





# Health center worries encampment ban will disrupt care

By J.M. GARCIA

The waters from a burst pipe earlier this year at Father Joe's Village Health Center have long since receded. The damaged exam rooms, administrative offices, dental clinic, laboratory and other areas have been repaired since July. Today, the unhoused people the clinic serves fill the waiting room of the reopened center.

However, something still feels amiss. Since the city's crackdown on homeless encampments, the men and women the staff were accustomed to seeing no longer take up the nearby sidewalks with their tents and scant possessions. It was as if they had vanished.

"Driving around, we've seen normal locations of where homeless people stayed closed out," said Jennifer Wilkens, supervisor of outreach at the health center. "It's difficult to provide follow-up.

Some will call us and say, 'Hey, I'm over here now.'"

The outreach team uses a van to carry medical and hygiene supplies, clothing and food among other essentials to address immediate survival needs. The team includes a case management specialist, a nurse, a medical assistant and a drug and alcohol counselor. A psychiatrist goes out on Mondays.

"We do a lot of wound care and prescription refills," Wilkens said. "Abscesses, broken fingers from fighting, infections, scabies, you name it."

Last month, the outreach team saw homeless people being cleared from three camps.

"When an area is being cleared out there is much too much going on for them to engage with us," Wilkens said. "They are moving their stuff from street to street, trying to avoid being arrested.

Sometimes, when we don't know the streets are being cleared, we'll go out the next day and we'll have no idea where they are or where they went."

Clinic director and registered nurse, Mary Jo Scarpitti, wonders where some of the homeless people she used to see have gone.

"We had people all around the facility and now we don't," Scarpitti. "Being close to resources here was a safe place for people. I can say people aren't as accessible for our outreach services."

The clinic sees about 30 or more patients a day, she said. Many of them have substance abuse disorders. The clinic provides medication-assisted treatment to help clients recover from addiction.

"It takes a lot out of you seeing people struggling," Scarpitti said. "We respond to overdoses. What we do is really challenging. We're a scrappy bunch but we see a lot of



Lister Lane has used the clinic since 2018 for a variety of health problems. (Photos by J.M. Garcia)

things on a daily basis that most people never see. We see men and women that society can sometimes shut its eyes to."

The health center, Scarpitti said, will pay attention to the impact of the street sweeps.

"Walking to our car every day we knew the person right there, have a good night so and so and now they just aren't there," she said. "Where do they go?"

The health center is one of a few Father Joe's facilities that has struggled with maintenance issues in a strained system. After the center reopened in July, Voice of San Diego revealed the Housing Commission is closely monitoring four Father Joe's city contracts which have faced client complaints and maintenance issues. In addition, the San Diego

Housing Commission officials found that the region's largest homeless service provider had barred a disproportionate number of Black people from receiving services.

In a statement, the shelter provider said, "Though rare, there are times where Father Joe's Villages must suspend or debar a client's access to services at our shelters and other facilities. This occurs when clients behave in ways that threaten the health and safety of others at our facilities, such as physical battery, sexual assault, attempted kidnapping, arson, drug sales and threats of serious violence or mass murder."

Father Joe's said it is committed to working with the housing



The health center reopened in July after a broken pipe flooded the building.



Before and after photographs of dental clients who had their teeth fixed or replaced with dentures.

SEE HEALTH CENTER, Page 14

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# From blighted to historic: Clermont Hotel's resurgence

## Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



Although it had a rather inauspicious beginning, suffered through multiple owners, and narrowly escaped the wrecking ball, the Clermont Hotel has survived and is now once again flourishing.

When originally opened in 1887, the building was known as the Occidental Hotel and was listed as a lodging house. It was an attractive three story, concrete and brick structure with a modified mansard roof. Below the roofline was an ornamental frieze and supportive lentils. The second and third stories each sported rows of seven double-sashed windows with wooden frames. The third floor windows, additionally, were capped with modest cornices. The first floor featured a wooden door in the center, flanked on the left with two double-sashed windows and on the right with one window. This gave the facade a symmetrical appearance. The hotel, with its 50 rooms, was surrounded by a blacksmith shop, a woodworking and painting store and Diamond Feed and Livery Yard in the rear. By 1888, a junk

store and a carriage and hay seed shop had joined the surrounding neighborhood.

During 1889, the hotel became the Union House, and remained such until 1895. By 1901, it was finally known as the Clermont. It continued to be listed as a lodging house and tenement until 1921, but the Diamond Feed and Livery Shop had been replaced by a vacant lot.

Mamie and Eugene Deburn purchased the property in 1922. As Mamie was said to be of mixed race, African-Americans were able to stay at the hotel during their ownership. However, no occupants were listed in the *Colored Directory of 1926*.

Various individuals owned the building over the ensuing decade, and the *1935-36 Directory of the Colored Residents of San Diego, California* lists four residents of color. In 1938, Charles T. Robinson became owner of the Clermont, and solidified its reputation as a Black segregated hotel. He and Gerda Robinson held title through 1946.

More importantly though, the *San Diego County Telephone Directories* listed the Clermont as a "Hotel for Colored People." In 1954, the listing changed to read "Perm and Transient \$1.00 Day & Up, Management by Rae L. Reid." This paved the way for low income housing. By 1956, the Clermont boasted regular advertisements rather than just a single line. By 1961, the Clermont had become the Coast Hotel, but by 1965 it was again the Clermont/Coast, as it remains today. After once again becoming the



After it was nearly turned into a parking lot, this plaque designates the building as a "Black Historic Site."

Clermont, advertising was again reduced to one line and no longer identified as a "Hotel for Colored People."

By 2000, the Clermont was a poorly aging "halfway house." This made it a prime target for developers, who wanted to raze the old building and make the property into a parking lot. This was an especially attractive proposal, as the soon-to-be opened Petco Park was only two blocks away. Before razing such an old structure, a study referencing historical or architectural significance was required by the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC). After an extensive study, they concluded that no historical events or persons of significance



Today the Clermont building provides low-income housing to the area around Petco Park. (Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

were associated with the building. However, the Historical Resources Board, appointed by the City, pursued identifying the Clermont as an African American cultural site. The premise was that though never Black owned, the hotel catered to Black visitors and residents during the era of segregation from the 1920s through the 1960s. The social significance was the mitigating factor. Also, the hotel occupants continued to be primarily Black throughout the 1980s.

On December 20, 2001, the Historical Resources Board was to meet to decide on the designation of the Clermont as a historical landmark. A demonstration, led by the Gaslamp Black Historical

Society, was held in front of the hotel. It culminated in a march to City Hall. While people shouted "Keep our history" and "Keep these walls up." The HRS voted unanimously in favor of the historic designation. In November of 2005, a bronze plaque was placed on the venerable old building, paid for by the new owners.

The Clermont now serves as a low-income residence for any renters in need of affordable housing in a diverse and vibrant community.

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

### CLERMONT/COAST HOTEL

1886-87  
501 7th Avenue  
Architectural Style: Commercial/  
Lodging  
Architect: Unknown

## Uptown // Downtown Briefs

### ADAMS AVENUE STREET FAIR GROWS AGAIN

The 2023 Adams Avenue Street Fair, presented by U.S. Bank, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, from 1- a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Adams Avenue Street Fair, now celebrating its 41st year, is Southern California's largest free two-day music festival.

This year, the Adams Avenue Street Fair has expanded two additional blocks, making the venue 10 blocks-long for the event's 75 musical acts set to perform on seven stages. The Street Fair also features carnival rides, beer gardens, beer tastings, festival food and 300 exhibitors with unique offerings. Adams Avenue businesses are packed with customers over the weekend and are proud sponsors of the event.

The 2023 headlining performers are; local alt-rockers Lucy's Fur Coat, American rockabilly and western swing band Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys, Bay Area punk-rockers The Avengers, San Diego's gospel – blues group Earl Thomas & The Gospel Ambassadors, surf-punkers The

Creepy Creeps, binational Cumbia banda La Diabla, Oregon rockers Beyond the Lamplight, Arizona funk-punk band Shooda Shook It, and DJ Nu-Mark.

For further information, please call (619) 282-7329, or visit the website [adamsavenuestreetfair.com](http://adamsavenuestreetfair.com).

