

4-H goes virtual with color me green 5k walk/run event  
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**A storied history**  
Local author Jenny Clendenen tells the story of Almaden's past  
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Members of Sikh religion organize 'Free Food Drive-Thru'  
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MAY 29 – JUNE 11, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 12

## MERIT



Jessica J. Zhu,  
Pioneer High School

## Jessica Zhu of Almaden Valley among winners of National Merit Scholarships

One-hundred-sixty Bay Area high schools students have won prestigious National Merit Scholarships.

Jessica J. Zhu, Pioneer High School, was among the more than 2,500 nationwide winners announced on May 13, out of a pool of 15,000 finalists.

Zhu is captain of the Pioneer Debate, and serves as Editor in Chief of the Pioneer High School Yearbook. She serves as president of the National Honor Society and also serves as Chapter Leader and Norcal Student Advisory Board Officer.

Almost a quarter of the region's \$2,500 scholarship recipients - 38 - intend to pursue computer science as a field study.

Academic and leadership skills, extracurricular exploits in school and community and the potential to succeed in college were factors considered in picking the National Merit Scholarship winners.

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

Due to social distancing from the coronavirus, traditional high school graduations have been put on hold.

Rather than applauding in-person as students dressed in caps and gowns walk across the stage to receive their diplomas, many families will view virtual ceremonies from their homes.

Palo Alto Unified School District delayed its high school graduations until December in the hopes of having in-person ceremonies, but San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) is planning virtual graduations.

Leland High School parents are hoping SJUSD will reconsider.

"The class of 2020...has already sacrificed a lot," parent Lale Yurtseven said. "They deserve to be honored for their accomplishments and resilience in these challenging times."

Hoping for an in-person ceremony, Yurtseven asked SJUSD to delay graduation until later this summer in a petition on change.org. More than 750 people have signed the petition.

"I want my daughter to get the graduation she's been dreaming about and worked so hard



Leland High School parents decorated the school fence to celebrate the senior students.

to achieve," said parent Michelle Karrer in the comments section of the petition.

Asked if she was happy to have former president Barack Obama deliver the commencement address for the nation's high school sen-

iors, Leland High School senior Kathy Swartz told her father, "Yes, but I don't get to walk."

"It's heartbreaking," said Yurtseven.

Lili Smith, public information officer for SJUSD  
See GRADUATES, page 2



San Jose Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** is pictured in this file photo.  
Photo courtesy of Valerie Sassani

## San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis reflects on his legacy, future plans

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Article courtesy of  
San José Spotlight

While Johnny Khamis' time on the San Jose City Council nears an end, the fiscally conservative politician already has his sights set on a higher office.

Following his failed state Senate bid, Khamis said he is "95 percent interested" in running for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to replace Mike Wasserman in District 1, who terms out in 2022. Until then, he plans to continue working as an employee benefits and risk management consultant for Benefit Experts.

Khamis, 52, is known for being

transparent, approachable and driven.

"I'm proud of the way I voted," Khamis said. "I try to listen to both sides of the issue. I've never closed my door to anyone. It doesn't matter whether I politically align with them or if they believe that I don't see things their way, they're never excluded from the discussion."

In light of California's crippling housing crisis, Khamis prides himself on working to reduce building and planning costs and streamline the development process. He also advocated for requiring a two-thirds vote by the council to approve general

See KHAMIS, page 17

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Leland High School parents decorated the school fence to celebrate the senior students.

## Graduates

*Continued from page 1*  
expressed surprise that Leland High School parents were unhappy with the district's virtual graduation ceremony, which will include pictures of every graduate, speeches and recognitions.

Smith said the activities director met with leadership classes to ascertain what the seniors wanted, within public health guidelines.

"We certainly want to hear the students' voices and represent them," Smith said. "The students said they didn't want car parades as not everyone in the district could participate."

Smith said leadership students are planning an in-person class of 2020 reception to be held when such gatherings are permitted, potentially summer 2020, December 2020 or June 2021. At this event, students can say their good-byes, have yearbooks signed and celebrate with their friends and teachers.

"They said they wanted an event with a social connection and they're willing to wait," Smith said.

Smith said SJUSD is very care-

ful to follow public health safety measures as keeping everyone safe is its priority. In the meantime, the district delivered yard signs to graduating seniors and arranged for them to drop off textbooks and pick up their graduation caps and gowns.

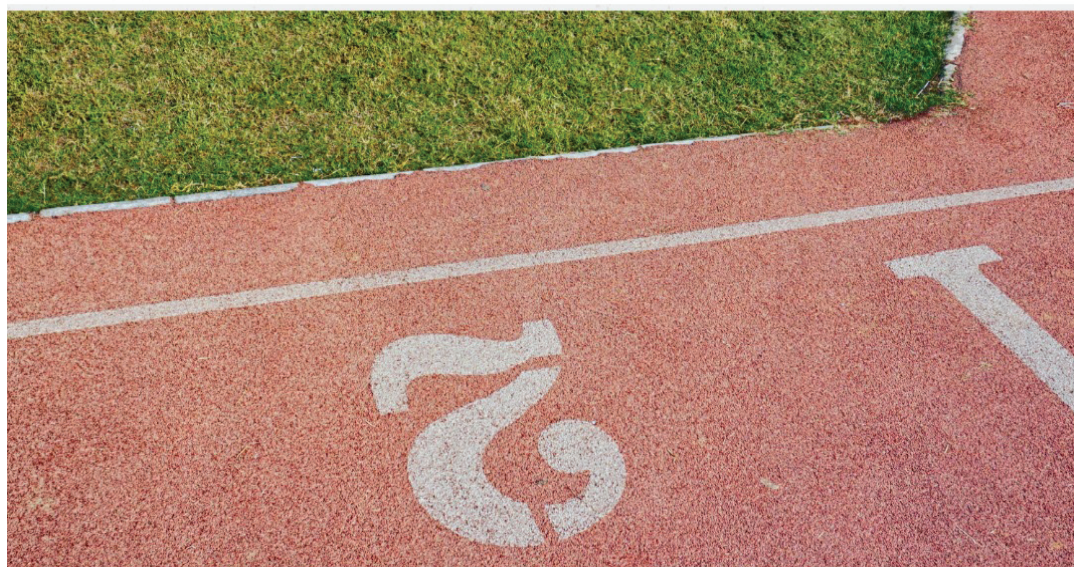
Parent Holly Case said she is fine with a virtual graduation but would appreciate it if families could submit personal photos and sentiments to be shared during the ceremony.

"I want my son to feel celebrated in a more personalized experience," she said.

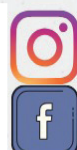


The district had graduation signs delivered to the homes of graduating seniors.

## Color Me Green 5k SIGN UP AS A VIRTUAL RUNNER FOR THE RACE



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**SANTA CLARA COUNTY**



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@4HColorMeGreenSantaClara

## Santa Clara County approves country's first basic income pilot program for foster youth

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, has unanimously approved a \$900,000 in funding for the Country's first pilot program providing basic income to transitioning foster youth.

County of Santa Clara Supervisor Dave Cortese, who introduced this measure, said: "Youth transitioning out of the foster care system are a group of residents who are particularly in need of and deserve robust support. Creating a pilot program to provide a basic income to these individuals will allow the County to better support their transition out of our foster care system and to help them find a stable path to success, wellbeing and independence."

Under this pilot program, young people transitioning out of the foster care system in Santa Clara County, from ages 21 through 24, would receive unconditional cash payments of \$1,000 a month from June 2020 through May 2021.

Partnering with Supervisor Cortese on the pilot program was the Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity, a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the understanding, acceptance and implementation of Universal Basic Income programs to benefit all Americans.

Gisèle Huff, president of the Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity, recalled a conversation with Supervisor Cortese last summer about the needs of transitioning foster youth and the potential of a basic income component to help meet those needs. As part of the Fund's mission to promote the implementation of Universal Basic Income programs, Huff decided to participate in the County's effort to support this vulnerable population.

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Anna Bowen

## Anna Bowen of Almaden initiated into Phi Kappa Phi

Anna Bowen of Almaden Valley has been initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Bowen was initiated at Boise State University.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines.

