



NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY NEWSLINE

A publication of the Napa County District Attorney's Office

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In Honor of Survivors, Heroes



Victim Witness Program Manager Erin Harper was the keynote speaker for the 4th Annual Survivors' Breakfast held at Napa Valley College's Performing Arts Center, Oct. 25, 2024. Erin spoke about resilience during her address. Photo: Lauren Weitz.

By Carlos Villatoro
Public Affairs and Media Officer

The Napa County District Attorney's Office celebrated its 4th Annual Survivors' Breakfast Thursday, October 24, 2024. Held at Napa Valley College's Performing Arts Center, the Survivors' Breakfast drew 120 attendees to honor six survivors for their remarkable resilience in overcoming major life challenges and six community heroes for their outstanding contributions to keeping the community safe.

"As District Attorneys we often get front-row seats to unimaginable acts of courage and bravery," Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley said. "We learn of acts of kindness extended by strangers to their neighbors and community members. This breakfast is an opportunity to let everyone know of the strength of our community members."

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FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Allison Haley

It's the season of giving and there's a lot to be thankful for at the Napa County District Attorney's Office.

We have the privilege of living and working in amazing community, and I am often inspired by its generosity.

The contributions we receive provide essential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child or elder/dependent abuse, stalking, and human trafficking through the Monarch Justice Center, where victims of crime can find safety, support and a pathway to rebuilding their lives.

The ability to provide these services is deeply tied to the financial support we receive from various community groups. Every dollar helps us ensure that no victim is left to navigate the system alone and can find essential services in one place.

One event that holds a special place in the hearts of everyone within our Office is our annual Survivors' Breakfast. It's a time where we come together to honor the resilience of those who have endured so much, and the community heroes whose actions have kept the community safe. Without the kindness and generosity of our donors, this event—and the essential support systems it celebrates—would not be possible.

To every person who has contributed, I want to express my deepest gratitude. Your support is not just financial; it's an investment in the well-being and future of some of our most vulnerable community members.

Together, we are building a safer, more compassionate Napa County, and for that, I am truly thankful.



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What is the Role of Victim Services When a Suspect, Defendant Dies?

By Erin Harper
Victim Witness Program Manager



Napa was shocked and devastated by the recent tragedy where two people were murdered by a third person, who died several days after a suicide attempt.

This type

of violence and tragedy is unusual in our community, leaving many shaken and heavy with grief. Those victims, Georgina Padilla and Ralph Andino III, each left behind a community of family and friends who loved them and are left behind to grieve.

The Napa County's District Attorney's Office joins the community in mourning these losses and continues to support the surviving victims as they move through the difficult days ahead.

Napa is a tight knit, quiet community. However, Georgina and Ralph's deaths marked the fifth and sixth time this year that someone in our county has been murdered and much like the others this latest devastating event has left many in our community reeling. Friends, neighbors, and other community members have expressed concern for the families of the innocent victims.