### TASTE OF GASLAMP RESTAURANTS ANNOUNCED

San Diego's original tasting tour returns to the iconic Gaslamp Quarter for the Taste of Gaslamp on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. The Taste of Gaslamp is a scrumptious self-guided foodie tour that has become a staple for locals and tourists alike who flock to the Quarter to indulge in a culinary adventure stopping at 20+ restaurants across 16 square city blocks.

Restaurants participating this year are American Junkie, Baja Ricks Cantina, Café Sevilla, Cali Cream Ice Cream, Cerveza Jack's, Chiefy Café, Chocolate Cremerie, Gaslamp BBQ, Gaslamp Lumpia

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, Page 8

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# 'Beetlejuice' musical titillates Broadway San Diego crowds

By DREW SITTON

On its first national tour, "Beetlejuice," the musical, the comedy, the horror show, brought in fans dressed in black and white costumes alongside the traditional theater crowd at the Civic Center. Although the run of the raunchy show was cut short by Hurricane Hilary, its four nights in Downtown San Diego proved the musical stands up to its source material, the 1988 film directed by Tim Burton.

The plot focuses on grieving teen Lydia Deetz rather than nerdy couple Barbara and Adam like in the original, but Burton's influence was still clear in the angular sets, wacky lights and black and neon color scheme. For a touring show, the musical has complex set changes, lights, and major costume and makeup changes for the chorus.

As dissimilar as two sun-deprived angsty teen characters



San Jose high school grad Isabella Esler starred as Lydia Deetz. (Photo courtesy Matthew Murphy)

can be, recent San Jose high school grad Isabella Esler made Deetz lively and dramatic to Jenna Ortega's expressionless Wednesday Addams. While belting out anthems and masterminding complicated schemes, Esler as Lydia demonstrated an obsession with death is more normal than

the anxious adults around her pretending not to grieve.

For a couple of the nights in San Diego, standby actor Andrew Kober flew in to take on the role of Beetlejuice, infusing the lascivious character with his own lively

SEE **BEETLEJUICE**, Page 15

## Annual Trolley Dances on MTS Blue Line set for Sept. 16-17

By KYLIE CAPUANO

San Diego Dance Theater will be performing on the Metropolitan Transit System's Blue Line on Sept. 16-17 for its 25th annual Trolley Dances.

Kickstarting in Old Town and continuing through Little Italy, all the way to the UC San Diego Park and Market, ticket holders will be able to experience culturally rich dances created by more than six choreographers.

San Diego Dance Theater's artistic director Terry Wilson, bk-SOUL, Blythe Barton, DanzArts, Kim Epifano, and former artistic director Jean Isaacs came together to choreograph dances that represent the rich cultural history of the region's landscape while



Choreographed dance teams delight audiences on the Blue Line. (Photo courtesy San Diego Dance Theater)

SEE **TROLLEY DANCES**, Page 15

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JCPenny model shows off cargo pants (Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)



Modeling palazzo pants from Drama Kween



Model wearing dress for evening or homecoming from Windsor

# Layers on layers: Back-to-school fashion for students of fall 2023

**Fashion Files**

By **DIANA CAVAGNARO**

A “Back to School” fashion show took place on Aug. 26 in the food court at Parkway Plaza. If you were wondering what is in style for your children going back to school, this fashion show gave all the inside information. Attendees were able to see the latest trends and hot looks for the fall.

The first 50 guests received a swag bag and gift card. This fun-filled event also had a raffle for a chance to win a back-to-school book bag filled with amazing goodies, and exclusive coupons from the fashion show partners.

The audience was welcomed by Parkway Plaza Marketing Manager, Petra Rich. The hosts for the afternoon were David Valle, Crystal Pope, and Althea Valdez, who was crowned Miss Santee in the 2021 “Face of the City” contest. Mason Dyer spun tunes as the DJ of the event.

Layering was a major trend with many different items of clothing overlapping. Denim is always a good choice to pick for your complete outfit. Cargo pants are in and they come in different fabrics. Pleather was also seen coming down the catwalk.



Zumiez for guy



Zumiez for girls



The silver jacket from Forever 21



Layered look from Forever 21

JC Penny, one of the nation’s largest apparel retailers, started the fashion show bringing the latest trends down the catwalk. Drama Kweenz followed. The store specializes in fashions in all sizes

and one-of-a-kind styles. One of their standout styles was a pair of palazzo pants. Zumiez hit the runway showing off their edgy styles.

SEE **SCHOOL FASHION**, Page 6



Layered look from H&M



Matching jacket and skirt with handbag from H&M



# PAIN ISN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUS



It can be hard to know if someone is considering suicide. September is **Suicide Prevention**

**Awareness Month.** Learn about the warning signs, find the words, and reach out. **#ShareHopeTogether**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**Strut For Sobriety!** From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina on Sept. 9, 2023, help raise funds for A New PATH. For tickets: [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. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2023 at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. Raises funds for many nonprofits. For tickets: <https://thecountryfriends.org/>

**Learn more at Up2SD.org**

For help, call the San Diego Access and Crisis Line at **(888) 724-7240.**

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# Identity theft can happen to anyone – how to prevent it

## District Attorney News

By SUMMER STEPHAN



Scams come in every variety and target every segment of the population. From the grandparent scam to the get-rich-quick ploy, the common thread in each scenario is someone faking their identity or trying to steal yours.

In San Diego County, our office prosecuted 2,800 cases involving some form of identity theft over the last five years. But as you've heard from me before on this topic, many cases go unreported because victims are ashamed of getting duped, especially senior citizens. San Diego County alone sees more than 1,000 elderly victims get defrauded each year losing an estimated \$20 to \$30 million to scams.

But the elderly are not the only people being scammed. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), a consumer protection agency, Millennials are 25% more likely to report losing money to fraud than people

40 and over. The top five frauds to which the younger group reports losing money include:

- Online shopping fraud
- Business imposters
- Government imposters
- Fake check scams
- Romance scams

Identity theft is the top fraud type reported in California, according to a report from the FTC. In general, identity theft is when someone represents that they are you by using your personal information for fraudulent or other improper purposes. When it comes to this type of crime, California is ranked 14th in the country for identity theft reports, according to the same report.

To avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, such as credit card fraud, keep these tips in mind:

- Never give out personal information such as bank account or credit card numbers to anyone who calls you.
- If you suspect a scam, simply hang up.
- Keep your mail secured. Stolen mail can easily lead to identity theft.

• Invest in a shredder and shred any mail with personal identifying information and "courtesy checks."

• Create different passwords for each of your online accounts.

• Enable two-factor authentication on financial and online accounts.

• Review financial statements regularly for unauthorized charges.

• Review credit reports annually for unauthorized accounts.

• Do not leave wallets or documents with your personal information in your vehicle.

• Do not carry your social security card.

• Lock up your personal information kept in your residence.

• Do not respond to unsolicited emails that request personal information.

• Do not click on links unless you verify a legitimate source of the email independently.

• If you've been a victim of ID theft, freeze your credit.

• If you've been scammed, report it to law enforcement or the FTC.

Last year, the District Attorney's Office partnered with the Identity Theft Resource Center to provide a live chat box on our public website in an effort to support victims of identity crimes. You can chat with a live agent in English or in Spanish about issues related to identity theft, identity fraud and data breaches. For more information, go to SanDiegoDA.com and search for identity theft.

The DA's Consumer Protection Unit is composed of Deputy District Attorneys, Investigators and Paralegals dedicated to protecting consumers and law-abiding businesses from fraudulent or unfair business practices. To report that your personal identifying information has been unlawfully used by another, contact the local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over your actual residence or place of business.

As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public in order to keep you safe. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

# Atkins: Honor hard workers

## Notes from Toni

By TONI G. ATKINS



Hi Neighbors,

As we gather together to celebrate this Labor Day, it's important to remember the holiday doesn't just celebrate our workers, but also the unions that put workers' best interests at heart and help them be strong in good times and bad. You've heard me say my parents were the hardest working people I've ever known. That is true, and their sacrifices inspire me to do the work I do and try and make life better for working people and their families. It's with them in mind that I continue to work hard this end of session, which will wrap up in a few weeks. I look forward to highlighting how everything turned out in October, and for now, will leave you with a few important updates.