**Times Classifieds**  
**Work!**  
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**See page 23**

**AlmadenTimes**

Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

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# Valley Currents

cur | rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

## Book review: MINE

**María Zacarías Bernal de Berreyesa owned most of east Almaden Valley in the mid-1800s**

***'She lost ten of eleven beloved men, seven of them violently.'***

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Almaden Valley author Jenny Clendenen has written an interesting book, *MINE*, about María Zacarías Bernal de Berreyesa, who in the mid-1800s owned Rancho San Vicente which occupied most of east Almaden Valley. Maria's land also included the Almaden Quicksilver Mine.

Clendenen said she "met" this remarkable Spanish-Mexican mother of thirteen 143 years after María Zacarías died, and that her story became her passion. "For years before I heard of Zacarías, I had been drawn to the banks of Los Alamitos Creek, noticing oddities and artifacts, and feeling a presence there," she said. "When I found out 'my' land had been hers, and learned who she was and what had happened to her, I knew her story had to be told."

Bernal, born in 1791, was married at fourteen to leatherjacket soldier José de los Reyes Berreyesa. As a mother of thirteen, she lived on Rancho San Vicente, a cattle ranch in the foothills of south San José; her parents lived next door on the vast Rancho Santa Teresa.

The Bernals and Berreyesas were among the many Californios who suffered great losses after the Gold Rush, when those who held land grants were forced to prove their claims, though they did not speak the language of the courts, and their papers were often inaccessible to them.

Like most Californios, Zacarías spent over a decade defending her claim, and ended up losing her land to pay lawyers' fees. But she lost far more than a ranch. She lost ten of eleven beloved men, seven of them violently; the first was murdered by one American "hero" on the orders of another. Because her land held the New Almaden quicksilver mine—increasingly valuable because mercury helped refine gold—her battle over boundaries went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. The case made national news for a year, despite the competing news of the Civil War. President Lincoln even sent men to her land to take over the mine, though they were thwarted by sharpshooting miners.

Zacarías's tragic tale of murder, betrayal, and theft is told through the author's shared experiences of place, most often on the still-wild Rancho San Vicente near her home in Almaden Valley.

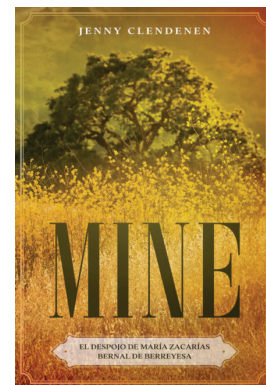
"MINE is a braid of her history, my heart, and our places," said Clendenen. "It's a journey across landscapes uniting two mothers born centuries and cultures apart. I want readers to connect with Zacarías personally, and I want to deepen awareness of our state's Spanish-Mexican roots."

Judge Paul Bernal, the Official Historian of the City of San Jose, and a relation of Maria Zacarias Bernal, said, "Clendenen's masterful skill as a vivid writer brings Maria Zacarias Bernal Berreyesa to life. Not only is the book well-researched and accurate, the work is deeply personal. There is an emphasis

on the natural environment, then and now, which tethers us across generations. Clendenen also achieves this connection with the past by beautifully expressing what was in the heart and soul. "She leaves us with an appreciation that Zacarias is 'us.' It is a must-read for those who cherish Alta California history, and for those who simply enjoy reading poetically beautiful biographical literature."

*MINE* was a finalist in the 2020 San Francisco Writing Contest (creative nonfiction) and the California Historical Society 2014 Book Award Contest. The introduction and excerpts can be read at [www.JennyClendenen.com](http://www.JennyClendenen.com).

"MINE" is available in paperback on Amazon.com.



## Justice Department concerned about how soon churches can resume in-person services

The Justice Department sent a letter last week to California Gov. Gavin Newsom expressing concerns about how soon churches will be allowed to resume in-person services and raising Constitutional issues.

The letter takes issue with state plans to allow the resumption of in-person religious services, which is scheduled to start after manufacturing and office work are allowed to resume.

It also cites a past statement from U.S. Attorney Bill Barr that says, "Government may not impose special restrictions on religious activity that do not also apply to similar nonreligious activity."

Tuesday's letter also says that the state's stay-at-home order "does not appear to treat religious activities and comparable nonreligious activities the same."

A spokesman for Newsom's office said only that it had received the Justice Department letter.

Newsom said that some restrictions on churches, including counseling services and other activities, have been eased, "but for the congregants, that's a few weeks away."



Almaden Valley author Jenny Clendenen

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## OpEd

## Missing lady makes me sad

*(Editor's note: The following true story took place outside of Almaden but within the City limits of San Jose before the coronavirus situation. Makeshift tents continue to be found along many creeks and highways in open view.)*

Is she houseless?

While walking towards a shopping mall I saw her gracefully step over a low chain link fence onto the sidewalk. Her long dark shiny hair tumbled over her strong sturdy shoulders.

I figured out that she came from the forest and asked if she would like a cup of coffee.

As we walked behind the storefronts along the back alleyway she paused and filled up her two empty plastic soda bottles with a water spigot on the wall.

As we arrived she stopped short.

After waiting outside, without making direct eye contact, her bright white teeth revealed a smile as she beamed with joy when I handed to her pancakes, sunshine scrambled eggs, hash browns, extra maple syrup, grilled double sausage patties and hot coffee to go into her outstretched arms.

Days rolled forward and she expressed that I could say hi at her tent so I did while giving her a sandwich and an energy drink from time to time.

She was never drinking, totally sober and in my view was sane as anyone could ever be. She was like a sister and said it was ok for me to hug her if I wanted. I noticed as we hugged she kept a proper respectful distance while tilting her shoulders forward in what seemed to be a mile away.

Once, with a mature woman in the car we invited her up to eat at the Gurdwara. She said she had been there often and would love to go. While driving her in the backseat my tough companion lady friend bluntly asked, "did you kill anyone," to which she softly replied, "No."

After finishing eating, she washed her hair in the bathroom and we got back in the car to go back to her camp. She now had brand new, donated blankets in thick clear plastic zippered casings which were given to her. I could tell by reading her face in the rear view mirror that some private memories of her past which lay deep inside made her sad if she were asked questions too secret and painful to reflect upon.

Without prying I found out from her that she may have had a drug problem, a warrant for her arrest, was afraid to speak with police and she missed a court appointment. With her permission, I got the ball rolling and called the San Jose Homeless Help City paid partners and described specific information on her tent location with the message that she was ready for help.

The old sporting goods tent she lived in was run down and the opening did not close anymore. I noticed a small knife hanging from the entrance on a string. I said, "that might not do too much here's an iron bar to help you along in case of trouble."

In the days ahead she told me that the men did not listen when she yelled "Go Away!" I sensed in her that she did not have the ability to get real mad at people. She was just too kind. I knew she needed to get out and fast.

A week later she said that no one came to help her. That day I did more calling and emailing and explained to the City Services and police that things had gotten worse and she said that men were bothering and harassing her. She was upset for she said they stood outside her tent during the night and just looked at her while she was sleeping. After waiting on the phone for police to pick up I was asked if I wanted the entire area swept.

The next day she said people drove up in their car and spoke of religion and said she needed to get in their car. She stated that long ago she did get in that same car and they left her abandoned on Monterey Highway while getting into an argument. I reported this to proper agencies.

She was gone the next week. All kinds of things were scattered on the ground where she lived.

I did learn from her that she was to go to a court program to detox from drugs but it was far away in another county so she stayed in the area to be near her child. She felt if she didn't leave the area she could see the child by secret appointment from time to time. It was all very sad. Months passed by and I avoided her encampment to not be reminded of her.

One day at dusk I spoke to a hard tanned individual who sleeps under the sun and stars and uses a bicycle as a chariot. I intrepidly asked, "Did you hear anything of her?" The response left me with more questions. It was a riddle. A whispering heavy cigarette smoking voice faintly said, "Haven't seen her but heard her scream one night, might be in a program."

As I walked away I reflected how many believe it is best to just ignore people in need. It can cause pain if one crosses boundaries to care. I reflected the path Saint Mother Teresa took as she loved all with great strength. She saw a lot and found supernatural strength to love.

Homeless women need better services offered in rapid ways. Some say about every four years 5,000 more homeless people choose San Jose. As one group gets help a larger group arrives.

Today as I walk past where her tent was I think of the hunger she faced when she told me without shame, "I mostly live off dumpster food and I'm tired of stealing from the Discount Store."

Perhaps some agency with a warm comfy bed with clean sheets, four walls, a ceiling, TV, square meals and coffee came to rescue the lady in need and led her to a new life. Maybe now she has a pillow.

