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## March of Dimes

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

postnatal care from March of Dimes released on Aug. 1. In the factors the organization examined, California was significantly safer than many other states for those giving birth and their babies. It is considered a leader other states could learn from, for policies such as MediCal funding doulas and midwives, supporting birthing centers, and expanding MediCal's post-natal care to 12 months in 2024 for patients regardless of immigration status. Wade said the universal MediCal coverage for any situation that comes up within one-year postpartum is so important.

"A lot of things aren't caught while we are giving birth," she said. "We can't really see the signs of postpartum depressions. And if the birthing person was high risk and had preeclampsia and eclampsia, we don't know what the side effects of that will be within the first 12 weeks."

Still, disparities remain for BIPOC women and women of low socio-economic status in California as well as those living in 'maternal care deserts' where they have to travel over 100 miles to reach a birthing hospital – which increases the risk for complications and death. The US also has a much higher maternal mortality rate than other wealthy nations. According to the CDC, 1,205 deaths in 2021 were attributed to maternal causes. The CDC also found 84% of those pregnancy-related deaths were preventable. For Black women, the maternal death rate was three times higher than their white counterparts.

Tri-City's L&D suspension is part of a nationwide trend that

is expanding healthcare deserts, especially in rural areas. San Diego's neighboring county Imperial Valley is considered one such maternal care desert.

While better than the nationwide number of 14.8%, in this state 9.2% of birthing people received no or inadequate prenatal care (less than 3% of San Diego women lacked prenatal care in 2021). The permanent expansion of telehealth options in California is one way the prenatal and postnatal care for all patients is improving.

"Implementing telehealth across the state will provide quality access to quality care for those who might live in a maternity care desert and cannot physically get there or for those who don't have transportation or for those who are experiencing some of the social determinants of health that keep them from getting the quality of care that they deserve," Wade said. "Our goal is to improve telehealth for all pregnant people in the state of California to ensure that they do receive the support and care that they need because where you live shouldn't determine the type of care that you receive."

One of the reasons for the L&D and NICU closures is a lack of staff. California's 2021 'Mominibus Act' provided innovative solutions to expand and diversify the healthcare workforce so people can receive culturally competent care in all areas of the state. The act passed after a 21.7% decrease in birthing hospitals in the state between 2019 and 2020. Still, this pales in comparison to the crisis nationwide. Just under 7% of Calif. counties are considered maternal care deserts, compared to 32.6% of the US as a whole.



Maternal care deserts make pregnancies more risky. (Photos courtesy March of Dimes)

While specific concerns remain, a key finding of the report is that overall, women in California have a low vulnerability to adverse outcomes due to the availability of reproductive healthcare services.

"California, we're amazing when it comes to providing effective care and for doulas," Wade said, a statement that is more significant if one knows her own story from a decade ago of being turned away at seven urgent cares in Los Angeles County before she lost a twin and her remaining son was put in the NICU for weeks. Now, a part of her work is training healthcare workers to listen to patients and provide culturally competent care.

Wade encouraged other people to get involved with March of Dimes as volunteers or advocates. The organization does work to shape policy, research premature birth solutions, send mobile units to maternal care deserts, and other interventions to improve the health of infants and parents. To learn more, visit [marchofdimes.org](http://marchofdimes.org).

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# Small but enduring Yamada building has storied past

**Gaslamp Landmarks**

By **SANDEE WILHOIT**



Like many of the very early buildings in the Gaslamp, the Yamada building lists no architect. Our early citizens and merchants were not interested in creating an architectural icon to advertise their self-importance; they just needed a serviceable venue to promote their business. In short, they needed to establish themselves.

Many early contractors also served as building designers and architects, so structures were usually plain without notable decorative features. The first building on the 5th Avenue site was, like most, a simple, one story, wood frame structure. The only distinguishing feature was a 14-foot-wide portico (entry porch). The roof was constructed of shingles and the entire building was approximately 25 x 60 feet. The adjoining two lots (514 and 518) contained practically identical structures, and all the buildings supported different service industries.

Originally, the property (Lot H) belonged to Alonzo E. Horton and William Minton. By June 28, 1869, it had changed hands, and the new owners were Frederick Schwerer and John Fisher. By 1884, Mr. Fisher had gained control of the entire lot, and it remained, at least partly, in the Fisher family until the mid-1940s.

The first listed business at 516 was the William Tell Saloon, which opened in 1877 with Fisher as the proprietor. Although a large fire occurred in late 1877, which burned down half of the block between H (Market St.) and I St. (Island Avenue), the small business managed to survive, and Schwerer and Fisher recouped \$800 in insurance.

In 1889, the saloon began operating under a new name, the



Greg Neuman acquired Frank's Place in 1981 when the building was looking shabby. (Photos courtesy Greg Neuman)

Fashion Saloon, with F. W. Daggett as the manager. It continued as a saloon until 1895, when the property became a cigar and tobacco factory. During the same time, its neighbors supported a restaurant, a cigar store, a barber shop, a hat store and a liquor store.

After the turn of the century, several tenants leased the building at 516, including the Panama Theater in 1913. To accommodate the theater a new structure was built to replace the original frame building. It was described as a one-story concrete, tile and frame moving picture theater. The notice of completion was filed on March 27, 1913, and the Superintendent of Construction was listed as H. C. Sparks. The San Diego City Directory names Charles C. Campbell as the theater's proprietor.

The 1921 Sanborn Fire map shows a two-story building complete with three lightwells. Apparently, additional construction took place after 1913. The "upstairs" was not a full story though, but a platform along the periphery approximately six feet wide. This was not an uncommon building practice at the time and has been seen in several buildings throughout the Gaslamp.

Beginning in 1920, a series of Japanese tenants leased the structure, and ran billiards parlors and, occasionally, a small restaurant. Initially, T. Hayashi moved in followed by T. Hamaguchi, S. Kato, Kotono Takahashi, and Otodo Tzumi. Takahashi and Tzumi leased the structure in 1940 until

### YAMADA BUILDING

1869 and 1913  
516 Fifth Avenue  
Architect: Unknown  
Architectural Style: Victorian Commercial



Neuman renovated the building to hold his real estate business for the past 40 years.

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Palm trees of every size, shape and height fill Palm Canyon Trail in Balboa Park. (Photos by Cynthia G. Robertson)



The 'upper path' of Palm Canyon Trail leads to Balboa Park Club.



The wooden bridge at the top of Palm Canyon is a favorite spot for photographers.

## Palm Canyon Trail a world away in Balboa Park

By CYNTHIA G. ROBERTSON

Across from the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, the jewel in the center of Balboa Park, a couple of very large fig trees with enormous roots grabs the attention of those who walk across the little wooden bridge. The bridge with the dramatically tall trees is popular with wedding photographers. A set of wooden stairs leads down to a small dirt path. Most people do not venture very far from there, but within just under a mile is a world of wonder: Palm Canyon Trail.

I was with the teenage girl whom I was mentoring in the early 2000s when I first discovered the beginning of the path, although I did not recognize at the time it was a trailhead. After I'd treated her to lunch at the Prado, she had shown me how to take selfies with my phone, and I was giddy and giggling as I experimented. We headed over to the giant fig trees and down the

wooden staircase. I took snapshots of her and me hiding behind a small stand of palm trees immediately after the start of the dirt path. We were in selfie-heaven when we heard a scuffling sound in the brush and we both shrieked and jumped sky-high from fright. After scampering away a few feet from the wild animal in the bushes, we laughed ourselves silly when we saw that it was a little fox squirrel. I made a mental note to someday walk the rest of the trail.