## END OF SESSION APPROACHING

The 2023 legislative session is nearing its end and legislators are now working to evaluate bills, determine fiscal impacts, and prepare to send legislation to the

Governor for his signature after final passage later this month.

Legislation that I have authored, including bills to strengthen and expand protections for abortion access and providers, expand inclusion for LGBTQ+ individuals across the country, and promote safety and transparency in county detention facilities across our state, continue to make their way through the process. I look forward to updating you on their outcomes in next month's column.

Be sure to follow my accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to receive updates as we move through our busy end-of-session season!

## BE FIRE READY

Here in San Diego County, we are no strangers to the devastating impacts of wildfires. Recent fires in the Mojave National Preserve and the Bunnie Fire in eastern San Diego County are reminders that last year's wet winter doesn't mean we can be any less vigilant about fire safety this fall.

Maintaining 100 feet of defensible spaces around your property helps to make it more fire resilient, and provides access

for firefighters. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County offers a number of helpful resources, including a defensible space assistance program for senior citizens and disabled residents, and community workshops. I encourage everyone to take action and make sure your home or business are fire safe. That includes ensuring that evacuation plans are current and that each member of your household, or employee at work, knows how to get to a safe location.

## REFLECTIONS ON MAUI

Thinking about fire risk and the devastation that wildfires have on our communities is a stark reminder of the devastation and loss of life on Maui last month. It was a truly horrific tragedy and brings back vivid memories of the wildfires that we have endured here in San Diego and throughout our state. As a San Diegan and Californian, my heart is with the residents of Maui and their loved ones as they mourn those lost, and begin the process of rebuilding.

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Women's Equality Day is a day to celebrate the 19th

Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, and an opportunity to reinforce the continued need to protect and advance women's rights. As we honored that important victory during a panel discussion at the Women's Museum of California's annual Women's Equality Day Celebration on August 26th, we recognized that the fight for suffrage did not end with the 19th Amendment for women of color.

This Women's Equality Day, it's important to reflect on all that the state of California has done to improve and advance the lives of women – from protecting access to reproductive health care to bolstering workplace equality and economic parity – and what remaining challenges we need to address. I remember watching my own mother "doing her figures" in the evening after a long day working as a seamstress, calculating if we'd have enough to make ends meet. My mother worked harder than anyone I've ever known but she couldn't work her way out of poverty.

Decades have passed, but still there are so many women and mothers struggling. Helping improve their lives, and upholding their rights, is my unwavering goal this Women's Equality Day – and every day.

Stay tuned for upcoming events at visitparkwayplaza.com.

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in Alpine, California. Learn more about our hat designer, teacher and blogger at [DianaCavagnaro.com](http://DianaCavagnaro.com).

# School fashion

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

These fashions are a must have for anyone who is into skateboarding, snowboarding, and surf lifestyles.

Forever 21 showed the hottest

trend in layering. One of their standouts was a silver jacket. Windsor showed off styles perfect for a night out or homecoming. H&M is a global brand that is committed to an emphasis on sustainability. They finished the afternoon on the runway with more layered outfits. One of the

crowd favorites was a matching jacket and skirt.

After the show audience members had fun taking pictures at Jerry's Photo Booth. They anxiously waited for the hosts to call out the names for the raffle. The Creative Director for this exciting show was Liese Victoria.

SAN DIEGO  
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# September happenings in joyous Little Italy

**Little Italy News**  
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

Summer could be ending but the celebrations in Little Italy are just beginning. With thrilling events happening soon, the beloved neighborhood is getting ready for an exciting month that will get the whole community involved!

## LABOR DAY STICKBALL TOURNAMENT

Celebrate one of Little Italy's most nostalgic traditions at this year's Annual Labor Day Stickball Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 2nd to Monday, Sept. 4th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Watch as 8 to 12 participating teams from all over the nation compete against each other for the ultimate Jillie Trophy and title of Champion of Stickball in San Diego.

What started out as a few New Yorkers bringing their love for stickball to the West Coast in the early 1990s, has now made a lasting impact to the Little Italy neighborhood in San Diego. After 30 years of playing the nostalgic sport, the tournament stirs up fun childhood memories for some and a strong passion to win for others.

## SUMMER GODDESS MARKET

Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend in Little Italy as the Summer Goddess Market stops in on Sunday, September 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.! The female maker market will feature over 25 local woman-owned small businesses, bites, and live entertainment. Support the hardworking women in your community as you shop for artisanal gifts for yourself and your loved ones. Some of the participating businesses include Rie Beauty, Alyse Jewelry, Never Alone Candles, MexiKrafts and more!

## PUNCHES IN THE PIAZZA

In honor of the one-year anniversary of the passing of Bobby DePhilippis, the Bobby D Foundation will stage "Punches in the Piazza," on Friday, Sept. 8 starting at 5 p.m., with the first bout scheduled for 6 p.m. The inaugural event will feature a uniquely-staged outdoor amateur boxing ring showcasing the best rising boxing talent from Southern California through 12 fast paced bouts. "Punches in the Piazza" will be the first ever live sports event held at the Piazza della Famiglia since its debut five years ago.

This thrilling event commemorates the impact of Bobby DePhilippis. Well known in the Little Italy community, Bobby D grew up in Little Italy and was the owner of Filippi's Pizza Grotto, as



Casino de Piazza was so popular it returns for a second year. (Photo courtesy Little Italy Association)

well as being a boxing promoter and a philanthropist.

The Bobby D Foundation will be donating the majority of the net proceeds of "Punches in the Piazza" to Washington Elementary School whose student body faces one of the largest percentages of homelessness in San Diego County. The remaining funds will be donated to the Little Italy Association and Convivio.

All ages are welcome to stop by and watch the talented SoCal boxers try at take the winning title home! A limited number of seated tickets priced at \$50 will be available for purchase online at bobbyde.org. Select VIP table seating can be reserved by calling (619) 420-8866.

## CASINO DI PIAZZA

Are you ready to go all in for the thrill? Coming back for a second year, The Little Italy Association, in partnership with Vici Luxury Rentals will bring the most elegant Italian garden casino experience to the heart of the neighborhood on Friday, Sept. 15th from 7 to 11 p.m.

SEE LITTLE ITALY, Page 12

# Enjoy the biggest East Village Oktoberfest celebration to date

**East Village News**  
By **ETHAN OLSEN**

Summer might be over, but the fun is only ramping up in East Village. Now jam-packed with events for the rest of the year, East Village is overflowing with things to do to kickoff the new season. This year, the East Village Association has partnered with Quartyard to bring the neighborhood the biggest celebration to date! Plus, the new East Village Artisan Market powered by Las Jefas Market will be kicking-off at the end of the month.

## EAST VILLAGE OKTOBERFEST

Get ready to have the most un-beer-lievable Oktoberfest at the 7th Annual East Village Oktoberfest celebration! The East Village Association, in partnership with Quartyard, will be transforming East Village into all things Oktoberfest with a unique Latin flair on Saturday, Sept. 30th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Taking a modern spin on the popular German-themed event by adding a little Mexican flavor, this year's Oktoberfest will be filled with endless craft beer, traditional Oktoberfest fare and tacos, live Polka music and tribute bands, a classic car show and tons of games encouraging guest interaction and maximum fun. The lively event will also highlight the history of German influence on Mexican lager, music and food.

Attendees will get the chance to sample a variety of the best lagers, ales and brews from local vendors including Duck Foot

Brewing, Fall Brewing, Ketch Brewing, Karl Strauss, 3 Punk Ales, and more! But you better believe that's not all! Attendees will also enjoy tasty traditional German and Mexican food such as the beloved soft-pretzels with beer mustard, Bavarian sausages, tacos and much more from vendors including TNT Pizza, Papalo Kitchen, El Rey Tacos a Vapor and many others.

This year, the East Village Oktoberfest is going to be bigger and better than years before as it will close off Market Street between Park Boulevard and 14th Street as well as 13th Street between Market Street and Island Avenue, allowing for more San Diegans to join in the fun. Live musical performances will be ringing along the fenced-in streets with local talent taking the stage. Performances include traditional Polka music, tribute bands and tunes with a Latin flair to get the guests moving and grooving all throughout the event. Attendees are encouraged to dress in the classic Oktoberfest apparel like lederhosen and dirndl, recreating a mini-Munich in the heart of Downtown San Diego for the evening.