—Kevin Larsen

Editor's Note: There are many groups that work to help those that are homeless in our San Jose area. Mayor Liccardo and others have instituted partnerships with churches and agencies to battle homelessness. Today we highlight just one such organization and will continue to share information about other groups in related Times Media articles. Currently nonprofit assistance groups are dedicated to helping certain areas. One such group is shown here.

## San Jose moves forward with mandatory face coverings ordinance in revised health order

San Jose City Council and Mayor Sam Liccardo on May 19 have approved drafting an ordinance to discuss on June 2 a possible revision of the health order concerning mandatory use of masks in the fight to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Mayor Liccardo said, "Wearing face masks is an important step to getting people back to work."

The mandatory requirement concerns San Jose law enforcement because it would criminalize residents.

"This is not a good idea to continue to criminalize otherwise law-abiding residents for not wearing a mask," said San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia. "We're continuing to drive a wedge between us and the community by having officers asked to enforce these health orders."

The mandate exempts masks for peo-

ple with medical excuses, exercising, children 6 years old or younger, or anyone who is otherwise unable to wear a face covering without assistance.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis expressed concern about enforcing the new mandate and said he can't support a proposal that would "criminalize" people who aren't wearing masks when walking their dog or picking up a newspaper.

"If I'm on my sidewalk, I don't feel like I should be in violation of the law," Khamis said.

City officials will draft an ordinance and return to the City Council June 2 to discuss implementation of the measure and alignment of it with the county's revised health order.

It is unclear when the new rules will go into effect

## CHAM Deliverance Ministry (their website states the following)

It is stated by this non-profit that, "Silicon Valley has one of the worst homeless problems in the nation. Because of incredibly high rents and very low vacancy, people are becoming homeless who have never been homeless before. We need your help now more than ever to bring necessities to those who are trying to survive life on the streets."

Founded by Pastor Scott Wagers their

CHAM (Community Homelessness Alliance Ministry) serves San Jose to assist those in great need. Often their daily goal is to network with other non-profits to feed a meal to the poor and give out care/hygiene packages and more. Instead of expecting the unhoused to walk to them they go to the homeless encampments in their Mercy-Mobile which you can view on their website. They welcome volunteers and donations and their website is; [www.chamministry.com](http://www.chamministry.com).



Press day: June 10, 2020

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Almaden Times

## Op Ed

# Unmasking the danger of face masks

By James D. Veltmeyer, M.D.

*Special to the Times*

Perhaps one of the most annoying – and wholly unnecessary – government-imposed mandates during the COVID-19 crisis is the increasingly widespread demand that healthy Americans wear face masks.

Of course, just a few months ago, practically everyone in the elite medical establishment – from the Surgeon General to Dr. Fauci as well as the CDC and the World Health Organization were advising against the use of face masks. Now, they have all shifted gears and we are being told that we must use face coverings whenever we leave our homes or enter stores. These mandates are usually being imposed by unelected and unaccountable county health directors without the approval of any elected body of lawmakers.

While many law enforcement jurisdictions are refusing to enforce the mask edicts, some are and innocent individuals are being threat-

ened with fines or jail time. And, what exactly is the science behind all this?

The truth is there is no scientific evidence affirming the value of face coverings in preventing the transmission of viruses. Recent studies have been unable to establish any conclusive relationship between mask/respirator use and protection against influenza infection, according to nationally-recognized neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock. While it's too early to report any studies related to COVID-19, it's unlikely masks would be any more effective against it than against the flu virus. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams himself said in March that: "The data doesn't show that wearing masks in public will help people during the coronavirus pandemic."

Even the CDC in its April 13 directive only recommended the use of masks when it was difficult to maintain social distancing or in areas of significant community-based transmission. Yet, mask mandates are being imposed everywhere, regardless of any social distancing issues and even in small rural counties which have been hardly impacted by the Coronavirus. We now see perfectly healthy young adults and teenagers walking down the streets or going to the park or the beach in masks, inhaling their own Co2 instead of fresh air. Employees of supermarkets and other chains are being forced to wear these masks all day long and are finding themselves unusually fatigued at the end of the work day. Drivers have even wound up in accidents because the masks have made them light-headed. One individual who

crashed his SUV into a pole in Lincoln Park New Jersey on April 23 was reported by police to have fainted due to "insufficient oxygen intake/excessive carbon dioxide intake."

Dr. Blaylock cites recent studies of health care workers using N95 masks indicating increasing episodes of headaches caused by a reduction in blood oxygenation (hypoxia) or an elevation in blood Co2 (hypercapnia). The excessive use of N95 masks can reduce blood oxygenation by as much as 20%, leading to a loss of consciousness. Dr. Fauci's own National Institutes of Health reveal that inhaling high levels of carbon dioxide may be life-threatening. High levels of Co2 are associated with headaches, vertigo, double vision, inability to concentrate, tinnitus, seizures or suffocation due to displacement of air.

And, can the use of face masks actually make you more susceptible to COVID-19? The answer is yes. Dr. Blaylock observes that a drop in oxygen levels is associated with lower immunity. Hypoxia can inhibit the type of main immune cells used to fight viral infections called the CD4+T-lymphocyte. By increasing the level of a compound called hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1), which inhibits T-lymphocytes and stimulates a powerful immune inhibitor cell called the Tregs, face coverings could be setting us all up for contracting COVID-19 and other infections. Masks can also cause people to rebreathe viruses within their own bodies instead of expelling them, thus concentrating them in

the lungs and nasal passages (eventually even traveling to the brain) which can even lead to the deadly "cytokine storm" that we often hear about in COVID-19 victims.

Masks are especially dangerous to cancer victims or those suffering from cardiovascular or cerebrovascular diseases in which low levels of oxygen can promote inflammation that leads to the spread of cancers as well as to heart attacks and strokes.

Isn't it ironic that the very face coverings that the political and medical elites in this nation want us to wear might just make us sicker and more vulnerable to a deadly second wave of the Coronavirus this Fall, just about the time of the presidential election? Of course, no one could be planning something like that. That's just a silly conspiracy theory. Or is it?

For now, let's defend both our health and Fourth Amendment rights to be secure in our "persons, houses, papers, and effects..." That means that government, especially unelected bureaucrats, have no legitimate authority to force you to wear any kind of face covering in public. If the Democrat Party wants to substitute the cloth mask for the jackass as the symbol of its party, that's their business, but don't try to force the rest of us into doing it too.

*Dr. James Veltmeyer is a prominent La Jolla physician voted "Top Doctor" in San Diego County in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019. Dr. Veltmeyer can be reached at [dr.jamesvelt-meyer@yahoo.com](mailto:dr.jamesvelt-meyer@yahoo.com)*



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Times **Community**

## New professional ballet company established for San Jose

San Jose Dance Theatre (SJDT) has established a new ballet company for San Jose.

The announcement of the new ballet company was made SJDT board of directors and artistic director Linda Hurkmans on May 9.

San Jose has been without a professional ballet company for a number of years and there has been a growing need for true leadership in the dance industry and SJDT believes that to sustain a strong arts sector, a new company is needed.

"In these uncertain times for the entire arts sector, SJDT will use all of its resources to support professional dancers, choreographers and the wider industry," Hurkmans said. "I believe the organization's strong team is well positioned to drive a leading professional company."

The new company will be comprised of six professional dancers and six trainees.

The artists will work with internationally renowned and local choreographers to build a leading new ballet company for the Bay Area. The company will perform in San Jose

Dance Theatre's 55th Nutcracker in 2020 and a yet to be announced season of works.

"We have worked very hard to get to this point. We can see so much potential for a leading company in San Jose and I can't wait to work with all the dancers and creators that we have planned in the coming years," Hurkmans said.

Auditions for professional and trainee dancers will be held at SJDT studios on July 19th and all applicants

should apply online by submitting their resume and a video.

To keep up to date with all of the company's developments, or to audition, visit: [sjdt.org](http://sjdt.org) or email [godance@sjdt.org](mailto:godance@sjdt.org) Instagram: @SanJoseDanceTheatre



**Linda Hurkmans,**  
Artistic Director

## Trump approves \$72.9M grant to Santa Clara VTA to cover costs associated with COVID-19 pandemic

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a \$72.9 million grant award to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed by President Donald J. Trump.

VTA will use the grant funds for costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage public transportation service, plus expenses for additional cleaning and personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 public health emergency. See FTA's apportionment tables for the totals

apportioned to each area. (This funding is based on the agency's current request and may not represent the full amount the agency will receive.)