A few weeks ago, my husband and I ventured out on that trail. To the right and left, the giant roots of the fig trees stretched out over the ground like a giant troll's fingers and arms. Several years ago, a large branch had fallen down onto one of those finger-like roots; it carved out a huge chunk of the root. It made me sad then but when my husband and I explored the trail, the wound from the fallen branch looked smaller, almost like it had healed over. As we descended down the wooden

staircase, we heard and saw figs dropping from the trees overhead.

"Glad we're wearing hats," I said, stepping around the fallen fruit on the stairs. The fragrance of the figs is a sweet, musty one. I always wonder why we don't see more birds in the area. I suppose figs are an acquired taste for our feathered friends.

It took just twenty minutes to walk the trail, palm trees everywhere beside, under and above us. Bright green palm fronds fingered the azure sky. As my husband and I headed up to the secondary path to the left and above us, we marveled at the robust leaves of exotic palms we'd never seen before. The leaves resembled the hands of giant gnomes. We went on, the path slowly elevating in height and becoming overgrown with healthy shrubs of all kinds, such as laurel sumac. The fragrance in the air was light and sweet, warming us in the gentle afternoon sun.

Soon we found ourselves behind an adobe-style building

with an intriguing back yard area with an old stone fireplace and relics of hornos, the ovens you'd find at a typical home in Mexico. It was as though we had arrived at another land. But I recognized it as the Balboa Park Club, a place where we do attend once in a while the bimonthly ballroom dances.

Behind the fireplace, hornos and other relics of the club, tall Matilija poppies demanded our attention, their white fragile petals resembling crepe paper. Their bright yellow centers look like fried eggs; hence, their nickname of fried egg flowers.

From there, we turned around and went back down the upper trail. As we neared the fork in the trail, we made a sharp left and followed the path to the very end where a gate was securely shut and locked, the rush of 163 traffic roaring below us. The fence puzzled us because we'd seen groups of young people amble down the path; they must have climbed up

over the fence to heaven knows where.

Returning on the lower trail, we couldn't resist getting up close to the roots of the enormous fig trees, the bottoms of our shoes turning purple with the dried figs that had dropped. The walk up from the trees below the wooden bridge brought us out to the startlingly bright and loud streets, seemingly worlds away from the secrets of the giant fig trees and peaceful, tall palms.

—Cynthia G. Robertson is an award-winning freelance writer and photographer, putting together interesting and informative articles for more than 30 years. Her stories, essays and poems have also been published in "Acorn Review" and several anthologies, including "Six Feet Apart...in the Time of Corona." She blogs about her observations of nature and spirituality, and in 2019, she penned her first novel, "Where You See Forever." Find out more at [www.cynthiarobertson.com](http://www.cynthiarobertson.com).



These exotic palm tree leaves resemble the hands of a giant gnome at Palm Canyon Trail.



This magnificent Matilija Poppy, also known as a Fried Egg Flower, steals the show at the back of Balboa Park Club on Palm Canyon Trail.



Under the wooden bridge at the top of Palm Canyon Trail, you'll find a world far away from the bustle of Balboa Park.



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# Opening day brings out hats, fashionistas, fast horses

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

Opening Day at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club was on July 21st with a sold out crowd of 22,000. Since the pandemic, they decided to limit the crowd to increase the customer experience. This made the day much more enjoyable and very comfortable to move through the crowds. As always on this special day, people came for fashion, hats and horse racing. The crowds entered the gates to impress, making people watching a must.

Walking around the race track you saw a sea of pink. Many people were heavily influenced after the arrival of the new movie “Barbie.” Black and white was also a popular combo and many racegoers were wearing polka dots.

Emma Zuckerman looked stunning in a Philip Treacy chapeau. Kari DeBurgh looked fabulous in a vintage Philip Treacy. Natalie Cruz was also wearing a Philip Treacy which seemed to be the most popular hat designer worn to the races this year. Ovie Cowling was wearing a Carol Bader Fascinator and Violet Oughton stood out in the crowd with a yellow cocktail hat from London.

One of my favorite group of attendees was Kevin Nolen, who was wearing an Etro Suit with poppies after his daughter named Poppy, and Juliet Nolen who was wearing a hat by Jonessa Leoné. They were with Jerry Batter who designed his own suit and topped it off with a hat by American Hat Company and Chaz who topped his outfit off with a black Stetson.

As always, the racetrack held the Opening Day Hats Contest in the Plaza de Mexico. The special theme this year was “Birds, Bees, and High Tea.” Contestants entered one of these categories: Most Glamorous, Best Flowers, Best Fascinator and Best Racing Theme/All Others. The grand prize this year was a one-night stay and meal for two at Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa and a \$500 Studio Savvy Salon Gift Basket.

First place in each category was \$300 plus \$250 Studio Savvy Salon gift basket. Second place in each category was \$200 and third place in each category received \$100 prizes. All the prizes were awarded after the sixth race in the winners circle.

Leslie Monroy of Spring Valley entered the “Best Flowers” category and won the Grand Prize this year. Monroy was dressed in Barbie-pink from head-to-toes. Her hat had 500 pink rose petals and 70 gold horses, with an amazing long train of orchids. The pink horse formed a trail of flowers.

“Most Glamorous” went to Dea Wilson from Loomis, CA. “Best Fascinator” was awarded to Allison Karlstrand from Dana Point. Her Barbie-inspired design



Kevin Nolen, Juliet Nolen, Jerry Batter and Chaz.



Natalie Cruz wearing a Philip Treacy Fascinator.



Kellie Paydar wearing a vintage hat.



Emma Zuckerman (Philip Treacy) and Ovie Cowling (Carol Bader).  
(Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)



Grand prize winner Leslie Monroy of the Opening Day Hat Contest.

was chef’s kiss. The “Best Racing Theme” went to milliner Chris Banner from Valley Center which was “Bee kind to the porcupine.” For a schedule of upcoming events visit [dmtc.com/racing](http://dmtc.com/racing).

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fashion in Paradise.** A luncheon and fashion show hosted by St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center from 10 a.m.-2p.m. on Saturday, August 19, 2023. Event is at the Hilton Bayfront. For tickets visit [hautewithheart.org](http://hautewithheart.org).

**Walking in Harmony with Nature.** The second annual fashion show at Sycuan featuring 16 Native designers on Sept. 7, 2023. For tickets email [sycfashionshow@yahoo.com](mailto:sycfashionshow@yahoo.com)

**Strut For Sobriety!** Fashion show from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 9, 2023 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Raises funds for A New PATH. For tickets email [april@anewpath.org](mailto:april@anewpath.org).

**Art of Fashions.** Luncheon and fashion show hosted by Country Friends and South Coast Plaza from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe on Sept. 14, 2023. Raises funds for many non-profits. For tickets [thecountryfriends.org/](http://thecountryfriends.org/).