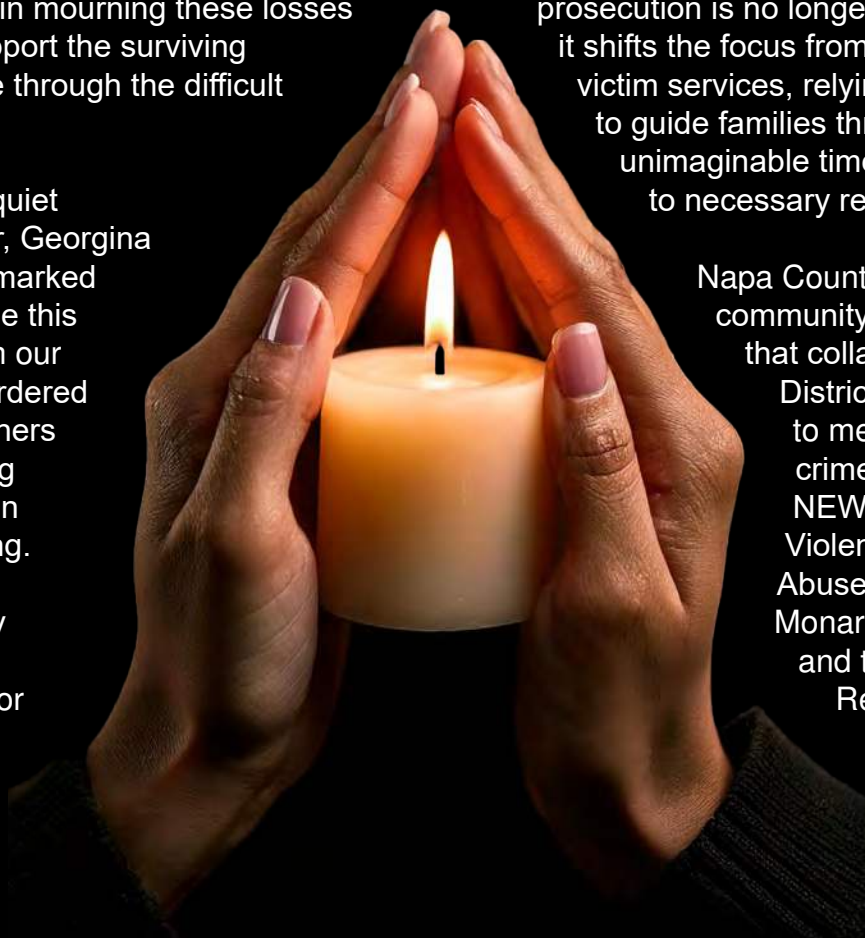
Even though there can be no criminal prosecution because of the suspect's death, the District Attorney's Office remains involved with both families to provide support and resources in the wake of this tragedy.

Justice and accountability are crucial for the healing process of crime victims. However, when the suspect is deceased, this path to closure is blocked. Despite the absence of a suspect to prosecute for these murders, the District

Justice and accountability are crucial for the healing process of crime victims. However, when the suspect is deceased, this path to closure is blocked

Attorney's Office can still play a significant role in aiding the healing and recovery process. The District Attorney's Office's work with the families does not cease when a prosecution is no longer feasible. Instead, it shifts the focus from trial preparation to victim services, relying on its advocates to guide families through this unimaginable time and connect them to necessary resources.

Napa County has numerous community-based agencies that collaborate with the District Attorney's Office to meet the needs of crime victims, including NEWS – Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services, the Monarch Justice Center, and the Trauma Recovery Center, a program of SANE-SART. These



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Monarch Justice Center Moves to New Location

By Carlos Villatoro
Public Affairs and
Media Officer

Monarch Butterflies are famous for their long migration patterns that span up to 3,000 miles from North America to Mexico each fall. While not as far as its namesake, the Monarch Justice Center has made a journey of its own.

Back in early September, the Monarch Justice Center along with The Courage Center moved from their 3,500 square foot office building in downtown Napa to a 10,000 square foot office in northeast Napa. On October 23, Monarch held its grand opening ceremony to introduce the community to its new facilities.

The new office provides several upgrades for Napa's family justice center – which is a centralized multiagency facility where victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of family violence can obtain necessary services under one roof – said Monarch Justice Center's Executive Director, Michelle Farhat.

"We gained a learning center, we've got a Board room now and the Courage Center has been able to expand in a way that they weren't able to do downtown," she said.

With the influx of new office space, the Napa County District Attorney's Office has increased its presence at Monarch and moved two investigators to the new facility along with five members of its Victim Services Division.

"The other thing we gained is that one of the rooms here is a forensic exam room that SANE-



Congressman Mike Thompson (center) joins MJC Board Members for a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating MJC's new location. Photo: Lauren Weitz.

SART manages," Farhat explained. "We are the first ones in Napa that can have an adult exam room that's outside of the hospital setting and we also offer a restroom with a shower so if someone did have to come in for an exam, they have the opportunity to get cleaned up and get back together so to speak."

The search for a new building began in January when the entities received notice that the building that housed their office was sold, Farhat said. To find a new building that met the Courage Center's accreditation requirements was a top priority Farhat said.

"The Courage Center had to have two exits to be accredited, so identifying a building that had the setup that would hold the Monarch Justice Center and Courage Center, maintaining those accreditation requirements, was challenging. We visited many, many offices in the area and it took us a long time, but we finally landed on this one. It met all the accreditation criteria that we needed. We started looking in January."