"This historic \$25 billion in grant funding will ensure our nation's public transportation systems can continue to provide services to the millions of Americans who continue to depend on them," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

"We know many of our nation's public transportation systems are facing extraordinary challenges and these funds will go a long way to assisting our transit industry partners in battling COVID-19," said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. "These federal funds will support operating assistance to transit agencies of all sizes providing essential travel and supporting transit workers across the country who are unable to work because of the public health emergency."



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Times **Community News**

## Pavement portal

By Johnny Khamis  
*Special to the Times*

Many of you know that I've not only been the "financial guy" on the City Council, but the "pavement guy," as well, ensuring that \$350 million of the Measure T bond was set aside for street maintenance.

I'm therefore happy to announce that our great team at the Department of Transportation (DOT) has provided a new pavement "story map" on their pavement maintenance website [gis.sanjose-ca.gov/maps/paveprojects](http://gis.sanjose-ca.gov/maps/paveprojects) which contains an overview of paving operations and detailed information on the three-year pavement plan that I shared with you back in December 2019.

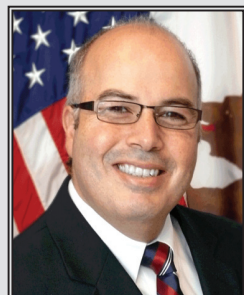
The "2020 Paving" tab allows you to track progress of the current construction season on specific roadway segments. It shows

what segments are scheduled for completion, what is currently underway, and what work has been finished, and can be broken down by Council District. The "Pavement Maintenance 2019-2022" tab provides a general overview map of roads scheduled for restoration through 2022.

This year, a total of 205 miles of streets will be addressed throughout the City, and 17.6 of those miles will be in District 10. By 2028, we will have repaved every road owned and managed by the City, well over 1500 miles of local and major streets. That is the equivalent of repaving a two lane road from here to

Dallas!

We face new challenges managing roadway construction with shelter-in-place impacts, however we have a slate of new pavement contracts we are set to approve at Tuesday's (May 19th) Council meeting. These contracts will commence in July and conclude in October.



### District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember



Photo courtesy of Dustin Geringer

## 4-H: America's largest youth organization goes virtual with color me green 5k walk/run event

Complete your walk/run anytime from now through Sept. 30, 2020

By Dustin Geringer  
*Special to the Times*

The 4-H slogan is "Learn by Doing," and 4-H members and leaders across the State and Nation are definitely living by that slogan today! 4-H is the largest youth development organization which began over 100 years ago.

The consensus when you talk to people about 4-H is that 4-H is focused around agriculture. However, 4-H clubs are about so much more than just agriculture and animals, as the clubs serve youth in rural, urban and suburban communities in every state across the nation.

4-H club members tackle some of the nation's top issues from global food security, climate change and sustainable energy to healthy living and food safety. 4-H youth and leaders have had to quickly understand the

impact and respond to support our communities during challenges due to the impact of COVID-19.

Santa Clara County 4-H youth are keeping busy with moving their events and including online Virtual resources. On the Santa Clara County 4-H website you can find activities to keep kids engaged and learning at home with STEM Fun and Education; Virtual Fieldtrips; Agriculture and Gardening; Health and Nutrition and so much more at: [www.cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth\\_Development/Covid-19\\_and\\_4-H\\_Participation\\_663](http://www.cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development/Covid-19_and_4-H_Participation_663).

### Virtual 5K event

During the past few years, "Color Me Green 5K Run/Walk" has been held regularly, starting as a state-wide event to provide youth and community members a learning opportunity for improving their health through a fun event. Due to COVID-19,

*See 5K WALK/RUN, page 14*



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## Congratulations, Bret Harte 2020 Grads!

**C**ongratulations to the Bret Harte Class of 2020. You have truly demonstrated resilience and determination during this challenging time. We know that great adventures and great successes are ahead for each of you!

**With pride today and always, Bret Harte Middle School Administration and Staff**

Congratulations on completing middle school, a significant milestone on your educational journey! While we can't honor your achievement in person, I hope you pause to reflect on your successes. From learning your ABC's to what it means to study, kick a ball, speak up for yourself or be a good friend, you have hundreds of accomplishments to be proud of. I wish you all the best in your transition to high school and look forward to seeing all that you achieve, both in high school and beyond. **—Kimberly Meek, Trustee, San Jose Unified Board of Education**

The Bret Harte Community Club would like to extend our Congratulations to the Bret Harte 2020 Graduates! You've all worked hard to achieve your goals even during this pandemic. Now you're on your way to high school to seek new opportunities, embark on who you are and embrace life with passion towards your goals. Go for it and best wishes to you all for high school! **—Yael Kharman & Shallu Bhalla, BHCC Co-presidents 2019-2020**

Congratulations to the graduates of Bret Harte Middle School! By now you have realized that you cannot plan for everything life throws at you, and yet all of you have had to learn and exhibit two key skills from this experience: adaptability and perseverance. These are critical skills that will serve you well as you proceed into high school and beyond. I should know, I'll have to adapt and persevere in my life without my City Council staff!

Success in whatever you do in life will come down to your ability to overcome unforeseen obstacles. Just as you had no choice but to adjust your learning and social lives to protect your health, you will realize again that the only direction in life is to move forward. To move forward, you will need to be creative and find other solutions to surprise challenges. The road may be long, but the reward for those who persevere is great.

My own life path has taught me this lesson, especially these past 8 years as I have served and supported our district schools as your councilmember. It will be my honor to find new ways to continue to do so as a private citizen.

**—Johnny Khamis, San Jose Councilmember, District 10**

Congratulations to the Bret Harte Class of 2020! In these difficult times you give us hope for a bright future. I wish you success and fulfillment in high school and beyond! **—Matt Mahan, San Jose Council-elect, District 10**

Congratulations Bret Harte Class of 2020! A special congratulations to the graduates who received Project Cornerstone awards over the past three years. Thank you for being student leaders and excellent examples of our school's character assets: Cooperation, Helping Others, Good Judgment, Reliability, Respectfulness, Honesty, Responsibility, Caring, and Commitment to Excellence. You are role models and help to build Bret Harte into the great community that it is! **—Michelle Etter, BHCC Project Cornerstone Chair**

Congratulations to the Bret Harte Class of 2020, new beginning, new chapter, new endeavors. Wish you good luck as you step ahead towards your dreams. Keep the courage as you face new challenges in life. **—Lopa Shah, BHCC Promotion Dance Co-Chair**

We would like to congratulate and acknowledge the Bret Harte Class of 2020. It has been difficult during these times of uncertainty, we hope you take all the lessons learned from your teachers and life itself and continue on to a higher education at whichever high school you choose. We are proud of your accomplishments, your abilities to acclimate to change, and your perseverance for the future. CONGRATULATIONS! **—Gina Morkal, BHCC Promotion**

Every generation has to cope with threats large and small, and COVID-19 was breathtaking in its suddenness and immediacy. I'm so proud of you and your community for toughing out an astonishing turn of events and not losing sight of your goals, despite a very rough learning environment. Don't ever let your problems define you or your generation; let it be the things you learned, the friends you made, and the stories you tell. **—Lisa Stapleton, A Former BH Graduate**

Congratulations, Bret Harte Broncos. Remember to always be brave, be strong, be hopeful, and be kind. **—Uyenthy Nguyen, BHCC Promotion Chair**

**#AlmadenStrong! #BHClassOf2020 #2020NeverForget #GoBroncos**

Times **Community News**



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Leland High School graduates from last year's class of 2019.

## **Hundreds of petitions calling for schools to host in-person graduations later this year**

### *Leland High School petition signed by 750 people*

**M**ore than 500 petitions from across the country have been started by students and parents, whose dreams of walking the stage, or watching their child wearing a cap and gown at a commencement ceremony, have been dashed by the coronavirus crisis.

The alternative of holding virtual commencements via video conferencing software, like Zoom, has been met by strong pushback, with a movement of more than 550,000 signers demanding an opportunity to have the event in-person at a later stage, when restrictions on gatherings have been lifted and students and their families can do so safely.

"The biggest trend on Change.org right now is being led by hundreds of students, urging high school and colleges to reschedule or post-

pone graduations canceled by COVID-19," said Michael Jones, Managing Director of Campaigns. "There are petitions from almost every state, signed by thousands of students who don't want their senior years to disappear without some kind of recognition."