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Senate President Pro Tem Atkins' District and Sacramento Staff pose for a Team Toni picture. (Photo courtesy Sen. Atkins office)

## Sen. Atkins' staff share

This month, I've asked my District Director, Pam Ison, to fill you in on the work of my talented District office staff. Our Chief of Staff, Nick Hardeman, also has provided a legislative update on the latest from the Capitol. Take care and stay cool! — Sen. Toni Atkins

### INSIDE LOOK: SEN. ATKINS' DISTRICT OFFICE

By PAM ISON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

One of the best things about working for Senator Atkins is the strong emphasis she puts on the people and communities of the 39th Senate District. Even though she is the President pro Tempore of the Senate, one of the most important jobs in state government, she always reminds us—that the people she represents come first. That was also true when she served as Speaker of the Assembly. We're all proud of the fact that the boss is only the third person in California's almost 175-year history as a state to have served in both those leadership roles. Senator Atkins got her start in public service working as an aide to then-San Diego City Council member Christine Kehoe, and we believe that's where her commitment to constituent service took root. Even recently when the Senator was serving as Acting Governor and signed several bills into law, she reflected on the importance of working to help local governments serve their residents.

The 39th Senate District includes most of the City of San Diego, the cities of Coronado, Del Mar and Solana Beach, and parts of unincorporated Rancho Santa Fe. Our office also serves areas of Lemon Grove, El Cajon, and La Mesa. It is home to a diverse people and a dynamic economy. In the District Office, staff respond to constituent inquiries about legislation the Senator is authoring, problems they are facing with government agencies, and help support constituents in solving their issues.

We also take part in the community by attending local government meetings and

representing the Senator at events and meetings throughout the district. Even with a twin sister, the boss can't be in two places at the same time! Because she comes from a military family and there is such a large military presence in the district, that has been a special focus for Senator Atkins, including finding ways to help military families make ends meet and helping veterans cut through red tape to access the benefits they have earned. Some of our busiest times came during the peak of COVID, when so many people had questions and needed timely, accurate information during the pandemic.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By NICK HARDEMAN, CHIEF OF STAFF

Much has happened in Sacramento since last month.

First, the 2023-2024 state budget negotiated by Senator Atkins, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Governor went into effect July 1. Even though this is a more difficult budget year than we've faced recently, years of responsible budgeting by legislative Democrats allowed us to move forward to protect our progress and avoid any harmful cuts.

I know Senator Atkins would want a big shout out to the Senate's Budget Chair, Senator Nancy Skinner of Berkeley, the entire Budget Committee and Senate's Infrastructure Working Group for their nonstop work in bringing the budget to fruition. Their work led to a final package of bills that improve California's ability to streamline and build the infrastructure our state needs while continuing to lead on climate change and protecting the environment. The package also included historic standards on workforce equity, and will benefit marginalized and disadvantaged communities by promoting access to jobs in federally-supported construction and manufacturing.

Senator Atkins was the first Senate President pro Tem to sign bills into law in almost 50 years and the first woman

## San Diego Community Newspapers poised to revive local journalism

In an era of dwindling trust and declining subscriptions, the fate of traditional daily newspapers hangs in the balance.

Now, three local community publishers — San Diego Community Newspaper Group, The Coast News Group and The Coronado News — have formed a story-sharing and advertising partnership that reaches more than 200,000 weekly print readers and more than a quarter million monthly online readers.

From Oceanside to east of downtown San Diego to Coronado, these publishers offer local, regional and national advertisers some of the most affluent households not just in San Diego County but across the country.

"The demand for accurate and in-depth community news is at an all-time high and this partnership is a big win for our readers. Plus, a stronger paper creates more reader engagement in print and online allowing us to deliver more value for advertisers," said Chris Kydd, associate publisher of The Coast News Group.

Julie Main, whose newspaper group of eight titles has grown to be the largest independently female owned and operated newspaper group in San Diego County, noted this partnership will allow small businesses to afford to advertise because they will have the option to buy into their target communities. Meanwhile, larger corporate accounts can buy at a wholesale price for the whole circulation network.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be working with two amazing, well-respected newspaper publishers," said Paul Huntsman, owner of the Coronado News. "Readers in Coronado now will have access to additional in-depth and feature stories throughout the San Diego region, and our advertisers will have a broader reach to other communities across greater San Diego."

### UNSUNG HEROES OF GRASSROOTS JOURNALISM

The partnership comes as The San Diego Union-Tribune was recently sold to an out-of-state hedge fund company renowned for its cost-cutting measures and downsizing strategies at other papers it has acquired. The takeover resulted in the U-T losing its longtime editor and publisher while numerous veteran key staff members accepted buyouts.

Enter the three community newspapers, the unsung heroes of grassroots journalism.

These publications have embraced a different approach to news delivery, catering to specific neighborhoods and serving as the voice of their readership. Their direct delivery to high demographic zip codes has cultivated a strong bond with the communities they serve.

Consider:

- San Diego Community Newspaper Group has eight publications that are directly delivered to more than 130,000 homes in high demographic communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Downtown San Diego, Mission Hills/Hillcrest, La Mesa, College Area, San Carlos, Del Cerro, Allied Gardens and Granville area.

- The Coast News Group has two news publications reaching 70,000 weekly print readers and placed in 530 racks across nine communities in North County.

- The Coronado News delivers 9,500 copies every Friday to every home and business in Coronado, and another 1,500 copies are distributed to retail outlets in town.

### RETAINING COMMUNITY TRUST

The combined reach of the three community publications is three times greater than the paid circulation of the Union Tribune.

Unlike their ailing daily counterparts, community newspapers have managed to retain a sense of trust and authenticity. Their commitment to local stories, highlighting the triumphs and challenges unique to each community, has garnered widespread appreciation and support. The readers eagerly anticipate each edition, savoring the engaging content tailored to their specific interests.

This network seeks to expand the reach of community newspapers, incorporating additional zip codes and ensuring market saturation for readership and advertisers. By pooling resources and expertise, these publishers aim to provide advertisers with an unprecedented opportunity to target audiences with precision, maximizing their reach and impact.

With their strong readership, loyal following, and market saturation in high demographic areas, they offer a compelling alternative for both readers and advertisers alike. By embracing the power of community, these newspapers breathe new life into the fading tradition, paving the way for a vibrant future of trustworthy and locally centered news.

### KEY CONTACTS

For information on placing ads or story tips contact:

- Julie Main, Publisher, San Diego Community Newspaper Group, [julie@sdnews.com](mailto:julie@sdnews.com) and 858-270-3103 X106

- Chris Kydd, Associate Publisher of The Coast News Group, [ckydd@coastnewsgroup.com](mailto:ckydd@coastnewsgroup.com) and (760) 500-0072

- Craig Harris, Associate Publisher and Editor of The Coronado News, [craig@thecoronadonews.com](mailto:craig@thecoronadonews.com) and 619-539-9738.

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#### EDITOR

Drew Sittton

[drew@sdnews.com](mailto:drew@sdnews.com)

#### WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

Drew Sittton

#### ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Mike Rosensteel

(619) 961-1958

[miker@sdnews.com](mailto:miker@sdnews.com)

#### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Dave Thomas x130

Tom Melville x131

Dave Schwab x132

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jill Alexander

Toni Atkins

Diana Cavagnaro

J.M. Garcia

Chris Gomez

Elaine Kalin

Mary Rose Mueller

Ethan Olsen

Neal Putnam

Cynthia Robertson

Frank Sabatini Jr.

