

Longtime San Jose resident Thomas Roy Harney passed away peacefully on Feb. 29
SEE PAGE 8



Assaults reported
ESUHSD investigates two alleged high school sexting networks
SEE PAGE 4

Evergreen Valley High School teacher found dead in downtown Guadalupe River
SEE PAGE 11



JULY 3 - JULY 16, 2020 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 14

Evergreen Times

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Village Square Branch Library in Evergreen

San Jose libraries face \$1 million budget cut

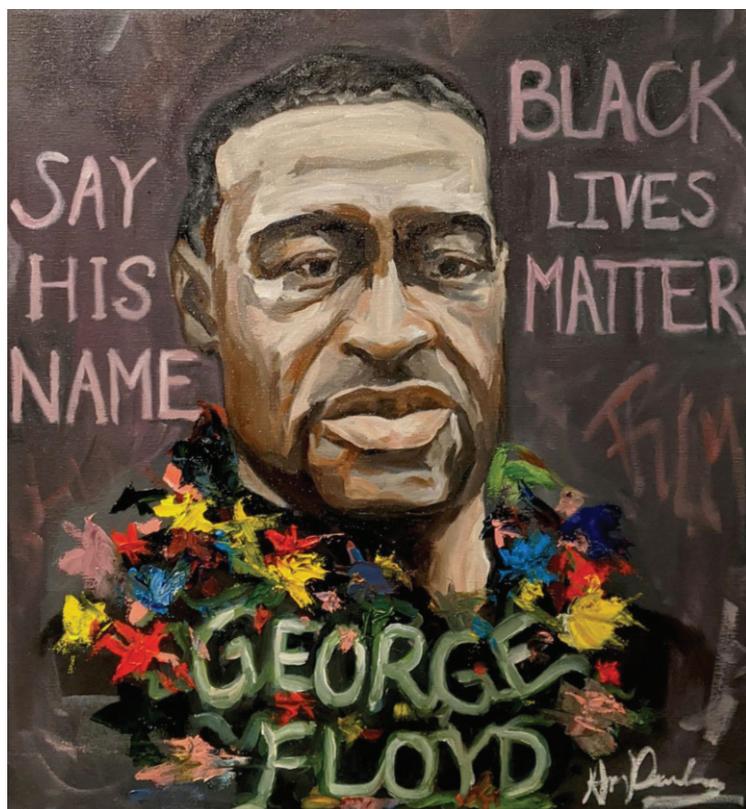
By Carina Woudenberg
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The San Jose Public Library will lose more than \$1 million in the upcoming budget year, leading to reduced hours and the elimination of dozens of full and part-time positions.

The move came in response to the city's request to scale back on expenses due to the budget shortfall dealt by the coronavirus
See LIBRARIES, page 14



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Apoorva Panidapu is an Evergreen Valley teen artist who is currently supporting the Black Lives Matter movement by painting this portrait of George Floyd to raise awareness in the community and to encourage people to continue to advocate and speak out about the injustice that plagues the black community. She has raised more than \$1,400 for BLM-related non-profits through the sale of her artwork.

Evergreen Valley teen Apoorva Panidapu paints portrait of George Floyd to raise awareness

\$1400 raised for organizations including Black Visions Collective
By William Bellou
Publisher

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal."



Apoorva Panidapu

That time is now. We cannot be silent. Black lives matter!

Evergreen Valley teen artist, Apoorva Panidapu, is currently supporting the Black Lives Matter movement through the creation of her artwork. She is the founder of Apoorva Panidapu's Art Gallery, an online platform to share her artwork and raise funds for charity.

Apoorva recently painted a portrait of George Floyd to raise awareness in the community and to encourage people to continue to advocate and speak out about the injustice that plagues the black community.

In just a few weeks, Apoorva raised more than \$1,400 through the sale of her paintings for

See PORTRAIT, page 7

Activists petition to remove police officers from East Side Union High School District

By Katie Lauer

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

A movement to remove police officers from schools is underway in East San Jose.