The calm, soothing colors that greeted Monarch Justice Center and Courage Center clients at the previous location have also made their way to the new location along with community partners Napa Valley SANE-SART, News – Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Services, and the Napa Police Department. Monarch Justice Center also brought on community partners Molly's Angels and International Institute of the Bay Area to the new location along with its cadre of existing partners.

DA Staff Updates



Charles Ching, Office Assistant

Charles Ching joined the Napa County District Attorney's Office in late September. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Sacramento State University and graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors.

He started off his career working as a file clerk for PKS Law Group and was later promoted to a legal administrative assistant position.

He looks to advance his career by working within Napa County as he continues to evaluate his future aspirations. He is looking forward to being an avid member of the DA Office's team.

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agencies and many more are crucial to the long-term healing and care of victims, helping them transition from victims to survivors.

The District Attorney's Office's victim advocates are trained to respond to crises and support victims in the aftermath of a crime. In this recent incident, they responded on the day of the murders, providing services to family members. Advocates have maintained contact and support since.

Advocates can help family members in many ways after a crime – even if the case is not charged. This support may include completing applications for victim compensation, finding new housing, assisting with rental needs, planning a funeral, finding mental health treatment providers, getting property involved in the crime returned, and more.

Violent crimes like this one have a profound impact on the entire community, shaking people's sense of safety and well-being. To aid

the broader community in healing, the District Attorney's Office and our partner agencies are also available to assist those indirectly affected by this incident.

If anyone is struggling in the aftermath of this horrible trauma, they may reach out to an advocate by contacting the Victim Services Division. Advocates are ready to assess community members' needs and connect them to appropriate support. In addition, the Victims Services Division and the other community-based organizations with which it works are also available to conduct community presentations and education regarding resources available to victims of crime.

The District Attorney's Office offers its heartfelt condolences to all impacted by the recent homicides, particularly those who knew and loved Georgina and Ralph.

While there cannot be a criminal trial, we are still involved with those impacted to help start the long journey to healing.

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This year's guest speaker, Victim Witness Program Manager Erin Harper, spoke to the audience about the power of resilience. During her time as a forensic interviewer at CALICO, Alameda County's child advocacy center where she worked for 14 years before joining the DA's Office, Erin interviewed a young girl who was hurt by someone very trusted in her family.

Having to relive the crime perpetrated against her during the interview made the girl understandably uncomfortable Erin said, and the CALICO team provided her a stuffed animal bunny rabbit to comfort her.

"She loved this bunny," Erin told the group. "She slept with it every night, and as her case progressed through the legal system, she brought this bunny with her to every meeting with prosecutors. She even brought the bunny with her when she had to testify in court."

Six or seven years after the girl had completed the court process, Erin received a call from her father who informed Erin that the girl had started a club at her high school to help gather plushies and wanted to donate some of them to children at CALICO who may need them as much as she once did.

"I thought she might bring a bag of them," Erin said. "When she came, she had 600 stuffed



The DA Office's Victim Services team played a vital role in the planning and execution of the 4th Annual Survivors' Breakfast. Photo Lauren Weitz.

animals. She told me she still has her bunny and kept it on her bed every night. She started this club because she wanted to be sure, she said, that any other child who was hurt could have a stuffed animal to comfort them, too.

"It was a brilliant and unexpected demonstration of resilience, of finding generosity, empathy, and concern for others in an enormously painful situation. In fact, her impact continues now, even to this day. Her club became a large one and continued donating hundreds of plushies every year, even after she graduated high school and college. Thousands of children received comfort because of what she started. Because of her resilience."

Aside from a breakfast provided by the DA's Office – made

possible through generous donations from a variety of local businesses, both big and small – each honoree received certificates of recognition from the DA's Office along with a certificate from Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and Congressman Mike Thompson.

The event was well attended by the families of the survivors, local dignitaries, community partners, and law enforcement.

To learn more about this event, visit the Napa County District Attorney's [YouTube channel](#), where you will find a podcast regarding the 4th Annual Survivors' Breakfast.