East Village Oktoberfest will also feature a wide array of exciting activations and competitions including a classic lowrider car show, two stages of entertainment, stein holding competitions, a 360 photobooth and more. The celebration will be open to attendees 21+. Tickets are available on Eventbrite, ranging from \$10-\$25.




This year's East Village Oktoberfest will have a larger footprint than in the past. (Photo courtesy Quartyard)

## EAST VILLAGE ARTISAN MARKET

In addition, coming this September, the East Village Association will kickstart their East Village Artisan Market, in partnership with Las Jefas Markets. With a kickoff date of Saturday, Sept. 23rd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the East Village Artisan Market will feature artisan goods from across San Diego and will take place every fourth Saturday of the month at the courtyard behind UCSD Park & Market and The Merian Apartments. The community is invited to stop by and shop from a variety of artisan vendors and support local talent, while strolling through the neighborhood and soaking up all East Village has to offer. We hope to see you there!

From the return of neighborhood favorite events like East Village Oktoberfest to the blossoming of new family friendly activities, it's time to kick of the Fall season the right way in East Village.

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.




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News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

Factory, Havana 1920, Il Sogno Italiano, Johnny WAHOO! Golf Bar, Las Hadas Bar & Grill, Lavo Italian Restaurant, Madam Bonnies, Mezze Greek Fusion, Pizza on 5th, Rocking Baja Lobster, Royal India, Smokin J's BBQ, STK, The Field Irish Pub, and Whiskey Girl.

General admission for the Taste of Gaslamp tour is \$45 in advance and \$55 day of event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [gaslamp.org/tasteof-gaslamp](http://gaslamp.org/tasteof-gaslamp) or call 619-233-5008.

60 PEOPLE RAPPEL DOWN GRAND HYATT HOTEL

Over the weekend of August 5, 60 people conquered their fears and rappelled 29 stories down the side of the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego. The event, called Over The Edge, was a fundraiser for Reality Changers, a local non-profit that prepares youth from underserved communities to become first-generation college



graduates and agents of change in their communities.

Rappellers included FOX 5 sports anchor Julian Del Guadio and community members who came together to support a good cause. An estimated 150 spectators came out to cheer on the rappellers as they descended down the side of the building, using a special 5-point safety harness and climbing-certified ropes.

So far, the event has raised more than \$72,000 in support of Reality Changers. Funds raised will support tutoring,

mentorship, and college application assistance programs for local youth who want to be the first in their families to graduate from college. With support from these programs, Reality Changers participants are seven times more likely to graduate than their similar peers.

Reality Changers will host Over The Edge again in 2024. Anyone can pre-register for next year's event. URL: [give.realitychangers.org/OverTheEdge2024](http://give.realitychangers.org/OverTheEdge2024).

LAZY ACRES GIVES BACK WHEN CUSTOMERS REUSE BAGS

Lazy Acres Natural Market is ramping up their commitment to the Mission Hills community, introducing a new in-store community program which will benefit local Mission Hills non-profits.

"We love being tucked away in this wonderful little neighborhood of Mission Hills. Our customers are like family and it gives us a big sense of purpose — to provide a healthy, safe, engaging, and fun shopping experience for all," said Store Director Robert Harper.

The new Envirotokens program rewards customers who make the sustainable choice to reuse and keep single-use bags out of local landfills. When customers shop with their own grocery bags, Lazy Acres will give them a 10¢ Envirotoken per bag. The customer then pays it forward to one of six local non-profits, hand-selected for doing important work in the area, with a focus in K-12 education efforts, hunger relief and environmental stewardship.

The featured Mission Hills store non-profits include Art Reach San Diego, Grant Education Foundation, Kitchens for Good, San Diego Humane Society, San Diego River Park Foundation and The Center. Every month, Lazy Acres will tally up the Envirotokens totals, convert them into dollar amounts and send a check to each organization.

ANNUAL CELEBRITY WAITERS LUNCHEON FOR UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY SET FOR SEPT. 22

The 40th annual Celebrity Waiters Luncheon to benefit

United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego County will take place on Friday, Sept. 22 at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon.

The ticket price is \$80 per person with sponsorship opportunities available. A live and silent auction will be available along with raffle prizes. Join in while being served by some of Southern California's brightest talent. Christopher Knight from "The Brady Bunch" is scheduled to appear along with other Hollywood celebrities. San Diego's sports teams and media personalities will also attend.

Last year, more than 300 people attended, and over \$60,000 was raised. For more information, call 858-571-5365 or sign up directly at [ucpsd.org](http://ucpsd.org) or [fundraise.ucpsd.org/cwl23](http://fundraise.ucpsd.org/cwl23).

UCP is among the largest non-profit organizations in the country with nearly 60 affiliates nationwide providing programs and services to children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. Statistics show that one out of 325 people have some type of cerebral palsy. Fifty percent of children born with CP are born prematurely. Locally, all monies raised stay in San Diego County, and 86% of all money donated is used for local program services that United Cerebral Palsy provides. UCP of San Diego County was founded in 1958.

HARVEST FOR HOPE FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING KIDS WITH CANCER

As a nonprofit dedicated to help families all over San Diego County navigate their child's journey through cancer, the Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF) is delighted to invite the public to the 20th Annual Harvest for Hope event happening on Sunday, September 10th, at 2 p.m. at the picturesque Coasterra to garner awareness during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Now celebrating its 20-year anniversary, the Emilio Nares Foundation is going above and beyond to celebrate the work they have done in the past, while also looking to the future to continue the legacy the foundation has made.

The Harvest for Hope Fundraiser will be a foodie festival where attendees will be able to taste bites from 19 local businesses with spirits to accompany the culinary experience. Along with the bites and sips, attendees will also enjoy performances by Fred Benedetti, a renowned guitarist. For ticket information and event details, please visit [tinyurl.com/bdfw9w9n](http://tinyurl.com/bdfw9w9n).

RTFH BEGINS PUBLISHING MONTHLY VETERAN HOMELESSNESS DATA

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# Team Hope Walk raises funds, awareness for rare Huntington’s Disease

By DREW SITTON

Families dealing with Huntington’s Disease (HD) often feel isolated. Symptoms of the fatal genetic disease range from the embarrassing to the debilitating as patient’s physical and mental abilities decline. Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) aims to help families dealing with the diagnosis find community through events like the Team Hope Walk being held in Coronado on Sept. 16.

“All of our events, including this Team Hope Walk, is really a chance for families to find the support that they need and be able to know that they’re not alone in this. It’s a really difficult disease and that there is community to support them,” said Nichole Mendoza, regional development officer of HDSA in the Pacific/West.

HDSA is the largest nonprofit supporting and educating people with HD. It was founded in 1967 by the widow of folk musician Woody Guthrie. Today there are 52 chapters across the nation. California is the only state with multiple chapters. Of the five in the state, San Diego is the largest.

Beyond a day bringing families together, the walk is also a chance for the community to learn more about the rare disease and help fund research and support services. Team Hope has raised more than \$20 million for HD since it started in 2007, with walks in over 100 cities.

Christy Figueroa-Pettis is the current board president of the San Diego chapter of HDSA. Twelve members of her family have died from HD, including her mom and aunt two weeks apart in 2016.

“We thought our family was all alone. All these years that we had it, we never were around other families. So this walk is bringing us together and building those relationships and supporting each other,” she said.

The chapter hosts pickle ball tournaments, four support groups, and other events. The walk is unique as it is open to the public. Figueroa-Pettis hopes San Diego will become better educated about the disease. She noted that if you ask a random person if they know what Huntington’s Disease is, nine times out of 10 they will say no.

“That’s scary, because how can we move forward?” she said.

Huntington’s Disease is a brain disease passed down from generation to generation. There are currently 41,000 symptomatic Americans with another 200,000 at risk of inheriting the disease.

One of Figueroa-Pettis’ four daughters has already been diagnosed with HD.

“I don’t want my grandkids to have to go through it,” she said, stating that her goal is to find a cure.

She has participated in studies led by Dr. Jody Corey-Bloom at the UCSD Huntington’s Disease Clinic.

“These are very exciting days for HD research. We have clinical

trials currently underway that are attempting to approach a cure/mitigation through several different avenues,” said Dr. Corey-Bloom.