Families of East Side Union High School District are calling on officials to terminate agreements with police for school resource officers and outside law enforcement on campuses. As of Monday, June 22 a Change.org petition, created under a profile called "East Side Union High School District Police Out of East Side Schools" (www.change.org/p/east-side-union-high-school-district-police-out-of-east-side-schools) has gathered more than 2,100 signatures.

According to the petition, recent actions by the San Jose Police Department during student-led demonstrations against police brutality, including officers shooting rubber bullets and tear gas at peaceful protesters, highlighted the need for change.

"Due to ongoing police violence nationwide and in light of recent local events that have demonstrated law enforcement's disregard



San Jose Police Officers stand outside of City Hall May 30, on the second day of George Floyd protests.
Photo by Katie Lauer.

for the safety of our East San Jose youth, it has become clear that the presence of police in our students' learning environment is inherently unsafe," the petition states. "Eliminating police

presence is a necessary safety measure and an important step in eliminating the school to prison pipeline, but more work is required to
See POLICE, page 2

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Times **Community News****Police***Continued from page 1*

create a safe and equitable educational experience for our students.”

Rosa De León, Californians for Justice organizing director for the campaign, said policing in schools – especially of students of color – has been an issue in East Side since at least 2004, when she graduated from Overfelt High School.

Now sixteen years later, De León said this work to remove officers is an effort to uplift voices, values and concerns of young Black leaders, including the negative societal effects of policing youth.

“We know that having police on campus does not support learning,” De León said. “Our students feel targeted, and we know that when you have direct contact with police, they’re more likely to drop out and oftentimes not even get their rights respected.”

A 2011 report from the Justice Policy Institute said the presence of Student Resources Officers – who are sworn members of the police department – can lead to youth’s rights being ignored, including harassment and use of force, especially for minority students.

The presence of police officers increased on campuses after the 1999 Columbine shooting, but according to

Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute, there’s no evidence showing the expansion created safer schools.

“In fact, the data really shows otherwise – that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for,” Schindler told NPR in 2018.

A coalition of East Side teachers, classified staff, students and alumni have already coalesced to discuss divesting funds from SJP, especially as school funds are already scarce due to Proposition 13, which slashed the rate of property tax revenues flowing into schools, as well as budget cuts due to coronavirus.

If the district approves terminating agreements with the San Jose Police Department, those dollars could be put into mental health services, school counselors and restorative justice intervention practices, according to Peter Ortiz, a Santa Clara County Board of Education trustee.

The petition will be presented to the school board and superintendent during its meeting Thursday, Ortiz said, asking for a vote on the issue during the following meeting, Aug. 20.

In addition to removing officers from schools, the petition asks ESUHS to prohibit staff from calling law enforcement for issues including disruptive behavior, fighting without deadly weapons, possession of controlled substances not intended for distribution and perceived drunkenness or intoxication.

Families are also asking that investments be made in non-punitive efforts, including implementation of school safety plans, trauma-informed practices, conflict resolution, peer mediation and de-escalation techniques.

Even when police are called, the petition requests that the school must be notified prior to entering school property, while parents and guardians must be notified of police interactions with students. No authorization will be required for incidents not related to the school.

According to a memo from Superintendent Chris Funk, data from the most recent school year show that “the numbers do not justify the need to have regular officers on campus to provide the needed approach to safety.”

During the 2019-20 school year, 31 citations and five arrests were made across the district’s 30 schools. The arrests and citations were for incidents on campus, other than one citation due to an event on the way home from school.

But policing looks different between schools across the large district, according to Jessica Gutierrez, an art teacher at James Lick High School.

Some officers are stationed at schools, some come in a few times a week and some patrol between schools. While Funk’s memo addressed arrest rates, none of that data reflects how many students were marked truant or earned suspensions from school officers, which can also lead to the school to prison pipeline and negative outcomes.

Funk’s memo did not mention the costs of the police agreements, sparking concern as school districts face budget cuts that began even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We want to use that money that was part of those (police) contracts to invest in student resources,” Gutierrez said. “At my school, the kids have to fundraise to even pay for buses to go to their sports games because we don’t have money for it. They just don’t have the resources to fundraise for our students, so the kids are having to sell chocolate bars.”