Sandee Wilhoit

#### BUSINESS CONSULTANT

David Mannis

(619) 961-1951

[david@sdenn.com](mailto:david@sdenn.com)

#### ACCOUNTING

Heather Humble x120

[accounting@sdnews.com](mailto:accounting@sdnews.com)

#### PUBLISHER

Julie Main x106

[julie@sdnews.com](mailto:julie@sdnews.com)

#### INTERN

Kylie Capuano

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| Bakery _____           | Deli _____              | New Restaurant _____      |
| Bar _____              | Dessert _____           | Nightclub _____           |
| Barbecue _____         | Dinner _____            | Outdoor Dining _____      |
| Brewery _____          | Donut Shop _____        | Pet Friendly Dining _____ |
| Billards _____         | Farmers Market _____    | Pizza _____               |
| Breakfast _____        | Fine Dining _____       | Seafood _____             |
| Brunch _____           | Greek Cuisine _____     | Sports Bar _____          |
| Burger _____           | Happy Hour _____        | Steakhouse _____          |
| Business Lunch _____   | Health Food Store _____ | Sushi _____               |
| Cafe _____             | Indian Cuisine _____    | Thai Cuisine _____        |
| Casino _____           | Irish Pub _____         | Vegetarian/Vegan _____    |
| Catering _____         | Italian Cuisine _____   | Wine Bar _____            |
| Chinese Cuisine _____  | Juice/Smoothies _____   |                           |
| Cocktail _____         | Lunch _____             |                           |

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# School

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

lots of other schools do because this is the business we're in."

In addition, the school's new creative arts center the Chrysalis is doing more community outreach to give back to the neighborhood of Barrio Logan that has nourished the school for the past decade.

When it was founded in 1987, the school was located in Little Italy and was only for high school students. These students were often tasked with caring for younger siblings so the elementary and middle school classes were added. Today, most of the students are in elementary school.

As the school invites the community in, it continues to advocate for the needs of unhoused youth and families at a wider level.

## MENTORING PROGRAM

Monarch School has long been the focus of outreach nationally and internationally because it is one of its kind, according to DeVries. Up til now, the school has been reactive rather than proactive in sharing their model with those who want to learn.

"One of the most important future visions we have, which is really starting now, is to create a training and mentoring facility here at Monarch," DeVries said. "We know what we're talking about. And it's time for us to create space for others to learn from this."

DeVries serves on the Regional Task Force on Homelessness where she advocates for all of the estimated 18,000 unhoused students in the San Diego school system.

"My role can't just be about the 300 kids we educate here. It feels really important to me, for us, to serve as a well-educated advocate for the population generally," she said.

Monarch School also has a unique approach to making the school a place of healing as well as learning that other schools want to model.

Monarch has three core practices in its approach. While those practices are not unique, the



In a classroom with wood working and other construction materials, students personalized their hard hats.

combination of those philosophies is unusual if not singular.

First, staff engage with students in a restorative way. They avoid punitive measures like suspensions and expulsions.

For instance, when students arrive late, rather than being reprimanded, they are welcomed by staff who say they are happy to see the students and proud of them for coming.

"You don't know what they've had to go right in order to be there – the struggle before even coming to school," said Ana Magdaleno, the school's development manager.

When there's a behavioral infraction, a discussion occurs about how that does not benefit the community and how to restore their place in the school family. Commitments are made and people move forward.

This is wildly divergent from traditional school models that prize authority highly and may even have 'zero tolerance' policies. DeVries said, "It's hard work because it's not easy. It's also not fast. And it doesn't necessarily give people who are used to authoritative and punitive action a sense of accomplishment. But it does create a sense of safety and a sense of belonging that is really critical to dignity."

All staff and programs at Monarch School are trauma informed, the second practice DeVries touts in Monarch's model. She knows all students at the school are experiencing complex trauma due to being unhoused – which often manifests as students feeling unsafe and disconnected from their community. They may

also be food insecure and excessively mobile. Most of all, they have to manage the stigma of being homeless.

To address the needs of students, Monarch started employing its own staff of mental health professionals a few years ago after moving away from external contractors. These licensed clinicians provide group, family and one-on-one therapy.

The school also has a team of behavioral intervention specialists that can be deployed to classrooms and programs if a student is emotionally dysregulated. Their job is to help the child get regulated in their environment again.

"When you are unable to remain emotionally regulated, for whatever reason, the reaction that you're going to get to that behavior is not going to make the matter worse. It's hopefully making the matter better, because we're going to spend time figuring out what's at the root of it," DeVries said. "That's what being restorative is, and that's what being trauma informed means."

The final practice for the school's philosophy is being strength-based. DeVries explained that often when a student is failing a class, the entire conversation at school focuses on that issue – which can be discouraging. Instead of focusing on the negative, Monarch tries to have conversations with students that are about what they are good at and how those skills can be maximized in other places.

Those practices blend to make Monarch a secure place for students, but the school offers unique services beyond just its approach to teaching.

Monarch School is a community school, meaning it partners with services to meet the needs of students on campus so they can focus on learning. Its campus has wrap-around services for the students and their families as well as case management.

"Some of those immediate, core basic needs are met here," DeVries said.

There is a butterfly boutique where students can pick out donated clothes and shoes if they need them. There are also shower and laundry facilities.

The move to mentor other educators comes as the state of California has committed to spending \$4.1 billion over seven years to convert schools in



Former student, current volunteer and outreach coordinator Zaira Martinez (left) and development manager Ana Magdaleno stand in front of student art in the atrium of the school. (Photos by Drew Sitton)

high-poverty areas into 'community schools.' The schools adapting to this model require examples of how this works and are turning to Monarch.

A community school approach is meant to break the barriers preventing students from succeeding. The barriers range from mental health issues to racism.

As an example, if a student is hungry, it affects their ability to concentrate. So, Monarch has a food pantry and weekly farmers market to provide nutrition to families. Being unhoused is traumatizing to students, so Monarch employs case managers that help families find permanent housing and connect to services. Shelters do not usually allow unhoused people to stay during the day so a wing of the Monarch campus is dedicated to parents so they have an air-conditioned place to stay with resume help, classes and ways to entertain kids under five years old. School becomes not just a place of stability in chaotic circumstances for students but their parents and siblings as well.

"Our unhoused students are hiding in plain sight in schools. They are very clearly underperforming and it's not their fault," DeVries said, noting that the statewide graduation rate for unhoused students is 69%. "Not everybody can be a Monarch School, but everybody can care about the same issues that Monarch School cares about."

## WELL-RESOURCED SCHOOL

The Monarch administration and teachers both highlight that they are willing to adapt and add new programs based on feedback from students and families. Part of the reason they can do so is because of how well-funded the school is.

"There are so many resources," said Zaira Martinez, a former Monarch student who now works as the volunteer and community outreach coordinator.

Many homeless service agencies are stretched beyond their capacity. Case management often means coaching unhoused people about the best strategy to get a coveted shelter spot amid high competition. Waiting lists abound.

There is no waiting list to get into Monarch. The small student body of 300 students over 12 grades means the services provided are robust and plentiful. If the school needs something, the

development team finds donors and grants. The ways in which the community helps the school is abundantly clear when talking to staff.

A visit from a Denny's food truck, Coronado families organizing a Thanksgiving dinner, Specialty Produce donating raw ingredients to cooking classes are just a few of the donations mentioned during a tour of the facility. Volunteers are welcomed and drives for clothes and supplies are another way local businesses support the school.

"There's always an opportunity to get involved here," Martinez said. Community involvement also means the school can educate and advocate more for unhoused youth. "The people that wanna help, they wanna learn. Having that open connection with the community is really great."