Schools throughout the nation have been forced to rethink the tradition, which would bring hundreds or even thousands of people close together, in a time when social distancing and shelter-in-place orders have been issued to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

#### **Leland High School**

In California, 53 petitions have been started by local students and parents calling on their schools to host in-person graduations later in the year when it is safe, including Leland High School which was started by Lale Yurtseven. The Leland petition, which has been signed by more than 750 people, can be viewed at: <http://chn.org/8CRJTcZB>

## **5K Walk/Run**

*Continued from page 11*

the event has been moved to a "Virtual Color Me Green 5K/1K Run/Walk" while observing the social-distancing guidelines and still focusing on staying healthy.

Participants will select where they will walk/run and time themselves. They can complete their walk/run anytime from now through September 30, 2020. Registration is now open at: [www.ucanr.edu/cmg5k2020](http://www.ucanr.edu/cmg5k2020). T-shirts and color packets will start shipping out in August and you can receive a 20 percent discount with SportsBasement. Don't forget to share your picture with the organization at: [cmg5ksc@gmail.com](mailto:cmg5ksc@gmail.com) or Facebook @4HColorMeGreenSantaClara.

So, join the fun by lacing up those shoes, keep a minimum of six feet and run the "Color Me Green." (All proceeds raised will fund scholarships awarded to senior 4-H members planning to pursue higher education).

4-H clubs, out-of-school programming, in-school enrichment programs and camps also offer a wide variety of projects from agriculture and animal science to STEM, arts and crafts, cooking, photography, clothing, rocketry, robotics and computer science, citizenship, leadership and public speaking (to name a few). To learn more about 4-H or clubs near you, including program offerings and fees, visit our website at [www.cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth\\_Development](http://www.cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development) and Social Media and @SCC4H.

Times **Community News**

# Redeeming summer 2020 with family-focused schooling

**Denise Boiko**

*Special to the Times*

**I**t was the worst of times; it was the best of times." This reversal of Charles Dickens' memorable words expresses the mixed feelings we're experiencing during our shelter-in-place season. Quite frankly, though, we're not yet resonating with the "best of times" sentiment. COVID-19 has spawned health concerns, economic concerns, and for families with kids, educational concerns.

Suddenly, all parents have become homeschoolers, with zero time to strategize. Concerns escalate: "How will my young one learn to read?" "How can my teen prepare for college?"

Educationally speaking, how do we turn the "worst of times" into the "best of times"?

Having homeschooled both of my kids from K-12, and having seen them graduate from Stanford and USC, I'd like to offer helpful perspectives during this time of uncertainty. Each month, I will focus on a specific educational challenge that families face, whether pandemic-related or not. And I'll provide tips and resources to help families address these challenges.

Here are ideas for redeeming Summer 2020 educationally, drawing closer as a family, and perhaps even enjoying "the best of times."

## Take a deep breath. Relax

In our hyper-success-oriented Silicon Valley, we fear that a few months away from formal schooling will ruin our kids. It won't. If approached correctly, this "hiccup" in their educational experience can be a time of more intentional learning, sparking that elusive but longed-for "love of learning."

## Make it a read-aloud summer

If you do nothing else, take advantage of this #1 learning activity, guaranteed to enhance your kids' reading, writing, and thinking skills. Aim to read together every evening (maybe outside on a blanket), and read at breakfast on weekends. Set an ambitious end-of-summer goal and let your kids take turns choosing books. Also supply your kids with lots of books to read on their own. (For reluctant readers, a small monetary incentive is not out of the question.)

## Extend the fun with projects

Don't stop with reading—brainstorm some creative projects. Cook a meal with foods mentioned in the book. Improvise costumes and prepare skits or monologues from selected scenes. Create a scrapbook

that a character might have kept.

## Become a backyard scientist

Though we're sheltered in place, our yards are chock-full of wonders. Encourage kids to gather, play with, and study rocks, leaves, bark, feathers, and other goodies. Then investigate them! Search up details on the treasures they have found. Have older kids help younger ones discover one or two facts about each item—and share these at dinner time. Older kids can stay sharp by accessing advanced science videos such as those on Bozeman Science (<http://www.bozeman-science.com>).

## Live some history

We're living through a momentous historical event. It's a good time to talk about other serious situations in our nation and world. How might children and teens have felt during WWI, WWII, or racial segregation and the civil rights movement? Do some journaling. Have older students read primary source documents such as letters and journals written during key eras.

## Walk and talk

Summer evenings are perfect for telling long tales. Share your family history, including those funny or touching stories. Start a joke contest as you walk. Take turns adding to an original story, one sentence at a time.

## Establish a game night

How about every night? Board games create laughs, make memories, and enhance math skills for little ones.

## Try a deep-dive project

Have each child choose one fascinating topic and then dive deeply into learning about it. For little ones, you may need to order a few age-appropriate books, since the libraries are closed. Older students can seek out specialized websites, articles, and videos. Then everyone creates projects to present to the family at the end of the summer. A child who loves frogs could look up coloration, habitat, and

behavior, view photos and videos, write a creative story or article, and create colorful artwork.

We sincerely hope that school routines will return to normal sooner rather than later. Until then, instead of being resigned to making the best of a bad situation, we can seek to make it the best of times—a time of creative learning and family closeness.

*Denise Boiko is the author of Homeschooled & Headed for College: Your Road Map for a Successful Journey, available at [Home-schoolRoadMap.com](http://Home-schoolRoadMap.com) and on Amazon.com.*



## DANCE DUO

**Jake Mcauley and A.T. Chau**, known as the contemporary dance duo Jake & Chau from San Jose competed with their qualifier dance performance on Tuesday, May 26th on NBC's "World of Dance," and have advanced to the "The Dual Round" competition. Jake & Chau, who have been sheltering in place at home, were the first contestants to walk through the door on this season's show. Chau, 20, an alumna of Monte Vista High School in Danville, danced most recently at NorCal Dance Arts in San Jose, while Mcauley, 18, who was homeschooled, was a lifelong dancer at Elite Studio of Dance in his hometown of Elk Grove. The pair met in high school when their studios were competitors at regional dance conventions.

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• Galarza—1610 Bird Ave  
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• Lincoln—555 Dana Ave  
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## Sikh religion honors 'True Trade'

# Members of Sikh religion organize 'Free Food Drive-Thru'

*Feeding the hungry is a key tenant in Sikhism as taught by our founder*

**By Kirpal Atwal**

*Special to the Times*

*Member of the San Jose Gurdwara*

Perhaps the best gift we can receive is the joy of giving to others who are in need.

On Sunday, May 17 our San Jose Gurdwara once again connected with all in our valley to touch lives of many. Honoring people with no human to human contact was tough to figure out. We overcame all barriers by preparing complementary bags of healthy food to give to those who drove up in their cars. Our founder of our Sikh Religion taught us well by his actions. It is our way.

Members of our Sikh religion organized a

"Free Food Drive-Thru" as our way of implementing our new Coronavirus Relief Initiative. We advertised that "We know how difficult it can be during these times of the global pandemic and we are here to help. The Sikh community of San Jose has come together to organize a drive through food give-away for anyone who is in need of help.



Just simply drive onto the Gurdwara car park on the date and time below and volunteers will be glad to assist you." We appreciated how Dave Cortese and Sylvia Arenas got the word out, along with many others in our little community.

The mist of the morning hit the windshields of all who drove up to see us and these droplets on the glass were not unlike tears of joy.

The air was special. It had a distinct cleanliness as one breathed deep. Our Priest with his joyful nature was with us and blessed the Gurdwara and those who arrived to it. This is why Evergreen is so special.

As darker clouds rolled in, they provided private vails of helping each and every person who came to visit knowing that we, the American Sikhs are always here at the Gurdwara to be of help to anyone, any day, any time. Privacy is given to anyone in need or to those wrestling with life's problems. It is our way.

For some time now we have honored Mayor Sam Liccardo and others to not allow the general public to visit the Gurdwara. Since we first opened our doors we have served free complementary food in our Langar (kitchen) 365 days of the year. Having food available offers a comfort of mind to all. We knew we had to strive to find a way to get nourishing food to those in need.

As cars began to pull up we held a prayer before serving. God is with us all and we feel it as we learn more from our Holy book. God helps us and influences our ways in how we live our lives as American Sikhs. It is our way.