Many of the efforts focus on lowering the huntingtin protein, thought to be the cause of HD, either through directly targeting the protein, gene splicing, and other methods.

“Funds raised by the HDSA through activities such as the upcoming Team Hope Walk strengthen the HDSA’s efforts to fund researchers from around the world who are working on cutting edge approaches to slow or stop HD. In addition, they allow the HDSA to provide support to the currently 56 HDSA Centers of Excellence that provide an elite multidisciplinary approach to HD care and research,” she said.

Figueroa-Pettis said although she cared for her mother throughout her decline and death, she still did not know how hard it was to deal with the symptoms until she started dealing with them herself.

“It is an emotional disease. It’s embarrassing,” she said. Her mother went from a vibrant, amazing person who took the lead to losing her independence. For her part, she retired early from her job at the San Diego Community College District and has had to give up some of her faith and political work. She used to teach restorative justice at jails but can no longer do public speaking on that scale.

Most HD patients die from either falling or choking. Figueroa-Pettis already experiences random choking and lack of balance, as well as short-term memory loss, cognitive decline, struggles with speech, mood swings, and chorea – outbursts of involuntary movements. There can also be stigma around the disease as chorea and slurred speech can lead people to assume patients are on drugs, she explained.

“[HD] is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain and is described as having ALS, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s simultaneously. So if you think of one person who has this or that, we have everything— and those three equal Huntington’s,” Figueroa-Pettis said.

Michael Hotaling also comes from a family that did not have community while dealing with the disease. His maternal grandmother died from HD and his mother died by suicide after experiencing the onset of “scary” symptoms. Last December, his sister died at 61 without an official HD diagnosis but with the exact match to all the symptoms.

“That really, really pushed me to do something,” Hotaling said.

He joined the HDSA chapter board and is helping plan the route of the walk through Tidelands Park. He hopes it will help relieve the burden placed on families dealing with such a devastating disease.

“I think a lot of families feel like they’re on their own and



Participants in the 2022 Team Hope Walk raised funds for research and support services. (Photos courtesy HDSA)

they don’t have a support network. And this was a way to help us show that there is a support. There are others out there that care,” Hotaling said.

Being on the board has helped him process the grief of losing his sister. He does not have the genetic anomaly associated with HD.

“When I see and interact with people that are dealing with... the disease, to understand how they’re dealing with it in such [an] optimistic and hopeful way. So that helps me get through the grief and there’s a guilt factor for me too to know that I was spared the disease for some reason,” he

said. “Maybe there’s a difference I can make.”

The Sept. 16 walk will begin at 9 a.m., with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. at Coronado Tidelands Park. All proceeds from the event will go towards HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families.

Last year, 300 people participated in the walk. Families often stay after the event to picnic and spend time together.

“For each of these families in particular, there are a lot of difficulties with transportation and people being healthy enough to be

out and about. So when we have these big events, families definitely turn out and want to join together,” Mendoza explained.

Hotaling hopes having the walk in such a visible location will add to the number of people who learn about the disease.

“I don’t have the mentality that I’m ready to die,” Figueroa-Pettis said. “My ultimate goal is to be part of the cure.”

To learn more about the event or to register, contact Nichole Mendoza at [sandiego@hdsavolunteer.org](mailto:sandiego@hdsavolunteer.org). Online registration and donation options are also available at [hdsa.org/thwsandiego](http://hdsa.org/thwsandiego).

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# Food & Drink Blotter.

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

## CULINARY ENHANCEMENTS AT PATISSERIE MELANIE

The team at North Park's newest pastry shop, **Patisserie Melanie**, has made way for chef Anthony Bruno, who previously worked at the prestigious **French Laundry** in Napa Valley as well as the former **Cafe Chloe** in San Diego's East Village.



The new Le Royale cheeseburger at Patisserie Melanie (Photo courtesy ChemistryPR)

Bruno joins the shop's founder, Melanie Dunn, who earned her pastry expertise at **Le Cordon Bleu** in Paris before initially opening the business from a live-work studio in Hillcrest. Since moving to North Park, she has made the neighborhood swoon with a retail selection of croissants, tarts, macarons, kouignettes and more. On Thursday through Sunday, she also offers French savories such as quiche and croque-style sandwiches.

With Bruno onboard, she recently introduced a happy hour menu featuring a cheese and charcuterie board and the succulent Le Royale cheeseburger made with a blend of chuck, short rib and brisket. Gruyere cheese, caramelized onions and Dijonnaise seal the deal. The happy hour runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through

Friday, when \$1 and \$2 discounts kick in for beer and wine.

Coming soon to the lunch and happy hour menus are ratatouille, Jamon ham with cheese and egg, and fresh fruit compote with ricotta. A dinner menu is also in development. Its roll out has yet to be announced. 3750 30th St., 619-677-2132, [patisseriemelanie.com](http://patisseriemelanie.com).

## MARGARITAVILLE SPLASHES INTO THE GASLAMP QUARTER

It's here! And with every beachy cocktail, island-inspired dish, and Jimmy Buffett album known to fans of this long-established party culture.



Landshark Bar & Grill at the new Margaritaville (Courtesy photo)

Welcome to the newly opened **Margaritaville Hotel**, a \$30 million urban oasis complete with three dining concepts, a rooftop bar and pool, and tropical accents for days. The bill of

fare throughout the property focuses on the expected fish sandwiches, burgers, tacos and fresh salads that correspond to the casual vibe of Buffett's famous song, Margaritaville.

Bar offerings naturally include plenty of adult frozen concoctions, such as what you'll find on the hotel's ground-floor at Landshark Bar & Grill. Live entertainment most days further add to the '60s-influenced paradisaical escape with its common areas that are open to both locals and hotel guests.

The hotel marks the brand's first city-center hotel on the West Coast. 435 Sixth Ave., 619-819-9500, [margaritavilleresorts.com](http://margaritavilleresorts.com).

## GOOD AND GIRTH-Y

If you like your cookies thick and gooey, look no further than **Cookie Plug**, a growing chain that started a few years ago in Riverside, Calif. and quickly became famous for its graffiti-theme décor and hip-hop playlists.

In June, a shop opened in University Heights (1945 El Cajon Blvd.) More recently, a second urban location (611 K St.) sprung onto the scene just outside Petco Park. Another is slated to open soon in Pacific Beach.



The thickest cookies in town (Photo courtesy Cookie Plug)

The company's motto is to break the cookie-cutter mold of everyday cookies by making them "FAT," "THICC" and "BOMB AF." They're baked fresh daily and come in alluring flavors such as chocolate XTC, purple haze, strawberry cheesecake, and bam bam, which incorporates fruity cereal. Keto-friendly options are also available as well as cookie icing for those wanting to add a little more sinfulness to the experience. [cookieplug.com](http://cookieplug.com).

## NORTH PARK NEWCOMER

Replacing the space left behind by **Little Thief Wine Bar & Kitchen** is **Long Story Short**, a newly opened restaurant by husband-wife chefs Elliott and Kelly Townsend.

The duo previously cooked at **Juniper & Ivy** and **Cowboy Star**.

SEE FOOD BLOTTER, Page 13

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Lobby bars

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the room in a warm orange glow and making the lobby appear lit by a starry night.

Krissy provided the inside scoop on the newly-opened bar. Cognac and bourbon are featured in many of the cocktails, all priced at \$17, due to the New Orleans influence. The refreshing Pimm's Cup is the top-selling cocktail of the summer with strawberry, cucumber, ginger and lime adding flavor to the British gin-based liqueur. Brandy Crusta is another popular drink on the menu which has cognac and apple brandy mixed with tropical fruits served over light shaved ice. As the weather gets cooler, Krissy predicts other cocktails will become favorites, including the flaming Old Fashioned and Absinthe Frappe.

For our parts, I ordered the Lafayette Fix with Jamaican Rum, Fino Sherry, apricot, cassis (blackcurrant) molasses and lemon while my companion enjoyed the Milk Punch made with Bourbon, Oloroso Sherry, cinnamon, Amaro Meletti and cream. The Lafayette Fix was very sweet but the molasses added warmth and depth to the drink which could otherwise fit on the tiki-inspired menu of the neighboring poolside bar. The Milk Punch is a dessert cocktail that reminded me of distilled rice pudding.