Contact Katie Lauer at katie@sanjos-espotlight.com or follow @katielauer on Twitter.

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Board approves Cortese's proposal to declare racism a public health crisis

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on June 23 unanimously approved a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis, a proposal that Supervisor Dave Cortese introduced to focus County attention on prevailing systemic and institutional racism.

The Board also unanimously approved a resolution initiated by Board President Cindy Chavez to support Black Lives Matter and its mission to pursue justice and equality.

The approval of Cortese's resolution proposal, which was co-sponsored by Supervisor Chavez, came after comments from a half-dozen speakers in support of the resolution. Even before the resolution was considered by the Board, more than 400 residents and 20 organizations signed online support cards.

"A resolution is only as good as the actions that follow it," said Supervisor Cortese. "The first step is stating the problem and then moving forward. We will need the commitment of all our departments and the community to carry out what has been stated in the resolution."

Supervisor Dave Cortese's resolution declares that racism is a public health crisis and recommends that the County:

- Incorporate educational efforts to address and dismantle racism, and expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health.
- Promote community engagement, actively engaging citizens on issues of racism, and provides tools to engage actively and authentically with communities of color.
- Commit to review all portions of codified ordinances with a racial equity lens.
- Commit to conduct all human resources, vendor selection and

See *CORTESE*, page 9

Valley Currents

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

East Side Union High School District investigates alleged sexting networks at two high schools

By Judy Ly

Special to the Times

A group of Evergreen Valley High School (EVHS) boys allegedly ran a group chat strictly to share other high school girls' nudes, without their permission.

Revelations about the incident were revealed by recent EVHS graduate Sarah Morales.

There was a growing Twitter thread of sexual assault survivors stating the age of when they were assaulted. This inspired Morales to tweet out the previously mentioned group chat.

"Let's not forget when EVHS group of boys had a 'Pokémon' group chat to exchange girls' nudes as 'cards,'" alleged Morales.

In response to Morales' tweet, peers came forward to Morales about their first-hand experiences with that group chat.

Emily Le, another EVHS graduate, tweeted that she witnessed one of the alleged boys having more than 200 photos and videos on his phone.

"[I] wish I spoke up but I was scared of getting those girls in trouble since most of them were minors," she tweeted. "I'm hesitant of speaking out because I, too, was involved

and am afraid of retaliation."

For safety reasons, Morales shared other first-hand accounts anonymously. She listed the names of the boys allegedly involved followed by boys who allegedly sexually assaulted other girls.

A few of those boys made public apologies. Others reached out to Morales asking her to have their name taken down, claiming there was no tangible evidence.

Morales pointed out that argument is common when it comes to sexual harassment and assault stories. "A lot of the times, that's

See *SEXTING*, page 6

LETTERS

Leaders demand apology from Chu

Dear Editor,

As Asian American leaders in Santa Clara County, we are outraged by racist remarks made by California State Assemblymember Kansen Chu in a June 11, 2020 World Journal article. We demand a public explanation and apology from Assemblymember Kansen Chu.

Assemblymember Kansen Chu spoke to the World Journal, a Chinese language newspaper, regarding Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5, a bill that would

initiate a ballot initiative to officially repeal Proposition 209, California's ban on affirmative action.

In the article, printed in Chinese, Chu shared that when he was a school board member, many Hispanic American parents explicitly stated that they did not care about their children's education, they are busy with their livelihoods, and they did not intend to let their children attend college.

Chu went on to share that according to his analysis, many Hispanic and African ethnic groups are unable to compete or have the ability to continue their studies due to unresolved structural economic and educational problems.

Furthermore, Chu said that

there are many young generation Chinese Americans in favor of ACA 5, which means that they don't understand the bill.

"Many of us have worked for decades to fight racism and support our brothers and sisters of color," said former Congressman Mike Honda. "Unfortunately, Assemblymember Kansen Chu's statements in the media set our movement back, just when we should be advancing equity for black and brown people and listening to our younger generations."

