Health Center’s Mission Beach vaccine distribution site, anyone apprehensive about the vaccine was assuaged by hearing her talk about it in person.

“I think a lot of people, just explaining the CDC guidelines, and them getting to hear that from an actual person as opposed to reading it on our website, helps make them feel a little more comfortable. I think for some people it’s just a little difficult to look at the website and feel comfortable with that and just hearing it from an actual person who was in the community feels a little bit better,” Carpenter said in a phone interview.

Alongside 30 other SD City College students, she has been administering the vaccine with



Family Health Centers as part of her clinical hours to graduate as an RN. While she was stationed in Mission Beach, many other students administered the vaccine in Southeastern San Diego, which has been hard by the virus. For students, administering the vaccine has reminded them why they want to get into a helping profession in the first place.

“It’s been really rewarding and it’s been super humbling to be able to administer vaccines to people of

San Diego who have been having a really hard time either finding somewhere to get vaccinated or feeling like they’ve been isolated for the last year,” said Larissa Johnson, vice president of the Nursing Students’ Association. “People are so grateful and it’s just been a really cool experience to be able to witness that and just be a part of it.”

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



Veteran Floyd Flagg with an I’m Vaccinated sticker (Photo by Kendra Sitton)



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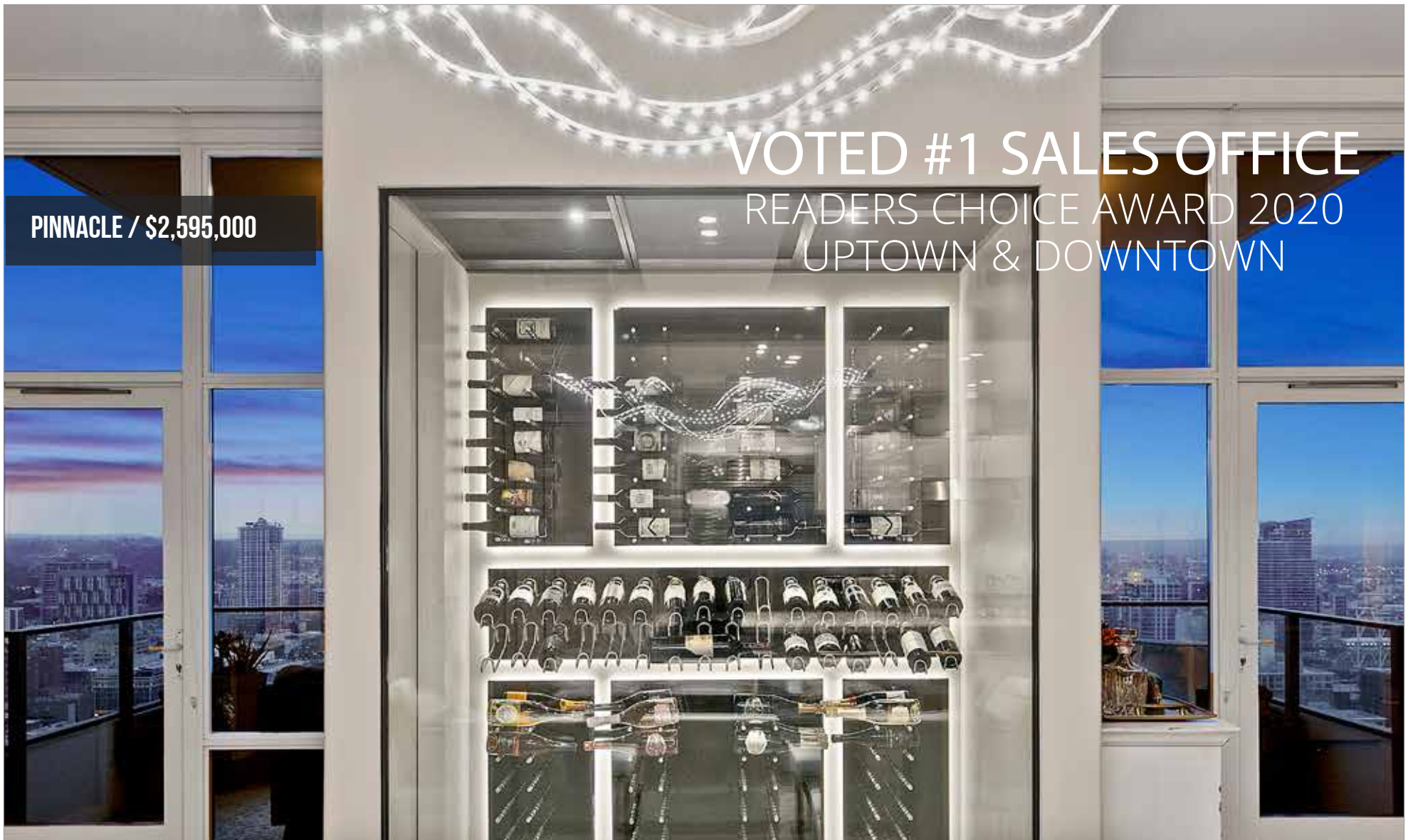


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