The maximalist décor of the lobby was a delight. The cross-hatched wooden floor, blue-inked white tiles, plastered crown moldings, green cheetah print pillows, marble bar and central statue of Atlas carrying the world all came together into a stunning interior. Odd antiques add charm, such as a vintage chair with arms and

back sculpted with stacked buffalo horns.

The lobby bar has attracted many locals curious about the Lafayette's renovation. Friday nights draw a large crowd. Paired with a pool pass purchase, the lobby bar is a great way to experience a hotel's luxuries without having to miss one's own bed.

AC LOUNGE AT AC HOTEL

This spring, Marriott International opened AC Hotel in the Gaslamp. The European-style boutique hotel has a lobby bar that serves tapas and small plates alongside local beer and cocktails.

The lounge is in the heart of the new pedestrian walkway district on Fifth Ave. It's a short walk to Petco Park and the Convention Center plus the many venues in the Gaslamp. Its location attracts business travelers, especially those going to conventions. With so many male travelers, bartender Morgan, who has worked at the lounge since before it opened to the public, says whiskey is the most popular drink.

The simple cocktail menu is filled with classic European drinks that are spirit forward. My companion ordered the Seaside Margarita, a bright blue drink with its color stemming from the Lagoon Bay Apertivo, an orange bitter from Iceland. I consumed a Smoked Spanish Old Fashioned with demerara sugar that lent toffee notes to the savory drink.

With exceptions for Dodgers weekend, Morgan said the bar is usually a mellow place with only one large screen tv. Once past the historic façade of the exterior, the sleek interior features tasteful art amid cool neutrals. A narrow skylight over a cushioned booth highlighted the minimalist mountain range silhouette installation in faux marble. The long, open space of the lounge had seating options for people in groups or those who want to sip a cocktail while working on a laptop.

AC Hotel General Manager Katee Moala shared the history of AC Hotels, which was founded by Spanish hotelier Antonio Catalan and gained popularity across Europe in the '90s. Looking to expand in that market, Marriott International acquired the brand and brought the hotels popular

743 Fifth Ave., Gaslamp  
619-544-1800; tinyurl.com/ACHotelSD  
Prices: Cocktails for \$12-15



The Seaside Margarita is bright blue but will taste familiar.



Bartender Morgan uses a kitchen blow torch to finish the Smoked Spanish Old Fashioned. (Photos by Drew Sitton)



The AC Lounge sports a sleek, modern look.

2223 El Cajon Blvd., North Park  
619-296-2101; lafayettehotelsd.com  
Prices: Cocktails for \$17



The Lafayette Fix is topped with lemon, mint, strawberry and a flower as a picturesque flourish.



Atlas holds up the world at the center of the circular bar. (Photos by Drew Sitton)



Bartender Krissy says the dozens of lamps in the lobby bar reflect onto the glass roof at night to create a starry night above.

among millennials to the states.

Rather than being a full-service hotel, Catalan focused on the details travelers desired to create a modern experience. Moala describes the AC Hotel as being "perfectly precise" in its offerings. For instance, with tons of eateries in the Gaslamp surrounding the hotel, there is no need for a lunch restaurant especially among business travelers away during the day.

The quiet, airy lounge is a bright spot to relax before rejoining the teeming Gaslamp outside.

VISTAL INSIDE INTERCONTINENTAL SAN DIEGO

Most lobby bars are on the ground floor but with InterContinental San Diego's lobby being on the third floor, its anchor restaurant Vistal is still technically a lobby bar while providing elevated views of the bay. The indoor-outdoor venue has a gorgeous perspective of the sun setting over the USS Midway.

Vistal's menu focuses on flavors of Baja California and the Pacific.

The sustainability-focused venue features seasonal ingredients that are locally sourced. Even a summer cocktail that included pressed honeydew was nixed from the offerings because it was too wasteful as the melon had to be fresh each day. Its inventive cocktails are typically thought up by restaurant manager Charles Crisp. The semi-permanent cocktail names are homages to San Diego sites and culture. Other than the tequila, all of the spirits are made by California distilleries.

The Star of India drink incorporates hibiscus masala Crisp created after noting the crossover of spices shared in Mexican and Indian cuisine. The masala brings a warm, bright flavor to the Humboldt organic vodka drink served in a coconut on a plate of ice. Sweet coconut agave, lime, Mexican chile and mango boba pearls made it one of the most unique offerings throughout all of the lobby bars we toured. My companion ordered the Mexican Street Corn, which Crisp said is a

SEE LOBBY BARS, Page 14

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# Celebrating community, sustainability, and small businesses at the 2023 Taste of North Park

## North Park News

By MARK WEST



The heart of North Park is beating stronger than ever, and there's no better way to experience the vibrant pulse of our community than by joining us for the 2023 Taste of North Park, proudly brought to you by US Bank on Saturday, Oct. 7.

There is more to North Park than just the intersection of 30th

and University. To help you explore the neighborhood, we are hosting three check-ins. You can get your day started in the southern portion at Haven (3381 30th Street), the western portion at Louisiana Purchase (2305 University Ave) or right in the center at the North Park Mini Park (3812 29th Street). Each area of North Park has a slightly different vibe and energy. We encourage you to explore our neighborhood from end to end and find your favorite area!

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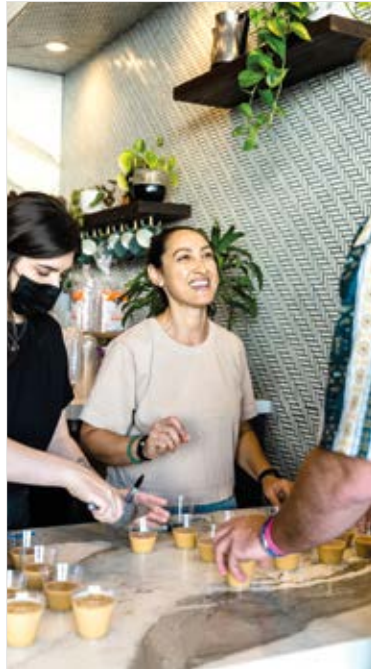
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Taste of North Park is a delicious way to explore the entire neighborhood.  
(Photos courtesy North Park Main Street)



This annual event has become a cherished tradition for both locals and visitors, and this year, we're making it even more special by focusing on three key elements: sustainability, community, and celebrating our resilient small business community.

## SUSTAINABILITY: A COMMITMENT TO A GREENER FUTURE

North Park is not just a community; it's a home we all share. To honor our beautiful neighborhood, we're taking steps to reduce our environmental impact. This year, we're thrilled to introduce reusable tumbler cups, generously sponsored by Diamond Parking, and reusable sporks from our community sponsor, Walkabout. These eco-friendly initiatives will help minimize waste and promote a more sustainable way of enjoying our delicious bites and sips.

Additionally, to reduce our carbon footprint and make it easier for everyone to explore our vibrant community, we're introducing neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) to shuttle people around North Park. These NEVs represent a small yet impactful step towards a greener future and will help connect people across the last mile of their journeys.

In alignment with our sustainability efforts, our event coincides with Clean Air Day California. We invite our neighbors, businesses, and organizations to join us in pledging to take steps to improve our air quality. It's a collective effort to ensure that North Park remains a breath of fresh air in our fine city.

## COMMUNITY: BRINGING NORTH PARK TOGETHER

North Park is known for its eclectic mix of boutiques, brewers, and restaurants, but it's our sense of community that truly sets us apart. This year, we're excited to involve the Sisters of Saint James to help connect our community in

engaging and unique ways. Their presence will add an extra layer of warmth and camaraderie to our event.

Furthermore, we're launching a food drive in partnership with the San Diego Food Bank. We understand how fortunate we are to have an abundance of food and drink options in our neighborhood. This event provides us with an opportunity to give back and drive donations for a truly impactful organization. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

## SMALL BUSINESS: THE HEARTBEAT OF NORTH PARK

Our small business community is the lifeblood of North Park. While we've faced challenges over the past year, our community's resilience shines brighter than ever. We're excited to showcase the exciting places that have come to life in our community, thanks to the dedication of our business leaders and the unwavering support of our residents.