If you are looking for more photos, please visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Out & About



**NAPA HISPANIC CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE'S LATINO LEADERS
ROUND TABLE - 9/20/2024**



**SEXUAL HARASSMENT PRESENTATION
@ CAMILLE CREEK - 10/3/2024**



**CDCR TRAINING - SERVICES
FOR VICTIMS + SURVIVORS'
RIGHTS - 9/20/2024**



**A VISIT TO THE STATE CAPITOL
9/10/2024**



WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS
HOSTED BY MERRILL LYNCH
10/17/2024



PROP 36 RECEPTION WITH FELLOW
DAS + NAPA SHERIFF - 10/20/2024



SIDEBAR PODCAST - OPIOID
AWARENESS - 10/23/2024



OPIOID AWARENESS RALLY +
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL 10/23/2024

NAPA DA Case Updates

People V. Ruben Daniel Roncancio

A Napa jury convicted Ruben Daniel Roncancio, age 66, of San Rafael, of perjury, procuring and offering a false or forged instrument, engaging in a business without a license with respect to structures damaged by natural disaster, and engaging in business without a license after a jury trial prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorneys Amy Bailey and Erik Lawrence.

In November 2017, Roncancio agreed to perform debris removal, plumbing, trenching and well-related labor at the victims' Calistoga home, which was destroyed during the devastating Tubbs Fire. He accepted the work without a contractor's license and when he failed to complete the job and refused to provide disposal receipts unless he first got paid, he secretly placed a lien of over \$18,000 on the victims' property.

The jury found that the defendant committed perjury when he filed the lien against the victims' property, which was later lifted in civil court, and contracted without a license. The defendant is due in court at 8:30 a.m., on November 19, 2024, in Department 1 of the Napa County Superior Court for sentencing.

People V. Vishal Ghiya

Vishal Ghiya, age 34, of Vallejo, was sentenced to 14 years to life in state prison for his role in the stabbing of a delivery driver who was delivering supplies to a local Little Caesar's Pizza restaurant.

Ghiya was found guilty of attempted murder, mayhem, assault with a deadly weapon, and assault by means to produce great bodily injury, at the conclusion of a jury trial prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Amy Bailey.

In relation to some of the charges, the jury also found true special allegations of willful, deliberation, and premeditation; great bodily injury; and use of a deadly weapon during the attack that took place in the early morning hours of January 24, 2020.

On that morning, a driver was making an after-hours delivery to Little Caesars Pizza on the 2300 block of California Boulevard when Ghiya approached him outside of the business and stabbed him in the stomach, arm, and upper chest/neck. Responding officers located Ghiya on top of the victim and took him into custody.

People V. David Earl Garland

A Napa jury convicted David Earl Garland, age 61, of Pope Valley, of six felony counts of lewd act upon a child under 14, and two felony counts of sexual penetration of a child 10 or under. The jury also found true the special allegations of vulnerable victim and position of trust related to the charges.

Garland's trial took place in late October and lasted approximately one week. Napa County Deputy District Attorney Shashawnya Worley prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

The defendant was convicted of sexually molesting a young female family member at his Pope Valley home between 2019 and 2020.

There were also similar allegations made in the state of Colorado related to a 2017 incident with the victim. In late 2020, the victim reported the ongoing sexual abuse to her stepmother, who alerted other family members, and ultimately the authorities.

As part of their investigation, Napa County Sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant at Garland's home in which they seized several electronic devices as well as illegal firearms and ammunition. A subsequent forensic search of the electronic devices revealed hundreds of images and videos depicting graphic child sexual exploitation material.

Garland was previously convicted of possession of child pornography, being a felon in possession of firearms, and being a felon in possession of ammunition during a trial that took place June 2023. The jury however, deadlocked in 2023 on the child molestation charges causing the October 2024 re-trial on those charges. The Court referred the defendant to the Napa County Probation Department for a pre-sentence report. He is due back in court in mid-November for sentencing.