"While many of us have worked with Kansen Chu for years, we must speak out when a fellow Asian American leader makes derogatory remarks about mem-

bers of our diverse community," stated Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, Fremont Union High School District trustee. "Although Chu's recent statements were made in reference to ACA 5, his comments are disturbing regardless of anyone's position on affirmative action."

"2020 may be the year for Kansen Chu to retire from elected office," noted former Assemblymember Paul Fong. "I hope Chu spends more time truly listening to the hopes, dreams, and struggles residents of color face before making sweeping and inaccurate generalizations."

Paul Fong

Professor, Evergreen Valley College

LETTERS

Delta Road gets attention

Dear Editor,

After several years of frustration over the deteriorating asphalt on heavily traveled Delta Road it has finally been resurfaced. I had voiced my frustration to Councilwoman Arenas' office on numerous occasions. Now, I would like to offer my THANKS to her and the City of San Jose for getting this issue taken care of! I also need to offer a shout out to Mr. Patrick McGarrity, Councilwoman Arenas' Chief of Staff for the communication and follow-through he provided regarding this situation.

Mark Milioto

Evergreen



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Times **Community News**

Sexting

Continued from page 4 why the stories are discredited, it's because there's no evidence," she said.

In this case, the evidence of the group chat lay in the hands of the perpetrators.

This reporter reached out to four boys allegedly involved in the group chat. None of them responded to any requests to comment.

In an email, Chris Funk, Superintendent of the East Side Union High School district, stated the district has been notified of the situation.

"The district has retained an outside, independent investigator to review and look into the information and allegations," he wrote.

The investigation is also expanding into William C. Overfelt (WCO) High School, another school in the district, as more allegations came up in response to the Twitter thread.

Survivors from WCO spoke up about similar experiences, in regards to harassment and sexual assault from their peers.

Sohanny Sandoval, a recent WCO graduate, knew of a group chat of boys who allegedly talked about her in a sexual sense, referring to her body.

"They would take pictures of my butt in



leggings," Sandoval said. "There's this one guy who specifically [would] harass me in class."

For Vanessa Rosales, another recent WCO graduate, videos of her were allegedly shared in Overfelt's football team group chat. Because students are speaking up about similar experiences, she hopes it enacts a cultural change among peer dynamics.

"It's not just a football team, it's other people like even just people not in sports who are doing this type of stuff," Rosales said. "This has happened even before we went to high school."

Alongside other students, Rosales and Sandoval have reached out to WCO faculty. They are in discussions on how WCO High School is going to formally address these situations.

Superintendent Funk stated that no district faculty will "be providing interviews during the investigation."

After the investigation, Morales hopes that schools can address the root of these cultural norms of how girls and boys are treated.

"We're continuing the cycle of preparing the victims to be victims instead of actually addressing the aggressors," she continued, "who are the actual problem."

In the meanwhile, a group of WCO and

EVHS students started an Instagram page @seesmtsaysmt in hopes of starting a safe space for peers to learn about sexual harassment and assault related topics.

Editor's note: If you or someone you know have experienced sexual assault and need help, please call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 for any support needed.



Antique Autos in History Park 2020 cancelled

History San Jose has made a decision to cancel this year's Antique Autos in History Park 2020 due to the Coronavirus. All events have been cancelled this year, but organizers are optimistic about 2021 when the popular auto show event may resume.



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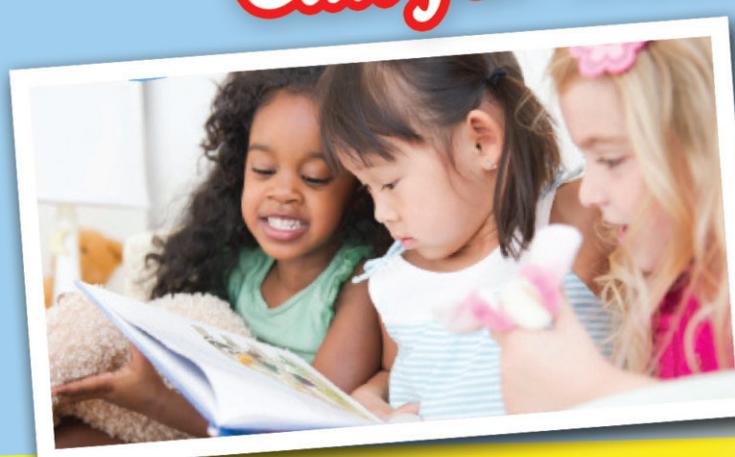
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Times **Community News****Community leaders call for Assemblyman Kansen Chu to resign for 'racist' remarks**

The California State Assembly voted on Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) Number 5, which would ask voters to decide in November whether Proposition 209, the state's ban on affirmative action, should be repealed.