The school's resources mean they can fulfill individual wish-lists and meet needs specific to their population.


"We spend a lot of time talking to our students and their parents and caregivers about what is working for them in this campus environment and what is missing," DeVries said.

At Launch Pointe, where high school students learn life skills and career readiness, director Marla Navarrete said the school's fashion program began when one student told her he wanted to go into the fashion industry. In response, she bought sewing machines and supplies. Interest grew from one person to several as experts taught sewing and the ins and outs of the fashion industry.

"One of the things that becomes very special about the programs is the capacity to listen to the students and find out what their needs are... We will create based on the students' needs," Navarrete said. "We get to do that because we don't have 50 kids in a class... We have 80 high school students."


In another case, Navarrete organized a tour at San Diego Police Department's crime lab for a student interested in a career in forensics.

Launch Pointe has STEM classes, a construction workshop and a lego engineering lab. Students are paid to attend these programs so they also learn job skills, like arriving on time to be paid a full wage. Since many of the older




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# Feast at the inaugural Taste of East Village

East Village News

By **ETHAN OLSEN**

Mark your calendars because the fun is ramping up in East Village. For the remainder of the year, the East Village Association will be hosting a variety of exciting new and returning events and activities for those young and old!

Attention all foodies! Experience the culinary extravaganza at the Inaugural Taste of East Village where for three consecutive days, the local restaurants and bars in East Village will be serving up bites from 4 to 8 p.m. starting on Tuesday, Aug. 29 and running through Thursday, Aug. 31. At the event, foodies will be able to indulge in appetizers, entrees, desserts, and beverages from over 35 of San Diego's most renowned dining establishments.

Upon arrival, ticketholders will receive a Taste Passport, which will serve as a comprehensive guide to all the participating restaurants in the neighborhood and their delectable menu offerings. Throughout the event, attendees will have the opportunity to explore the neighborhood, sampling different bites and sips while taking in the East Village atmosphere.

Whether you are familiar with the culinary scene in East Village or open to exploring new flavors, the Taste of East Village will give you the chance to sample from the neighborhood's finest restaurants and eateries including Hey Sugar, Tavern + Bowl, Wicked Chicken, Sovereign Modern Thai, Doggos Gus, Moniker Cocktail Co., Knotty Barrel, StoryHouse Spirits and many more!

Ticketholders will then peruse throughout the neighborhood stopping at participating restaurants for their signature bites, each earning a stamp on their passport. A limited number of early bird tickets are available for \$35 and general tickets will be available for \$40, plus a service fee. For more information about the Taste of East Village visit [www.TasteOfEastVillageSD.com](http://www.TasteOfEastVillageSD.com).

## A LOOK AHEAD

The East Village celebrations are just getting started. Continue the festivities at the East Village Oktoberfest in partnership with Quartyard. On Saturday, Sept. 30, Quartyard will be transforming East Village into a modern faced Oktoberfest with a unique twist of Latin flair for the community. The lively event will highlight the German influence on Mexican lager, music and food. Attendees can expect lots of craft beer, traditional Oktoberfest faire including soft pretzels and Bavarian sausages, traditional Polka music and tribute bands, along with tons of games encouraging guest interaction and maximum fun. More details to come!

Though still in the works, the first ever East Village Salutes!



The neighborhood will host the first "Taste of East Village" during the last week of August. (Photo courtesy East Village Association)

is expected to take place on Sunday, November 12 in the Downtown neighborhood. An event to honor Veterans and all those who have served, the Veteran's Day celebration will feature Veteran-owned businesses, live music and entertainment and a variety of kids activations. Honor those who have served our county on the special holiday event.

Soon, the East Village Association will also be working with Las Jefas Markets to create a weekly artisan market for the community to support local talent. Expected to start on Saturday, August 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the East Village Artisan Market will feature artisan goods from all across San Diego and will take place every fourth Saturday of the year on Park Blvd.

In addition, the Association is planning to kick off First

Fridays in the neighborhood. Switching up businesses every month, First Fridays will be hosted by one neighborhood business and will feature offerings from other neighboring businesses. The First Friday events are expected to be a year-round program to help establish opportunities for the community to come together to meet their neighbors and network.

Exciting plans are underway for the East Village community, bringing in new ways to reconnect the community so keep an out for what's to come in the neighborhood!

For the latest updates on East Village Association, please visit us at [eastvillagesandiego.com](http://eastvillagesandiego.com) and follow us on Instagram @EastVillageSD, TikTok @EastVillageSD and Twitter @EastVillageSD.

# Celebrating the end of summer for kids

Little Italy News

By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

We all know what August entails for all the kids. It's the sad realization that summer is slipping away, and the school year is on the horizon. But fear not! There is still time enjoy the last few days of summer and there's no better place to spend your summertime than in our beautiful neighborhood.

## WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

Now there's nothing that screams more summer vibes than a good scoop of ice cream or gelato and the neighborhood doesn't fall short of having more than enough options! Inspired by the traditional frozen treats of Michoacan, Holy Paleta brings refreshing ice cream delights that are made with all-natural, premium ingredients and have a variety of tasty flavors that can suit your paleta (popsicle) needs.

Are you someone who loves bold flavors? If so, Pop Pops has everything you need for the summertime. Bringing amazing and unique gourmet pops bursting with flavor and freshness, Pop Pops lets you indulge in a dessert experience like no other. Flavors vary by season and are made from scratch every single day locally.

There is a reason why there's a lot of talk around the neighborhood about Salt & Straw and it's for a good reason! Local kids and visitors exploring the neighborhood love to stop by Salt & Straw and get a lick of their rotating ice cream flavors that fill their mouth with joy.

And of course, you can't be in Little Italy without having some gelato! With around 18 flavors available that are made in-house daily


from gelato chef, Monica, Bobboi Natural Gelato is a neighborhood staple for all your gelato cravings. Nothing feels better than having a long adventure through the iconic streets of Little Italy and ending off the experience with a big scoop of your favorite gelato. If you're enjoying the delicious Italian food at Nonna's Italian Kitchen, make sure to save some space for dessert! The gelato options at Nonna make for a perfect end to the meal.

## A LOOK AHEAD

Though the summer is ending for the kids, it doesn't mean the adults can't keep having fun! Keep your calendars open because the second annual Casino di Piazza is back on Friday, Sept. 15 from 7 to 11 p.m. Casino di Piazza completely transforms the Piazza della Famiglia into an exquisite Italian garden casino experience. In partnership with Vici Luxury Rentals, the evening will feature craft cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres, live music, Blackjack, Craps and Roulette in the heart of Little Italy. This will be the night to dress to impress so pull out your very best cocktail or black-tie attire that you have stored in the back of your closet. Upon arrival, guests will be transported to the manicured gardens of Milan with the beautiful greenery lined walls and classic Italian statues set in the heart of the Piazza della Famiglia. More information on tickets will be available soon.

Little Italy invites kids, families, and the community to come together to continue to celebrate the summer and beyond!

For more information, please visit us at [LittleItalySD.com](http://LittleItalySD.com) or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.




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# Our first meal inside The Lafayette Hotel's dramatic redo

**Restaurant Review**

By **FRANK SABATINI JR.**

Prepare for a head spin when walking into the sensationally remodeled Lafayette Hotel for the first time.