This event is a celebration of these businesses, both the well-established stalwarts and the dynamic newcomers. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience the rich tapestry of entrepreneurship that defines North Park.

The 2023 Taste of North Park promises to be a day filled with delicious food, refreshing drinks, and unforgettable community spirit. We invite you to join us in celebrating sustainability, connecting with our community, and supporting our incredible small businesses. North Park continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication and passion of every individual who calls this neighborhood home. Together, we're creating a brighter and more vibrant future for North Park and all its residents.

Taste of North Park takes place on Saturday, Oct. 7, starting at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$30. Visit bit.ly/tasteofnorthpark2023 to buy tickets.

## Little Italy

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

Casino Di Piazza will completely transform the Piazza della Famiglia into a sophisticated casino spectacle that will feature craft cocktails provided by the Little Italy Food Hall, light hors d'oeuvres by Graze and Chef Giselle Aguirre, and of course, favorite games such as Blackjack, Craps and Roulette.

Part of the proceeds gained from Casino di Piazza will benefit the Little Italy Association's continued beautification and maintenance of the Piazza della Famiglia. Casino di Piazza's General Admission includes entrance into the Italian Garden Casino, \$100 in Casino chips, one drink ticket and light hors d'oeuvres, while VIP includes entrance into the Italian Garden Casino, \$200 in Casino chips, two drink tickets as well as exclusive access to VICI VIP Lounge offering a private bar with upscale cocktails, additional hors d'oeuvres, specialty lounge seating, lounge music, and private restrooms. Additional chip buy-ins and cocktails coins will be on sale at the event.

In the past year, our high rollers won some grand prizes such as one year of free parking with LAZ Parking, hotel stays, a piece of fine art from Meyer Fine Art, and thousands of dollars in Little Italy restaurant gift cards. Be sure to buy-in frequently and play big! So whether you love to gamble or have fun watching people take a lucky chance, this is the perfect opportunity to dress in your favorite black-tie attire that has been waiting to be worn and spend an electrifying evening with friends and other community members.

## EL GRITO DE MÉXICO

Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15th, a month to pay tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have created significant impact to the community as well as to celebrate the diverse culture of all the Hispanic countries. To start the Hispanic Heritage celebrations, Univision and the Consulado General de Mexico are excited to celebrate El Grito De Mexico on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. Honoring the 213th anniversary of Mexican Independence, the free event will include ballet Folklorico, live regional music, mariachi, tenors and most importantly the official "Grito de México" ceremony by San Diego's Cónsul General Alicia Kerber.

Make sure to keep your calendars open this month as the Little Italy neighborhood will be booming with events that will make you feel lucky and celebrate Mexican culture with your community!

Full-length stories

Online updates

Comments

Event calendars

and more!

sdnews.com



Food Blotter

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

respectively. They met at the Art Institute of California-San Diego, where they each earned bachelor's degrees in culinary management.



Elliott and Kelly of Long Story Short  
(Photo courtesy Alternative Strategies)

Their concept is to relay to consumers through food and atmosphere their personal stories growing up in San Diego—him in National City, and her in Point Loma. They now reside in North Park.

“This is not just a restaurant,” said Townsend. “It’s a collection of things that Kelly and I have compiled to tell a story from our more than 10 years together,” he added. “The music is what we listen to, the wine is what we drink, and the food is what we believe you should be eating at this precise moment. Long story short, this is us, and North Park is our home.”

The menu will change frequently while carrying a creative Southern California flair driven by seasonal ingredients and the couple’s established relationships with local farms and seafood mongers. For their mid-August opening, dishes included white sea bass crudo with salsa and figs; dry-aged local bluefin tuna; and corn agnolotti with huitlacoche.

Natural wines from small, global producers are also in the

offing, along with craft beer from six taps.

The restaurant is open Wednesday through Sunday for dinner only. Reservations can be made through [exploretock.com](http://exploretock.com). 3017 University Ave.

ANOTHER SEAPORT VILLAGE LOCATION FOR HESS BREWING COMPANY

Mike Hess Brewing Company has opened a pet-friendly “tap house” in a **Seaport Village** structure that sat vacant for the last five years. The space features a 1,200-square-foot sundeck and inside seating as well.

Unlike Hess’ other tasting room located a stone’s throw away, this newest outpost doesn’t have a kitchen. Although guests are permitted to bring food onto the premises from surrounding eateries.



Tapping into brews at Mike Hess Brewing Company (Courtesy photo)

The tap house features 24 handles that dispense the many beer styles within the company’s portfolio, which range from IPAs and blond ales to lagers, dark selections and more.

Customers will also find spiked slushies, hard seltzers, sangria and non-alcoholic craft root beer. 879 W. Harbor Drive, 619-675-7776, [mikehessbrewing.com](http://mikehessbrewing.com).

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

the progress towards the functional zero goal outlined in the Leave No Veteran Homeless Initiative, the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) began publishing a monthly data report now available on the organization’s website.

“As a region, we’ve come together to get to functional zero for our veterans experiencing homelessness,” RTFH CEO Tamera Kohler said. “This monthly report will provide a progress report on how we’re doing to reach that goal, ensuring that we’re staying focused on leaving no veteran behind.”

Functional Zero is defined as the point when a community’s homeless services system is able to prevent homelessness whenever possible and ensure that when homelessness does occur, it is rare, brief, and one-time. This means that the number of veterans experiencing homelessness monthly is consistently less than are routinely housed each month. It’s a monthly data-driven measure.

WILSHIRE QUINN CAPITAL AWARDS \$10,000 MUSICAL ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Wilshire Quinn Capital, which has a Downtown San Diego office, has awarded a \$10,000 Wilshire Quinn Musical Arts Scholarship to Sanjana Dhanasekaran, a

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Second sight

4. Standard electrode potential

7. Type of gibbon

8. John Joseph \_\_: American industrialist

10. Manning and Whitney are two

12. Abrupt

13. Baroque musical instrument

14. Post-burning residue

16. When you hope to arrive

17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)

19. Sun up in New York

20. Employee stock ownership plan

21. Where people live

25. Method to record an electrogram

26. Angry

27. No longer living

29. Simple

30. Swiss river

31. Portion of a play

32. It's under the tree

39. Wood sorrels

41. No (Scottish)

42. Dialect of English

43. Former Steelers' QB

44. Popular beer

45. It can make you sick

46. Tropical tree and fruit

48. Company officer

49. Contact lens term

50. Your consciousness of your own identity

51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer

52. Piece of turf

- CLUES DOWN
1. Number of players on each side in a football game

2. Containing salt

3. Reasoning or knowledge: a

4. Car mechanics group

5. Leave a place

6. Southern Colombian capital

8. Old English letter

9. Tide

11. Walk heavily

14. Chemical compound (abbr.)

15. Artificial openings

18. Luteinizing hormone

19. Unit of energy

20. Circular movement of water

22. A way of holding

23. Popular book of words (abbr.)

24. States' group

27. Dashes

28. Body part

29. Electronic countermeasures

31. Consumed

32. Small bird

33. Unhappy

34. Football's big game (abbr.)

35. Valued object offered in good faith

36. Wild goats

37. Precede in place

38. Small edible fish

39. Notice of death

40. Body cavity of a metazoan

44. Partner to cheese

47. Not around

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## Health center

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

commission to address the large number of Black clients suspended from accessing services. The controversies come as the city begins implementing its crackdown on camp sites in many public areas.

Lister Lane, a formerly homeless man who has been coming to the health center since 2018, believes the amount of time clients have been homeless will impact their lives far more than street sweeps. A stint in jail and subsequent health problems, he said, put him on the street off and on for 20 years.

"I had heart problems, kidney problems, thyroid problems, you name it," he said. "This place saved my life."

He now lives in Benson Place, a former motel developed into affordable housing by Father Joe's Village in partnership with the Chelsea Investment Corporation. He continues to attend support group meetings at the health center and sees a psychiatrist.

Life on the streets, he said, is hard but some people struggle to adjust to an alternative.

"After I got off the street, the hardest thing to do for me was to follow rules and stay inside," Lane, 64, said. "I wanted to roam. That's what I knew."

Parissa Baiera, the dental director at the health center, doesn't know how the sweeps will affect her clients.



The waiting room at the health center. (Photo by J.M. Garcia)

"I haven't noticed much of a change yet," she said. "But I feel the patients are going to be more irritable because I don't know where they will move on to."