We had many conversations as to how this new food delivery system would work. We had to devise a touchless method of once again connecting with all in our Evergreen community. Everything was helped by those who volunteer and donate to make such concepts materialize. As the day came to a close we privately served about 50 cars and felt great joy in our hearts to give to those who might be experiencing challenges during this time. Everyone faces challenges in their lives. We felt content to honor one of our important tenants in our religion of honoring those in need.

Below is a kind handout we placed in each care bag of nutritious food. We want to do this more often in our community. It is a part of "True Trade," taught to us by our founder of Sikhism. It is our way.

**Guru Nanak Feeding the Hungry**

Guru Nanak (1469-1539) was founder of



the Sikh faith. He preached the message that there is one God, creator of the whole humanity and everything else in this nature. Being created by the same God we are all equal and whether we are rich or poor, black or brown or white is all a part of God's great design. We should treat everyone with respect irrespective of the religion, race, gender or place of birth or any other difference by birth. We should see the light of the same God in everyone.

Among the values he taught, the foremost were a truthful living, compassion for everyone in nature, contentment and controlling our five vices of lust, anger, greed, infatuation and vane pride. He travelled widely and held discourses with people of different faiths.

The Sikh langar (meal) tradition, where everyone is served complementary food celebrates the values of compassion and equality taught by him. When he was growing up, his father gave him some money to go to a neighboring city and make a profitable trade (business). On the way he met a group of hungry saintly people. He used the money to serve the food to them. Upon return, when his angry father asked as to what he had done with the money, Nanak replied "Father, I have done a true trade." Langar continues the True trade. In Gurdwaras (Places of worship for Sikhs) all over the world, everyone is welcome to share a simple but nutritious vegetarian meal. Everyone sits at the same level to emphasize equality.

At the time of this Covid-19 pandemic, Gurdwaras all over the world are providing complementary meals or groceries to hundreds of thousands of people who need help. The food drive by Sikh Gurdwara San Jose is a small step in the spirit of Guru Nanak's True Trade.

*Editor's note: There is a new documentary titled "Guru Nanak: The Founder of Sikhism" which is shown on KQED plus (KTEH PBS channel). Also one can learn more about this great visionary teacher by searching the web.*

*To learn more about the San Jose Gurdwara, visit: [sanjosegurdwara.org](http://sanjosegurdwara.org).*

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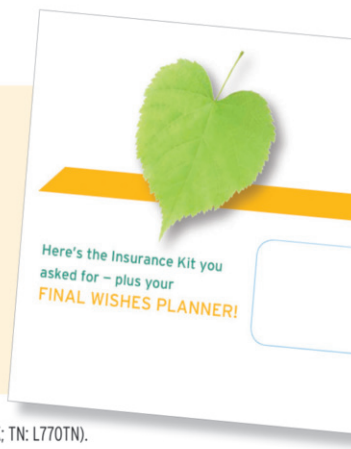
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Times **Community News****Khamis**

*Continued from page 1*  
obligation bonds, which often exceed \$50 million, for things like city-owned golf courses and championed refinancing large city debts.

Khamis is a fierce backer of trimming wasteful government spending and focusing taxpayer dollars on core services, such as paving roads and hiring more police officers. But Khamis also brought the fun during his eight years on the City Council, starting a Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Almaden Lake Park and recently — while in quarantine — hosting an online cooking class to show off his Lebanese recipe for baba ganoush.

He's also known for sharp style, including sporting hats from Diaz Menswear, and more recently, a Star Trek coronavirus mask his wife made.

The Almaden Valley councilman leaves behind a legacy that includes fighting for government transparency and environmental justice. Khamis preserved Sycamore Grove, a property along Guadalupe River Trail, from development, pushed to connect the trail around Almaden Lake and made strides to connect Los Alamitos Trail with Guadalupe River Trail and downtown.

Khamis regularly explains his voting record in a bi-weekly newsletter and YouTube Channel — Johnny Khamis on the Record — and hosts a webinar to help residents navigate the COVID-19 crisis and shelter-in-place orders.

"I think it's my duty as a councilmember to make sure we have a well-informed electorate," Khamis said during an interview at his Almaden Valley home. "People who are well informed always want better government, and that's my whole goal."

When he felt conflicted on controversial votes, Khamis said he turned to public opinion on issues. In addition to speaking at community meetings, Khamis held neighborhood chats at the library and coffee shops to meet with residents.

"I wanted people to know I was there to represent them...to fight for them," he said.

And in an increasingly divisive political climate, Khamis wasn't afraid of taking some unpopular positions. Still, he often found himself in Mayor Sam Liccardo's majority, a reliable vote for business leaders.

"We live in a cynical age, when many doubt whether their elected leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to principle and a sincere dedication to serving their community," Liccardo said. "Johnny consistently has done both, and does so with refreshing candor. I appreciate his willingness to stand up and express views that weren't always embraced by his colleagues but gave voice to many residents."

But that doesn't mean he won't break rank — when he thinks it's right.

Khamis has cast some difficult votes, including supporting projects opposed by residents such as tiny homes for homeless residents. He also opposed the mayor on tax measures,



San Jose Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** is pictured at his Almaden Valley home, donning his handmade Star Trek mask.  
*Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

such as the 2018 Measure V for low-income housing and the 2016 Measure B, a quarter-cent sales tax hike for public safety and street repairs.

"It's tough to vote against the mayor," Khamis said. "But if people are not allowed to say their opinions, what good is democracy? Why shouldn't a conservative opinion be out there, especially when it comes to fiscal responsibility?"

Although he's enjoyed his time on the council, Khamis said he's missed out on father-son time, especially with his oldest son, Constantine. "It was tough," he said. "I feel sad about missing some of my son's musical events. Before I got this job, I went on bicycle rides every weekend with him."

But this isn't the end of the road for Khamis. He told San José Spotlight that he's eyeing a run for the Board of Supervisors.

"The county can use fiscal leadership and better results for the tax dollars we spend," Khamis said.

And as he hands the job over to tech entrepreneur Matt Mahan, who won the open seat in the March primary, Khamis advises his successor to serve constituents by staying connected and listening.

Both men don't think every problem can be solved with a new tax. Neither will back taxes that go into the General Fund, rather than what they're intended for. That's why Mahan didn't support this year's Measure E, a voter-approved real property tax measure for affordable housing.

"You have to grow the economic pie, not keep raising taxes on a community that is affluent on paper, because their home values have gone up, but do not feel affluent day-to-day because their costs are incredibly high relative to their income," he said.

Like Khamis, Mahan said residents have a lack of trust in government and don't understand where their taxes go. He started a bi-weekly newsletter to rebuild trust through communication.

"The dialogue with the community and feeling like you can make a difference in people's lives is the part I'm looking forward to," he said.

For Khamis, saying goodbye to San Jose City Hall is bittersweet.

"If I'm no longer involved in public life," Khamis said, "I will have really enjoyed the eight years the voters have given me."

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## Times Feature

### Perennials for an easy-care vegetable garden

Anyone can keep a vegetable garden. Perennials are a quick way to create a nice easy-care vegetable garden. Lots of fun to do, and you'll be harvesting and enjoying it for years to come.

#### Without the stress

The big advantage of perennials is that they come back year after year. Just plant them once, and you'll be enjoying them for years. In other words: vegetable gardening without the stress! Good examples of these vegetable garden plants include: strawberry (*Fragaria*), artichoke (*Cynara scolymus*) and rhubarb (*Rheum rhabarbarum*). Many herbs such as chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), calamint (*Cala-mintha nepeta*),

rosemary (*Rosmarinus*) and thyme (*Thymus*) are also perennials.

#### Cutting garden

If you love flowers, the vegetable garden is a perfect place to grow them. Perennial herbs are real must-haves since most of them produce beautiful edible flowers. What about the flowers you can pick from musk mallow (*Malva moschata*), sage (*Salvia microphylla*) and hyssop (*Agastache*)? These flowers also attract bees, butterflies and other insects, so they benefit biodiversity.

#### A square meter garden

Vegetable gardening can be done anywhere - even in a small garden or on a balcony or roof garden. Working with a square meter garden is a useful method; because it's so well organized, it's easy to care for. Vegetable gardening can also be done in wooden boxes or a collection of pots and plant containers. Just be sure that excess rainwater can drain off

through small holes in the bottom.

#### Easy seasonings from your veggie patch

Every perennial plant you grow in your veggie patch has its own use in the kitchen. Soup takes on a delightful flavor with the addition of lovage (*Levisticum*), and many recipes call for fennel (*Foeniculum*) in fish dishes. Culinary sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a welcome ingredient in salads. Are you a fan of mint tea? Then plant some mint (*Mentha*) so you can always have fresh mint at your fingertips.