The Assembly passed the measure by a narrow margin, with a notable abstention from South Bay legislator Kansen Chu.

Chu's statements made the following day on June 11 to the World Journal, a Chinese language newspaper, about his ACA 5 vote and his feelings about Prop 209 were of concern to many leaders.

Chu alleged statements referred to addressing systemic inequality as "entrance tickets," and claimed that "many Hispanic American parents explicitly stated that they did not care about their children's education, they are busy with their livelihoods, and they did not intend to let their children attend college." He went on to say that "many Hispanic and African ethnic groups are unable to compete or have the ability to

continue their studies due to unresolved structural economic and educational problems."

Víctor Garza, Chairman of La Raza Roundtable de California has called for Assemblymember Chu to be removed from office, "I have been involved in the education arena in San Jose, California for over 50 years," Garza said. "I have yet to hear one Hispanic or Latino parent state that they don't want their children to be educated. Education is our freedom and freedom should be everybody's business. Assemblyman Chu should be removed from the Assembly and any other Board, Commission, and or Committee where his participation

impacts women and people of color."

Blanca Alvarado, the first Latina elected to San Jose City Council and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the first Latina to serve as the board's chairperson expressed her disappointment with Chu's comments. "I am offended that Kansen Chu believes, as stated in a newspaper article, that Latino parents do not care about their children's education or attending college," Alvarado said. "His publicly stated comments reflect ignorance and cultural bias. Such baseless and divisive beliefs only serve to perpetuate negative stereotypes that have to be denounced by society at all levels."

Chu, who is currently running against former Mayor of Sunnyvale Otto Lee to replace Dave Cortese on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, said, "Not only did the reporter insert his own opinion, but the "translated version in English did not accurately reflect what was written in Chinese, which discussed the long-standing systemic racism in our country in addition to the need to make college more affordable to achieve true equality. I unequivocally deny saying that Latinos do not value education," he said. "I did say that there are systemic barriers for Latinos and African American students."

Portrait

Continued from page 1

important organizations: Black Visions Collective, the Gianna George Floyd Fund, the Bay Area Bail Fund, the Loveland foundation, and other non-profits.

Apoorva is continuing to use her platform to advocate for and donate to the Black Lives Matter movement. She is selling newly-finished artwork with the promise that 100 percent of proceeds will go to the above mentioned organizations and charities of the clients' choosing (approved) charity to benefit the Black Lives Matter movement.

She will also be taking commissions for small artworks (such as sketched portraits for \$20, character portraits, small paintings like 8 inch by 12 inch or 12 x 12 for \$50, etc.); details can be discussed by emailing apoorvaartgallery@gmail.com.

Individuals purchasing paintings may specify their favorite organization. You can donate and email apoorvaartgallery@gmail.com with proof of your donation, or you can direct your donation to Apoorva Art Gallery (through PayPal or Venmo), and a receipt with a proof of the specific organization receiving the donation will be provided. For orders outside of the Bay Area, additional funds are required for shipping. There are some time constraints for artwork production and orders will be processed on a first in, first served basis.

More details are available at <https://www.apoorvaartgallery.com/blacklivesmatter>.

Apoorva and her sister, Anoohya, will also be donating the proceeds from their summer tutoring sessions to the Black Lives Matter movement, bail funds to support protestors and other important relevant funds.

Editor's note: To learn more, <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co> is a website with lots of information about how you can support the movement: including petitions to sign, places to donate, and resources to educate yourself.

Happy Independence Day!