After purchasing the historic property and sinking \$31 million into it, CH Projects has ensured that locals and visitors alike will be dazzled by the hotel's new eating and drinking establishments. Five of them debuted in late July. Three more are slated to open in October. The venues so far feed the imagination with detailed themes that required the skills of local and international artists.

This is the pièce de résistance for the local hospitality group, which had a couple of decades to prepare for such an ambitious project. Its portfolio includes well-designed hot spots such as Polite Provisions in Normal Heights, Craft & Commerce downtown, Part Time Lover in North Park, Born & Raised in Little Italy and several others.

Beginner's Diner is one of Lafayette's restaurants that I've chosen as my starting point (it is in the name). It's where 1940-style Americana rules the day with a 24/7 kitchen. The diner sits in sharp contrast to the other "phase one" venues such as the Oaxacan-inspired Quixote, where you're greeted with an eye-popping Gothic-church atmosphere, and Gutter, where you can indulge in noshes and cocktails while enjoying two bowling lanes and pool tables amid elegant design features.

Located off the stunning circular Lobby Bar, the diner is marked by bold neon signage. Inside is a roomy lunch bar trimmed in shiny chrome and ample booths each marked by old-style lamp posts. As for those apple and



Bacon-avocado eggs Benedict

lemon meringue pies winking at you from their glass pedestals on the counter, they're made fresh daily. Overall, the recreated design is sleek and inviting rather than zany and juvenile.

Paper menus double as place mats. On them you'll find common American diner classics but with fanciful twists in many cases. An order of crinkle-cut "disco fries," for example, came with the bonus of veal gravy made in-house with stock and reduced red wine. It was served on the side in a silver gravy boat reminiscent of the era's fine-dining restaurants.

Or if you opt for a bowl of chili, expect beans and pork mingling with Wagyu beef. Corned beef hash or a Reuben sandwich are tempting choices given that the meats are cooked in-house, according to our waitress. The same can be said for roast beef, which shows up in a French dip layered with Gruyere, cheddar, and house-made horseradish sauce.

Visiting shortly before breakfast ended at noon (it resumes at midnight), we opted for morning and lunch fare. My companion's bacon-avocado Benedict was draped in Hollandaise sauce boasting an above-standard level of citrus. We didn't mind because its acidity cut nicely through the unctuous chopped bacon and mashed avocado.

Under "de-lux sandwiches," the chicken schnitzel on a brioche bun screamed "take me!" The dish exceeded my expectations with an expansive pounded-out Jidori chicken breast coated in panko. It was fried to a delectable crisp and garnished with caper-herb aioli and a sunny-side egg. Our waitress noted that she hadn't yet seen anyone finish the whole thing in one sitting. Half of mine



A shiny '40s vibe greets customers. (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



The chicken schnitzel sandwich

came home in a stylish to-go box.

A tall shake made with fresh strawberries was outstanding, as was my companion's drip coffee served with a cute cow-shaped vessel of cream.



Strawberry shake

such as deviled eggs with salmon roe, duck confit hash, and bone-in ham steak with eggs will flaunt the same high quality we encountered this early in the game. Our hopes are high they will.

## BEGINNER'S DINER

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# Candidates vie for District 4 Supervisor position in Aug. 15 special election

By DAVE THOMAS

In an Aug. 15 Special Primary Election to fill District 4's vacant seat (Nathan Fletcher resigned in May) for the remainder of the current term ending in January 2027, four candidates are on the ballot. They are Democrats Janessa Goldbeck and Monica Montgomery-Steppe and Republicans Amy Reichert and Paul McQuigg.

Only those residents who live in the district can vote in the election. The district represents the nearly 700,000 residents of county District 4 — making up

central San Diego neighborhoods such as Bankers Hill, Hillcrest and City Heights, as well as the cities of La Mesa, Lemon Grove and beyond.

SDNews caught up recently with three of the candidates via email for a Q&A. We did not hear back from McQuigg prior to print deadline. The candidates were given the same questions to respond to. Some of their answers have been edited for length.

**SDNews:** What solutions would you put forth to solve homelessness?

**Reichert:** California, following the "Housing First" model, while

addressing some root causes of homelessness such as affordable housing, has failed to address another root cause of homelessness, particularly in individuals struggling with mental health and addiction issues and who are also committing serious or violent crimes. Currently, the "Housing First" approach restricts organizations that offer treatment from receiving Federal and State funding.

To address this gap, my proposed plan, "Shelter First with Treatment," will prioritize getting mandatory treatment for individuals who engage in violent crimes on our streets. It is unacceptable to offer free motel vouchers to sex offenders who assault minors in taxpayer funded motels and individuals with warrants for their arrest who are actively dealing drugs out of taxpayer funded motel rooms while our elderly and domestic violence victims and their children go without housing. To combat these issues, we need to focus on creating more shelter beds, Crisis Stabilization Units, and enforcing existing laws that prohibit public camping. I also support the establishment of a Homeless Triage Shelter, like Sunbreak Ranch proposed by Bill Walton, where immediate assistance and shelter can be provided.



Inside St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Bankers Hill, candidates respond to a question about climate change. (Photo courtesy St. Paul's Cathedral)

We also need to push the state and federal governments to create a sustainable, on-going source of funding to increase the supply of shelter beds, permanent supportive housing, and case workers to assist the unsheltered population. I will continue working with my peers at the state and federal levels, and hold the region accountable for leveraging every tool in our toolbox. Additionally, it is imperative the County review all opportunities of County-owned land that can be used for donations or subsidies, encouraging non-profit developers and housing service providers to provide low-cost to no-cost homelessness solutions.

**Goldbeck:** Homelessness is spiraling out of control and city leaders keep running away from the problem. I'll tackle it head on.

Leading a veterans nonprofit, I know what's worked from fighting to end veterans' homelessness and I'll bring that leadership to the County. First, I'll put urgent focus on getting unhoused seniors and children off the street. They need and want help now. Second, it's time to get serious about ending the mass street encampments. We all know what's necessary - more shelters, more treatment, more safe camping sites - but local politicians aren't getting the job done. I will.

**SDNews:** What can we do to provide more affordable housing and higher paying jobs locally?

**Reichert:** We need to make San Diego a more affordable place to live and work. I am dedicated to advocating for worker rights through my nonprofit organization and successfully preserving thousands of local jobs right here in San Diego. The dedicated people who serve us in essential roles such as mental health, social work, and first responders within the County of San Diego are struggling to afford housing within the county. The County of San Diego government is the third largest employer, employing approximately 20,337 individuals. Many county employees are forced to commute from distant locations such as Temecula and even Tijuana.

To address this critical issue and simultaneously promote environmental sustainability, it

is imperative for the county, as one of the largest landowners, to prioritize the development of affordable workforce housing near employment centers. By undertaking this initiative, the county will not only attract highly skilled workers to serve our residents but also significantly reduce carbon emissions associated with long commutes on our roads and highways.

Another issue that will make San Diego completely unaffordable for working class and marginalized communities is a mileage tax, which I am firmly against. Electing me would ensure a change of leadership at SANDAG where we can take an aggressive stance to protect the environment without taxing people out of their vehicles.

**Montgomery-Steppe:** To provide more affordable housing, I support mandates to ensure low- and very-low-income housing is included in new development. I also believe inclusionary housing is a necessary policy tool to reduce concentrated poverty. By creating more housing for low- and middle-income San Diegans, we can make housing more affordable.