#### Tips

- For a stunning effect, plant some eye-catching edibles such as artichokes among the ornamental plants in your border.

Discover more perennials at [www.perennialpower.eu](http://www.perennialpower.eu)



Cynara scolymus (left) and malva moschata.

# Ways to Make Hearty Meals at Home with Pantry Staples

#### FAMILY FEATURES

Stocking up on pantry essentials is a productive practice, especially as people across the country spend more time at home. However, having all those ingredients on-hand doesn't do as much good if you aren't sure how to use them or feel as if you're constantly whipping up the same dishes.

For example, canned protein is a popular pantry item as it cuts down on prep time and holds a long shelf life while adding important nutrients to family meals. Canned seafood, in particular, is a versatile choice that can be used in a variety of easy recipes or simply eaten on its own.

An option like Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna in Water, which is 99% fat free and a good source of protein and heart-healthy omega-3s, makes for an easy and versatile addition to dishes like pasta. A 5-ounce can contains 24 grams of high-quality protein, making it a nourishing source of energy while helping to easily satisfy hunger.

Try adding some modern flair to the table with this Mediterranean Tuna Pasta, perfect for a family of four and ready in just 20 minutes. Virtually any canned seafood can be used from salmon to tuna in place of more traditional proteins used in this pasta and many other dishes.

If your family prefers to stick to tradition, Mom's Favorite Tuna Noodle Casserole provides a warm, hearty meal with a hint of nostalgia while gathering loved ones around the dinner table.

Ingredients in these recipes can be easily substituted for similar options you may already have on hand, such as another dried pasta in place of penne or carrots in lieu of peas.

Find more filling family recipes at [chickenofthesea.com](http://chickenofthesea.com).



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Mediterranean Tuna Pasta

#### Mom's Favorite Tuna Noodle Casserole

Total time: 40 minutes

Servings: 6-7

- 2 cans (10 3/4 ounces each) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups frozen peas
- 2 cans (12 ounces each) Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna in Water, drained
- 4 cups medium egg noodles, cooked
- 4 tablespoons dry breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Heat oven to 400 F.

In bowl, stir soup and milk until smooth.

In 3-quart casserole dish, combine peas, tuna and noodles with soup mixture.

Bake 30 minutes, or until warm and bubbling; remove from oven and stir.

In bowl, mix breadcrumbs with melted butter; sprinkle over tuna mixture.

Bake 5 minutes, or until golden brown.

**Substitution:** Use any frozen vegetable in place of frozen peas.

#### Mediterranean Tuna Pasta

Total time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 package (16 ounces) penne pasta
- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano
- 1 medium zucchini, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 2 tablespoons sliced ripe olives
- 1 can (5 ounces) Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna in Water, drained
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions.

In large skillet, bring chickpeas, tomatoes, zucchini, olives and tuna to boil; stir constantly.

Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes.

Spoon mixture over cooked pasta. Top with Parmesan cheese.

**Substitution:** Use any canned seafood such as salmon in place of canned tuna.



Mom's Favorite Tuna Noodle Casserole

## Photographer transports viewers around the world with beautiful fine art imagery

International photographer Phillip Silverstein transports viewers around the world without leaving their living room with his fine art imagery.

With the pent up feeling that plagues the minds of citizens everywhere due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are all itching for a sense of travel and wanderlust. More than 50 countries and counting, Silverstein captures the beauty, essence, and marvel of nature in its purest form with a single shutter click.

Through his lens, you will experience his journey as if it were your own. Silverstein works closely with tourism boards and businesses when he travels, helping locals gain a sense of appreciation of their own city by showcasing his unique vision.

Highlighting the beauty of remote and exotic destinations as well as portraying familiar cityscapes in a refreshing light, Silverstein has made a significant mark in the Los Angeles photography scene, capturing many breathtaking images of the Venice Canals, Hollywood Sign, Santa Monica Pier, and Downtown LA. Scaling a 60-story building and sitting on the edge of the roof or hanging out of the side of an open-doored helicopter to capture an image are a few of the extreme measures Silverstein has done to deliver unique perspectives.

His most recent showing titled "Global Citizen" in LA featured some of his first works as an artist amongst recent trips and productions. "F A C A D E S," an image of the side of the Hollywood Sign at golden hour, captured via helicopter, was displayed next to a Blacks Beach sunbather and a stunning palm tree-lined sunset image over DTLA. The preview featured 16 works from Chile, Japan, Dubai, Paris, Hong Kong, Thailand, New York, and California. So far in 2020, Silverstein visited Egypt, Israel, Istanbul, Australia, Germany, Switzerland and Spain, adding the Matterhorn and Pyramids to his collection. His trip was cut short due to COVID, leaving Spain for the States the following day after the announcement of the travel ban.

His remaining travel plans for 2020 are to return to Japan in the fall for the Maple Leaf Season and visit Southern Africa, shooting the Namib Desert and Bilbao trees of Madagascar. His fine art collection moves you from one side of the world to the other in an instant and helps you to see the world as Phillip does, in a positively optimistic light. "Life is beautiful, and if you are looking to experience beautiful moments with an open mind and heart, they will appear for you," he said to visitors at the exhibit. His works tell tales of beauty amongst the madness, showcasing stunning sunsets and city scenes, capturing



captivating moments that people from all over can relate to.

"I am constantly trying to learn more about ways to better my craft, open my mind, or find new locations to shoot. My work gives me something to look forward to every day and unlocks the world in ways I could have never imagined, connecting a kid from small town South Carolina to amazing people and opening doors to unforgettable places. My curious eye and broad vision help me see and capture unique angles most photographers miss. I hope my photos inspire people to get out of their comfort zone and try something that they wouldn't normally do otherwise. When I was an athlete, I would have never thought I could be a photographer, until the day I picked up a camera," said Silverstein.

"My artwork is a testament to being able to do anything you put your mind to, and the positive outcomes of following your passion. Pursuing your purpose is the most important thing in life and many of us have lost the desire to find out what that is, letting our careers define us. Finding our purpose can only be done by experiencing what life has to offer and listening deep within to what we connect most with. These images are the evidence and result of my journey to do so."

Phillips' ultimate goal is to open galleries all over the world, partnering with local artists and using proceeds to give back to each community by working with nonprofits and building art and photography youth programs. Phillip currently donates 10% of artwork sales proceeds to various nonprofits and NGOs.

He currently is exploring an exclusive series curated by Natalie Brady. Her artists from around the globe will join forces with Phillip by using his images of their hometowns and introducing their art onto them creating one



of a kind works. He is also working on installations throughout Los Angeles, introducing the sunshine and beach shots to industrial areas bringing light into the city.

Exquisite imagery portrayed in high-end finishings make a quick getaway to light up any home or office. Phillip's works are showcased on his website [phillipsilverstein.com/art](http://phillipsilverstein.com/art) and [instagram.com/pgsilver](https://www.instagram.com/pgsilver).

For all artwork inquiries, please email [Natalie@phoenixjamesarthaus.com](mailto:Natalie@phoenixjamesarthaus.com) and for PR inquiries please contact Kat at [kathfleisch@gmail.com](mailto:kathfleisch@gmail.com).

### More about Philip Silverstein

Originally from South Carolina, Phillip moved to Los Angeles to pursue his passion of chasing sunsets and telling stories through photography. With a portfolio of coastal Cal-

ifornia and international images, he has captured the attention of collectors and has been commissioned by and partners with high end luxury corporations. Phillip was an NCAA athlete and went on to play football in Milan, Italy which ended up sparking his love for world travel. After Milan, Phillip moved to San Diego where he worked as a financial advisor before picking up a camera and retiring the suit and tie to pursue his new creative passion. Silverstein has a BA in Communications from Furman University in Greenville SC, a Series 7 Investment License, and is a part 107 Certified FAA Remote Pilot. He shoots commercially for high end brands, celebrities, and works with businesses all over the world on all things content and marketing.



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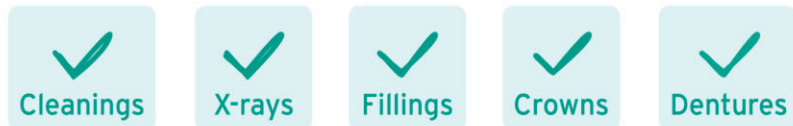
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Times **Community News**

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# Report: States with the fewest Coronavirus restrictions

With most states partially reopened after closing down non-essential businesses earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub released updated rankings for the States with the Fewest Coronavirus Restrictions, as well as accompanying videos.