People V. Jose Joaquin Camacho Castillo

Jose Joaquin Camacho Castillo, age 36, of Fairfield, is charged with assault on a peace officer; evading an officer against traffic; evading an officer – willful disregard; possession of a controlled substance with firearm; felon in possession of a firearm; possession of firearm by person convicted of prior misdemeanor; carrying a loaded firearm; possession of ammo by prohibited person; and resist, obstruct, delay of peace officer or EMT.

Castillo allegedly fled from American Canyon Police officers on February 22, 2024, when they attempted to pull him over during a vehicle stop. A vehicle pursuit ensued in which Castillo is suspected of driving at a high rate of speed and going into oncoming traffic lanes and running stop signs to evade police. The pursuit progressed from American Canyon into Vallejo, where Castillo allegedly crashed the vehicle into a bush and fled from police into an apartment complex, to be later apprehended on a nearby street with the assistance of American Canyon Police K9 Brick.

He was taken by ambulance to Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo before being transported to the Napa County Department of Corrections. Officers located a firearm and methamphetamine in the vehicle allegedly driven by the suspect.

Castillo is due in court at 8:30 a.m., November 4, 2024, in Department 1 of the Napa County Superior Court for the commencement of a jury trial. The case against Castillo is being prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Rolando Mazariegos.

People V. Christopher Santana

Christopher Santana, age 23, pled no contest to felony attempted murder, two counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, and shooting at an unoccupied vehicle.

He additionally pled no contest to the special allegations of discharge of a firearm from a vehicle and use of a firearm. Santana will be sentenced to 23 years and 8 months on December 20, 2024, in Department 1 of the Napa County Superior Court.

On December 27, 2022, Napa Police officers went to the Laurel Street Apartments in west Napa in response to a report of a shooting. The police investigation determined that Santana was involved in an argument with another man and threatened to shoot him.

Santana entered a vehicle, brandished a semiautomatic pistol and shot at his intended target from the moving vehicle, hitting an innocent bystander in the leg.

He was located and taken into custody on December 30, 2022, and charged with the crimes. Napa County Deputy District Attorney Rolando Mazariegos prosecuted the case against the defendant.

People V. Alejandra Rodriguez Flores

A Napa jury convicted Alejandra Rodriguez Flores, age 39, of Calistoga, of misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while having a .08 percent or higher blood alcohol content (BAC). In addition, the jury found true that Flores' BAC was .15 percent by weight or more at the time of the driving, which is nearly twice the legal limit of .08 percent in California.

The mid-October jury trial against Flores was prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Ashley Llamas and lasted two days.

On November 11, 2020, at 11:50 p.m., a California Highway Patrol officer responded to a report of an impaired driver along Highway 29 at Ehlers Lane. A Napa County Sheriff's sergeant also responded to the scene prior to the CHP officer's arrival and relayed that he was driving on Highway 29 when he observed a 2013 Infinity driven by Flores parked against the curb.

Police observed vomit on Flores' clothes, and she was wearing a slipper on one foot and a black sock on the other when they contacted with her. The officers located Flores' other slipper on the floorboard of the driver's seat of the vehicle she drove that evening.

A subsequent DUI investigation discovered that Flores was DUI.

The Court sentenced Flores to four days in jail and placed her on summary probation for three years with terms and conditions. She is ordered to complete a six-month DUI Program and ordered to pay a fine of \$1,563 and a restitution fine of \$150.

Flores is ordered to remand into the custody of the Napa County Department of Corrections on November 15, 2024, to being serving her jail sentence.



thank you

The Napa County District Attorney's Office would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to its donors for their generous contributions to our 4th Annual Survivors' Breakfast. Their support plays a crucial role in making our event possible and helping us honor the strength, courage, and resilience of survivors in our community, and the courage and selflessness displayed by local heroes.

It's because of these donors that we can continue our efforts to provide survivors with the resources, recognition, and community support they deserve.



WINSTON'S
CAFE & BAKERY





SPEAKERS BUREAU



The mission of the Napa County District Attorney's Office is to keep the community safe and one of the ways it accomplishes that mission is to provide community outreach.

The Speaker's Bureau consists of several subject matter experts who visit community events and schools to provide presentations in their areas of expertise.



To request a subject matter expert to attend your speaking engagement scan the QR Code