I especially support creating inclusionary housing units on-site to prevent racial and class segregation and securing sufficient funding for affordable housing units. California's low-income housing tax credit system is oversubscribed by 5:1, meaning there are a lot of proposed affordable housing projects that can't be built because they lack the gap financing needed to break ground. On the City Council, I secured a \$7.5 million grant to support new homebuyers of color. As Supervisor, I will continue to secure funding for affordable housing projects.

To provide higher-paying jobs to the working families of our region, we must invest in green job opportunities, equitable contracting opportunities, and homeownership opportunities, and secure startup capital for local entrepreneurs. As Co-Chair of the City-County Reinvestment Task Force, I secured millions of dollars worth of investment into

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# Alabama St. murder suspect pleads not guilty

By NEAL PUTNAM

A preliminary hearing has been set for Oct. 30 for a North Park man accused of stabbing his roommate to death on July 2.

Jonathan Robert Camp, 39, has pleaded not guilty to killing John Baquera, 58, where Camp lived with his father and Baquera in the Alabama Manor complex in the 3800 block of Alabama Street.

The attorneys did not discuss bail or the facts in the case when Camp appeared before San Diego Superior Court Judge Aaron Katz on July 6.

Camp remains in the central jail without bail.

The incident occurred on July 2 and police reported they received a call at 11:55 p.m. Officers found the victim suffering from multiple stab wounds to his chest. Officers attempted to perform life-saving measures until paramedics arrived.

Baquera's injuries were grave and he was pronounced deceased at the scene, according to police.

Detectives were investigating an "ongoing dispute" in the living situation between the defendant and the victim, according to a press release from San Diego Police. Alabama Manor is housing that is designed for mostly people who are over 55 years of age or older.

Jonathan Camp fled the scene after the incident and officers were conducting a search in the area, shining flashlights in the neighborhood in the early morning hours to see where he was hiding.

Around 4 a.m., a shirtless Jonathan Camp returned to the apartment complex and was arrested. A photographer with Times of San Diego captured a photo of Camp as he was being arrested.

## Uptown // Downtown Briefs

### BENEFIT WALK FOR HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

Huntington's Disease Society of America, San Diego Chapter is hosting a Team Hope Walk on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Coronado Tidelands Park, 2000 Mullinex Dr.

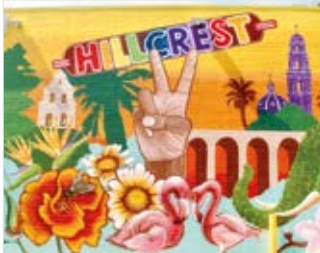
Register for this event helping research the disease and assist families at [hdsa.org/thwsandiego](https://hdsa.org/thwsandiego).



### JUNIOR THEATRE CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

To commemorate 75 years of providing high quality productions and theatre education for San Diego's youth, SDJT is preparing a special evening on Saturday, August 12. At 7:30pm, inside the Casa del Prado Theatre, the theater will bid a fond farewell to outgoing Artistic Director Desha Crownover, welcome incoming Producing Artistic Director Joey Price, celebrate JT Honorees and feature

performances by students from JT on Tour and Confetti. Tickets for the program are \$35. All tickets are available at [www.juniortheatre.com](https://www.juniortheatre.com).



### NEW HILLCREST MURAL

California Bank & Trust (CB&T), one of California's leading banks, is celebrating nearly 40 years of service to the Hillcrest community and surrounding areas with a new mural installation at its local branch. Established in 1985, the CB&T Hillcrest Branch has contributed greatly to the growth and expansion of the neighborhood by providing custom financial services to hundreds of business owners and residents.

Central to the mural, which wraps the south and east walls of the building, is a representation of the Hillcrest sign that hangs just a few blocks away, above University Avenue. The mural also includes the historic Balboa

Park Tower and Cabrillo Bridge, Harper's Topiary Garden, gorgeous San Diego skyline and of course, the city's famous San Diego Zoo. The mural concept was created by local artist Austin Gosswiller and installation began in June 2023.



### SEAPORT SEEKS PUBLIC FEEDBACK

The development team for Seaport San Diego invites the community to participate in "Seaport San Diego for All," a community outreach program happening now. Seaport San Diego is a proposed \$3.6 billion redevelopment of the Downtown San Diego waterfront within the Port of San Diego. Rooted in concepts of social justice and equity, Seaport San Diego for All includes a series of listening sessions, a survey, data collection and research to inform a Public Access Plan for this transformative project.

The next listening session will take place on Saturday,

August 5, 2023 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library at 4275 Cass St, San Diego, CA 92109. For details on this event and other ways to participate in Seaport San Diego for All, please visit [seaportsandiego.com](https://seaportsandiego.com).



### OLD TOWN'S FREE TWAINFEST

Write Out Loud, an organization founded in 2007 with a commitment to inspire, challenge and entertain by reading literature aloud for a live audience, announces the 14th Annual TwainFest. Twainfest will take place on Saturday, August 19th from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Heritage County Park, 2455 Heritage Park Row in Old Town. There is a limited capacity so reservations are required for free entry. Learn more and register for the festive old-fashioned gathering at <https://writeoutloudsd.com/twainfest/>.

# AZTEC FOOTBALL

## 2023 HOME SCHEDULE

|           |             |             |              |            |            |              |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|           |             |             |              |            |            |              |
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# Accused Central Library shooter's hearing set

By NEAL PUTNAM

A Nov. 2 preliminary hearing has been set for a man charged with killing a young father and shooting another man in front of the Central Library in the East Village area in an argument about a stolen backpack.

The shooting took place May 23 around 12:15 p.m. outside the front entrance on Park Boulevard. Trey Walker, 20, was shot in the neck and later died. Another man, 24, was wounded and survived.

Kenneth Miguel Chaney, 22, has pleaded not guilty to murder, attempted murder, and assault with a deadly weapon to a third victim who had a gun pointed at him but was not injured.

Chaney appeared virtually before San Diego Superior Court Judge Aaron Katz from the central jail. He was seated in a chair in jail clothing. His lawyer asked for reasonable bail, and that was denied, as Katz declined to set any bail for him.

Chaney later appeared before another judge in June to delay the preliminary hearing to Nov. 2.

The prosecutor said someone with Chaney stole a backpack and everyone in the group was trying to help the backpack's owner get it back. Chaney pulled a gun and fired shots, which caused everyone to scatter, she said.

"Trey was raising his 10-month-old daughter, Ella, with his girlfriend, Perla, when he was murdered," according to a statement on Walker's GoFundMe page, which was set up to help pay for funeral expenses.

"Trey was a HERO and everyone needs to hear his story and bring justice to his name," reads the GoFundMe page.

"He absolutely loved being a father," said his sister, Jasmine Walker, in a KFMB-TV interview. "I've always told him he was an amazing dad," she said.

"He should not have died," she said.

"Trey enjoyed being the life of the party and loved to make everyone



Trey Walker with his infant daughter. (Photo courtesy GoFundMe)

laugh," said his GoFund Me page. "He had the biggest smile ever and the funniest laugh that you couldn't help but laugh at when you hear it."

"He was a hardworking man who provided for his family. Trey did not deserve to be taken off this Earth," the statement reads. "He had so many marks to make on this world and now that he's gone, he didn't have the opportunity to show the world who he really was."

Chaney remains in the George Bailey Detention Facility.

# Staff share

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

Pro Tem and LGBTQ+ Acting Governor to sign legislation. The last President pro Tem to sign bills was Senator Jim Mills, who also represented San Diego!