The dental clinic includes two dentists, three dental assistants and a hygienist, and sees clients Monday through Friday. They provide full exams for adults and children.

"Homelessness is devastating on the body and the teeth really take a toll," Baiera said. "We tend to see a lot of toothaches and they have to have a tooth pulled or a crown put in or a root canal. We also make a lot of dentures."

Much of the problems homeless people face with their teeth, Baiera said, result from the priorities they set. For many, those priorities focus on food and shelter. Their health, dental and otherwise, becomes secondary.

"They let their teeth go because they are on survival mode," she said.

Baiera sees a big difference in her patients when they start seeing a dentist. With their teeth fixed, they can do what most people take for granted: chew food, get a job and talk better.

"I think it's night and day in how they see the world," she said. "Patients with a plan to fix their teeth and in particular get dentures seem to be the most motivated."

Baiera hoped the removal of tent cities does not disrupt plans her patients have for their healthcare.

"Just like with COVID," she said, "I feel people will get more agitated because they are being pushed into corners. It's too early to tell but that may be where I think it might be headed."

## Lobby bars

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

polarizing drink due to the Nixta Elote Liqueur which people either love or hate. Despite the agave, lime, tarragon vermouth, hot mustard and fresh-pressed pineapple, I found the corn flavor overpowering. Meanwhile my companion said it was their favorite drink of the night.

On the seasonal Summer Soiree menu, I enjoyed the light and refreshing La Vie En Rose which mixed lemonade with Lillet Blanc and Rose wine. My companion enjoyed the spicy, fruity Mexican Riviera with Tanteo Jalapeno Tequila, orgeat (a tiki drink syrup), mango and butterfly pea flower. The restaurant's commitment to seasonal offerings extends to a Summer

Soiree theme in the lobby. A lounge installation outside the restaurant has a photo shoot backgrounds as well as QR codes with a curated playlist.

Our server Jaz, who has worked there for a year, said mostly patrons of the hotel visit Vistal with the hotel's Italian-influenced Giribaldi attracting more locals when it is opened on the weekends as San Diego's only indoor-outdoor speakeasy. InterContinental is another popular business traveler destination, although it has its own conference facilities on site. When we visited, a single corporation had rented out the entire hotel for a business retreat – taking up 400 rooms. Its bay front views make it an untapped destination for locals to enjoy a sunset over the water while sipping a specialty cocktail.

901 Bayfront Court, Columbia

619-535-0485; Vistalsd.com

Prices: Cocktails for \$14-18



Named after the Star of India ship, this cocktail combined the flavors of Baja California and India in a sweet, savory drink. (Photos by Drew Sitton)



Far beyond just a seasonal menu, Vistal and the InterContinental Hotel incorporated the theme of Summer Soiree into its lobby with this temporary lounge installation.



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# San Diego Loyal SC to bid farewell at end of season

By HECTOR TRUJILLO

San Diego Loyal SC will cease to be at the end of the 2023 season. In a video message to fans and supporters of the club, chairman Andrew Vassiliadis explained why the decision was made along with thanking the fans for their support since the team announced it would be joining the USL Championship in 2020.

"I believe together, in these last four years, we have set a new standard of what it means to be a professional soccer team in this city and be a reflection of our community and I'm proud of that."

The message also points to future question and answer sessions that will be held with those who would like to know more about the specifics regarding why the decision to cease operations came about and any other matters that are of importance with exact dates and locations yet to be determined.

San Diego Loyal played its first match at Torero Stadium on



Feb. 20, 2020, in a 1-0 victory over Panamanian team Costa del Este as part of its preseason schedule. Its first regular season match came two weeks later in a 1-1 home draw versus Las Vegas Lights where midfielder Charlie Adams scored in the 15th minute following that up with its first victory as a club over Tacoma Defiance by a score of 2-1 on March 11.

San Diego sits tied for fourth

place in the Western Conference with 37 points, which is the same as the Oakland Roots. The Loyal have made the playoffs the last two seasons and became a household name nationwide after taking a stand for social justice and equality in the final regular season game of its rookie season despite costing the team, which was led by head coach Landon Donovan at the time, any chance to make the playoffs.

## News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 13

20-year-old pianist. The funds will be applied to her enrollment as a sophomore at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. Dhanasekaran will act as a member of the Missouri Music Teachers Association's student chapter.

### "RAISE UP FOR MONARCH" FUNDRAISER TO HELP UNHOUSED STUDENTS

Monarch School, the only public K-12 school in the U.S. serving unhoused students, will host its

annual fundraiser, Raise Up for Monarch, on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 5 p.m. The event raises funds to serve the school's community of students, alumni and families, and to nurture resilience in students and alumni, empowering them with the tools they need to succeed.

The event will take place at Monarch's Nat and Flora Bosa campus in Barrio Logan at 1625 Newton Avenue. Guests will be taken on a campus tour, including student presentations and engaging activities at each stop, to learn about the school's programs. Dinner, entertainment and programming will follow, including a dance performance

by students and a song from an alumnus.

This year's fundraiser is themed, "Scaling New Horizons," and proceeds will enable Monarch School to scale-up its programs to serve additional students and families outside its school walls.

Tickets for the annual fundraiser are \$150. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals and organizations by contacting Alejandra Tarolli at [atarolli@monarch-schools.org](mailto:atarolli@monarch-schools.org) or 619-652-4100.

To purchase tickets or for more information on sponsorship, visit [monarchschoools.org/raise-up-2023](http://monarchschoools.org/raise-up-2023).

## Beetlejuice

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

style. Justin Collette was in town for part of the run. While the script includes many asides, fourth wall breaks and gags for the audience, each actor and even show brings a new vibe to the character, according to Kober in an after show talk with the audience.

Operating as a stand-up comic, with crowd work and insulting audience member included, the rest of the cast and crew must constantly adapt to the improvisation and additions of Beetlejuice. For those who saw the "Aladdin" musical at California Adventure's Hyperion Theater during its multi-year run, Beetlejuice has the same role as the genie: adding pop culture references and new jokes to keep the material fresh each night. For instance, at the end of a self-pitying monologue,

Kober mumbled Taylor Swift's iconic "anti-hero" lyrics, "It's me. Hi, I'm the problem. It's me."

The rest of the over-the-top characters are played to perfection by the cast. It was shocking that a bimbo character whose lines mostly consisted of giggles could steal the scene during the business meeting turned scary prank.

Part of the show's cult following stems from songs by Eddie Perfect being used as TikTok audios. Unfortunately, the sound design made some of the humorous lyrics difficult to understand amid the loud rock music. Flashing lights between scenes could also be cut but the puppet sand worm, fog machines and numerous dances made the production fabulous.

For a musical about death and demons, "Beetlejuice" is surprisingly fun, campy and hilarious while still being emotionally honest.

## Trolley Dances

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

celebrating the history of hip hop and ballet folklórico.

The dance company enlisted the help of their team and local community college dancers to capture the essence of Old Town in their site-specific performances. Originally conceptualized by Isaacs, the decision to perform based on the architectural elements of the Trolley's Blue Line, and the natural light and shadow of the daytime, came from her desire to step away from the hierarchy of space that is imposed by conventional stages.

Rather than experiencing a traditional frontal point-of-view, audience members will be encouraged to watch the performances from multiple different angles as the dancers explore the original intended use and history of their artistic space.

Guided by a volunteer trolley tour guide, the tours will commence at the Old Town Transit

Center and will start at 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., and 3:15 p.m. on both days. Participants are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes beforehand.

Running for the last 25 years in partnership with the Metropolitan Transit System, the trolley dances have employed more than 100 choreographers and 1,000 dancers, as well as brought in over 45,000 audience members. San Diego Dance Theater received funding from the City of San Diego, California Arts Council, Commission for Arts and Culture, the National Endowment for the Arts, Qualcomm Foundation, and Zinser Family Foundation – as well as a new connection with UC San Diego in light of their recent campus trolley extension.

Those wishing to experience the trolley dances are encouraged to buy tickets beforehand due to the limited tour sizes. General admission tickets are sold for \$35 online at [sandiegodancetheater.org](http://sandiegodancetheater.org) and include a free all-day trolley pass.



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