To identify which states have the fewest coronavirus restrictions, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 11 key metrics. The data set ranges from whether child-care programs and restaurants have reopened to the presence or absence of a “shelter-in-place” order. Below, you can see highlights from the report.

## Coronavirus Restrictions in California (1=Fewest, 25=Avg.):

- 16th – Requirement to Wear a Face Mask in Public
- 31st – Reopening of Child-Care Programs
- 10th – Travel Restrictions
- 44th – Large Gatherings Restrictions
- 30th – “Shelter in Place” Order
- 20th – Reopening of Non-Essential Businesses

## States with the fewest COVID-19 restrictions

Overall Rank	State	Total Score
1	South Dakota	86.74
2	Wisconsin	73.95
3	Idaho	71.16
4	Missouri	69.07
5	Utah	68.84
6	Wyoming	68.72
7	Montana	66.98
8	Arizona	59.77
9	North Dakota	59.54
10	Iowa	58.37
11	Alabama	57.44
12	Texas	57.21
13	Tennessee	53.95

Overall Rank	State	Total Score
14	Arkansas	53.02
14	West Virginia	53.02
16	Indiana	52.56
17	Alaska	52.09
17	Florida	52.09
19	South Carolina	51.74
20	Nebraska	50.93
21	Kansas	49.30
22	Mississippi	47.21
23	Oklahoma	44.42
24	Oregon	42.33
25	Pennsylvania	42.09
26	Minnesota	39.77
27	Nevada	38.37
28	Georgia	37.67
29	Louisiana	35.58
30	Maryland	31.86
31	Colorado	30.70
32	California	29.54
33	Virginia	29.07
34	Maine	27.44
35	New Hampshire	26.28
36	Kentucky	26.05
36	North Carolina	26.05
38	Ohio	24.19
39	Delaware	20.47
39	New Jersey	20.47
41	Connecticut	20.00
41	Michigan	20.00
41	New York	20.00
44	New Mexico	16.28
44	Washington	16.28
46	Hawaii	16.05
47	Vermont	15.81
48	Massachusetts	15.58
49	District of Columbia	14.88
50	Rhode Island	11.63
51	Illinois	11.16

• For the full report, please visit: [wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-fewest-coronavirus-restrictions/73818](http://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-fewest-coronavirus-restrictions/73818)

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# Coping with Stress During COVID-19



- ✓ TAKE BREAKS
- ✓ FOCUS ON YOUR HOBBIES
- ✓ EXERCISE REGULARLY
- ✓ CALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY
- ✓ GET PLENTY OF SLEEP
- ✓ CHOOSE HEALTHY FOODS



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24/7 Suicide and Crisis Hotline: (855) 278-4204  
Crisis Text Line: Text RENEW to 741741

Times **Community News**

# Judge orders full signature recount for San Jose ballot measure

By Nadia Lopez

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Labor leaders announced the revival of a contentious union-backed initiative to shift mayoral elections to presidential years last week, after a judge ruled in favor of a full recount of nearly 100,000 signatures to determine if it qualifies for the Nov. 2020 ballot.

The order was issued on Friday, just weeks after Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey sued the city over dozens of mistakes she admitted making during the signature counting process, calling for the judge to reverse her initial decision and allow for the recount.

“The court holds the Registrar is permitted, and indeed obligated, to accurately ascertain the number of valid signatures...including by correcting errors and issuing a new, corrected certification,” the legal document said.

The mistakes Bushey and her office committed, according to legal documents, included the “failure to locate voter records,” misidentifying a registered voter’s address, incorrectly concluding a voter registered after signing the petition and “erroneously” reviewing and reading voter records.

“In some instances the Registrar and her staff

did not locate a voter record because their database search returned numerous hits and they did not attempt to locate the record in the results; in other instances, the record simply was not located despite seeming efforts to narrow it down,” the lawsuit said.

The Registrar estimates the recount would take approximately 1,142 days to conduct, but the judge ordered the recount be completed within 45 days. To meet that June 23 deadline, county officials said they need at least 25 employees working ten hour shifts — costing a whopping \$1 million.

The pricey \$1 million reversal now falls on the city’s shoulders, at a time when city leaders face a bleak economic forecast in the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The court has considered and rejects (San Jose City Clerk Toni) Taber’s request that the county pay for a portion of the staffing costs required to conduct a full recount,” the lawsuit said.

San Jose officials could not immediately be reached for comment Monday.

The decision is a win for labor leaders who say the measure — dubbed the Fair Elections Initiative — will put a cap on money in politics and encourage higher voter turnout. But the fight isn’t over, as proponents of the initiative claim Taber lost more than 3,000 signatures — even before county officials admitted to making errors.

“Toni Taber has some explaining to do,” said Ben Field, executive director of the South Bay Labor Council. “The disappearance of the signatures of 3,000 voters on her watch makes it



Labor leaders turned in signatures to qualify the Fair Elections Initiative for the November ballot. Photo courtesy of South Bay Labor Council.

much less likely that our measure will qualify for the ballot. If the measure does not get on the ballot because of those missing signatures, it’s an affront to democracy.”

Now, they’re demanding Taber provide the signatures. If she can’t, they said the City Council should vote to place the measure on the ballot.

But the council already voted on the measure last year, rejecting placing it on the ballot in a split 6-5 vote, favoring Mayor Sam Liccardo and his business-friendly coalition who opposed it.

If Taber can’t come up with the signatures, the council refuses to put it on the ballot or the signature recount shows it failed to meet the 95 percent threshold, Field said labor leaders won’t have “any other alternative” but to take legal action against the city.

“Unless the city can find those 3,000 missing

signatures, the only remedy is for the San Jose City Council to put the Fair Elections Initiative on the ballot,” he added. “If the City Council won’t do the right thing...then the community coalition won’t have any other alternative but to take the city to court for the loss of the signatures.”

In order to qualify for the November ballot, the measure’s backers needed to collect at least 65,573 valid signatures. Labor leaders reported submitting about 97,000 total signatures to Taber, but the county said it had only received 94,202 from Taber. In a random sample, the Registrar of Voters reviewed 2,826 signatures from the pool of names and concluded 1,183 were invalid — falling short of the required 95 percent benchmark required by state election law to qualify for the ballot.

The ordeal has infuriated labor and business leaders alike, where the region’s top business lobby, the Silicon Valley Organization, which opposes the measure, went so far to claim a legal stake in the case. The ballot’s proponents say it will remove special interest money from elections by prohibiting certain donations from lobbyists, but business leaders argue the ballot initiative doesn’t hold the labor community to the same standard.

While the judge denied the SVO’s involvement, the business lobby’s legal argument was granted “amici curiae” status, which means the information still stands up in court and can be used in the case.

The SVO could not immediately be reached for comment.

Contact Nadia Lopez at [nadia@sanjosespotlight.com](mailto:nadia@sanjosespotlight.com) or follow @n\_lopez on Twitter.



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Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to  
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Rab Ik Hai

### SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.  
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word Sikh (see-kh) means  
"disciple" or "student." A  
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faith founded in the 15th  
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or "enlightener" completes  
the relationship of teach-  
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is monotheistic and  
stresses the equality of all  
men and women. Sikhs  
believe in three basic prin-  
ciples; meditating on the  
name of God (praying),  
earning a living by honest  
means and sharing the  
fruits of one's labor with  
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dren's liturgy, dynamic

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St. Francis of Assisi Gath-  
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Sunday 9:00 AM, Sun-  
day 11:00AM, Igbo Mass -  
Second Sunday of the  
month 12:30 PM

Mt. Hamilton Grange -  
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Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

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Almaden Valley  
(Senior) Singles

The organization that brings single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and take part in community service.

Come and join us for our monthly breakfast which is held at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Cup and Saucer, Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375 Blossom Hill Road.



Fluorescent lights save energy, but contain mercury which is a toxic pollutant. When it's time to replace the bulbs, dispose of used fluorescents properly to prevent polluted runoff into our creeks and Bay.

To find a convenient and FREE bulb drop-off location near you, call (408) 299-7300 or visit [www.HHW.org](http://www.HHW.org)



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**Therese Swan**

408.656.8240 | tswan@tswan.com | DRE 01355719  
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