In terms of the Senator's own package of legislation, all of her bills passed their first hearings in the Assembly in July and are on track for passage before the Legislature adjourns in September. Her bills this session include:

**SB 385**, which would expand training for physicians assistants to allow them to perform first trimester abortions under their scope.

**SB 487**, which would strengthen protections for California healthcare providers who offer abortion care services and gender-affirming care.

**SB 447**, which would lift California's travel ban to states that have adopted discriminatory anti-LGBTQ+ laws and

put in its place the BRIDGE Project, an outreach campaign to encourage acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

**SB 450** would make SB 9, the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act, more accessible for homeowners who wish to use it.

**SB 519**, which would promote safety in county detention facilities and ensure more transparent oversight of the Sheriff's Departments.

Finally, Pro Tem Atkins is a principal coauthor of **ACA 5**, a constitutional amendment that would repeal the unenforceable provision in the California Constitution that states that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California and instead enshrines the fundamental right to marriage equality into our state Constitution. ACA 5 passed both houses of the Legislature and will be voted upon in the November 2024 General Election.

# Yamada

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

the property was seized during World War II.

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan bombed Pearl Harbor resulting in President Franklin Roosevelt issuing Executive Order 9066. Known as the Japanese Internment Act, this legislation required Japanese citizens be moved to various "camps" throughout the western states. Over two-thirds of the internees were American citizens. Their property was confiscated, as well as their businesses.

In the Gaslamp, there were approximately 55 Japanese-owned businesses at the time. Only five were recovered after the law was overturned by the Supreme Court in December of 1944. Consequently, the tenant listing

for the 516 property until 1945 was Mary Williams, who continued to run the billiards parlor.

It has long been rumored that Williams kept the billiards parlor safe to return it to the Japanese tenants upon their return to San Diego. Although the building was not originally built by Japanese owners, it has long been associated with the Asian community. Several other businesses and buildings were also kept "safe" by kindly neighbors until their Japanese owners returned from the camps.

In 1950, Frank Yamada became the tenant of 516 5th Avenue, where he opened Frank's Place, a billiards parlor, where one could also buy beer or play cards. Williams remained on the lease as joint tenant until 1960.

By 1981, the building was looking rather shabby. The "before" rehabilitation photos show broken windows, missing splotches

of paint and graffiti. Additionally, the remaining paint was lead based, a dangerous health hazard. It was time for the Yamada Building to change hands!

Greg Neuman, a returning Vietnam veteran who settled in San Diego, took possession of the structure and a complete facelift for the venerable old building ensued. The "after" photos show a completely redone, artfully designed structure featuring varnished wood, modernized windows, and elegant trim throughout. In 2000, Greg brought three lovely, huge staghorn ferns from his home to adorn the facade of the upper story below the roofline. The effect was stunning! The ferns quickly became a focal point for local tour guides. Unfortunately, one of the ferns eventually succumbed to a plant fungus, but the remaining two found a happy home at the San Diego Zoo.



The Yamada Building remains home to Neuman's real estate business today. (Photo by Tim Trevaskis)

Upon completion of the renovation, the Yamada opened its doors to Prudential Realty, which later morphed into Berkshire Hathaway, featuring home services and California properties. After 42 years in the realty business, Neuman is still happily at

his desk serving San Diego and the Gaslamp.

—Sande 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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# School

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

students are part of their family's support system, the stipends mean they can focus on personal development while still providing for their families.

Unhoused students often do not know how to cook if they have never lived in a place with a full kitchen. The school offers cooking and nutrition classes for them to learn.

"It's challenging to prepare meals and to know about ingredients and how to make a meal," development manager Magdaleno explained.

Last year, 113 students were English as a Second Language learners so language development assistants are placed in many classrooms.

The school has strong athletics and arts programs. Wearing a uniform and being part of a team makes the students feel dignified. Art is healing in and of itself. Each of these programs is valued, as reflected in the budget.

"What can be rare in the art/education world is someone above you can really want a lot from you, but they don't give you the resources to make it happen. What is beautiful at Monarch is all of those things have been aligned," said Erika Malone, the director of creative youth development and community engagement at the Chrysalis, the institution's new arts facility.



Inside an elementary classroom at Monarch. (Photos by Drew Sitton)

Those resources are being deployed to help other schools as well. Monarch's clinicians now travel to San Ysidro's Willow Elementary, where 400 of the 700 students are unhoused, to provide mental health services.

The Chrysalis is being developed into another site of community outreach.

"The community is starting to feel like it's part of them," Magdaleno said.

## CHRYSLIS

The Chrysalis was opened in response to students asking for a stage. Place could not be found at the main campus so Monarch rented a building a few blocks away with space for visual and performing arts events. The arts are valued partially because of how healing they can be.

"When you provide a space for youth to share who they are authentically, to lead, to feel really safe and belong, it's automatically healing," Malone said.

Monarch School conducts research on students to track their socio-emotional learning competencies. According to Malone, students who participate in the arts have much higher scores.

"I have the data to prove that students feel like they can value school, they can feel safer, they can feel more connected to their identity, if they're doing something in the arts," she said.

In addition to music and theater programs for Monarch students, the facility is being utilized by families and Barrio Logan artists.

"Monarch used to be, it still is, a little bubble. 300 families know each other really well. But this is a place where... our kids are meeting kids from other schools. They're having guest artists come in and perform with them, for them," Malone said. "It's a way to give them a connection to a bigger arts network and a bigger sense of the San Diego family."

Three days a week, parents and children under five years old



Backstage at the Chrysalis, students preserve pieces from past shows.

can attend free classes there. It's open to the community although most of the parents are associated with Monarch currently. The San Diego Youth Symphony conducts 'parent and me' music classes on Wednesdays. On other days, parents have mindfulness, dance and other classes while young children play and make art in the next room, something Malone said is important for their development as many unhoused toddlers spend a large amount of time in strollers.

"They're not having a typical toddler experience that someone who is housed would have, where they get to play and touch things and be on the floor," she said.

As for parents, she said the number one comment she hears is that they did not get to have these enriching experiences as a child. They are able to have fun and let out their inner child. Based on requests, Malone is adding guitar lessons in the fall.

The site is also a place for the school to make connections with

the LGBTQ+ community. DeVries said 13% of Monarch's student populations is LGBTQ+ – sometimes because they have been kicked out from a family home due to their identity. The school marched in the Pride Parade for the first time this year as they seek to better support queer students and staff.

Right now, a gay asylum-seeker from Russia who happens to be a concert-level pianist and is staying at a shelter nearby uses the facility's grand piano to practice. The Chrysalis hosted the youth and family day during the second annual Queer Mvmnt Fest.

Eventually, Malone hopes the Chrysalis will be the home base for a handful of arts organizations that put on full seasons in the facility. She said while Barrio Logan has a huge arts community, there are few spaces for performances and events.

"We want to be an affordable space for artists," she said. "We see the Chrysalis as a place where the unhoused and ... the greater San Diego community can intersect in really beautiful and powerful ways."

She hopes to continue to rent the facility for the next few decades at least. She is already eyeing the neighboring unit as a place to build out a lounge for parents where they can eat and hang out.

"We are really excited, really for the first time, to be able to be part of our community in a different way... to be able to offer something back to this neighborhood that has taken such good care of our kids," DeVries said.



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