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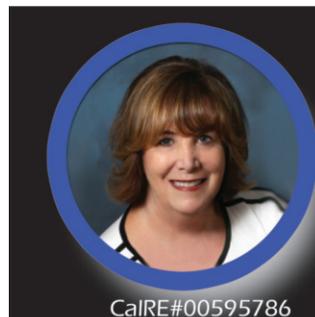
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In Memoriam

Thomas Roy Harney

JULY 17, 1929 – FEBRUARY 29, 2020

Longtime San Jose resident Thomas Roy Harney passed away peacefully at his home in the Villages Golf and Country Club in Evergreen on February 29 after a short illness. He was 90 years old.

Born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, on July 17, 1929, he lived in nearby Wagner, along with his older sister, June, and parents Roy and Charlotte Lillian Harney.

Thomas Harney was a product of the Shaker Heights, Ohio, school system, where the family later settled. He played football and pole vaulted on the track team there, and then graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory School in South Orange, New Jersey, in 1948 where he also played football.

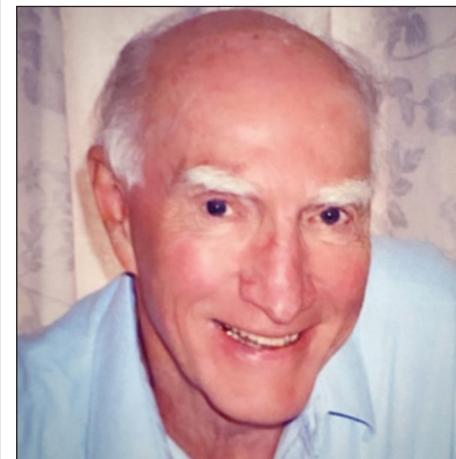
Shortly after graduation, his family moved to California, where Thomas attended San Jose State University (then known as San Jose State College), where he received a B.A. in Business Administration in 1952. After graduation, he served as Captain in the Air Force Reserve for two years. He later returned to the university and earned an M.A. in School Administration in 1964. As an undergraduate, he had met his future wife Carol (Pace) Harney, but they only began dating when they both returned in 1958 for their teaching credentials.

On August 16, 1958, Thomas and Carol were married and became parents of three daughters.

Thomas began his teaching career at South Tahoe High School, where he also coached the junior varsity football team and the varsity track team. He later served as Vice Principal at Riverbank High school in Riverbank, CA, and continued his teaching career in the Bay Area's San Mateo Union High School District. Primarily an English teacher, he also taught math and driver education. Among his most satisfying achievements, he said, was developing an English literature course devoted solely to California authors such as Jack London and John Steinbeck.

While teaching full time, Thomas earned his J.D. from the University of San Francisco School Of Law in 1981. He was a member of the State Bar Associations in California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Colorado, and Washington, D.C. After retiring from teaching, Thomas worked as a real estate broker and would later practice law in Denver.

He and his family moved around the state, living in San Jose, Lake Tahoe, San Mateo, and Modesto, before settling in Foster City in 1969 for nearly 20 years, where Thomas and Carol raised their three girls. As empty nesters, they longed to return to the Santa Clara Valley and moved to San Jose in the late 1980s, though they lived briefly in Denver and Palm Desert, CA, be-



fore returning to San Jose permanently in 2002.

After Carol passed away in 2003, Thomas continued to live and thrive in his beloved Valley of Heart's Delight in San Jose.

Among his many interests, Thomas had a lifelong devotion to education and spent the last decade philanthropically, donating scholarships to middle and high schools locally and around the state, as well as supporting local and national charities. He was active in his community, acting in local dramas, serving as lector at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in San Jose, and contributing articles to community newspapers, including the *Evergreen Times* and *The Villager*.

Thomas had a natural flair for storytelling, always injecting his well-timed humorous anecdotes, especially at family gatherings. He held strong opinions on politics and current events, and was an avid editorial letter writer and community activist. He also had an incurable soft spot for animals and their welfare.

In addition, Thomas was a lifelong athlete and continued to compete in Senior Olympic events into his 80s, including the pole vault, high jump, and swimming.

Thomas was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he was a loyal friend to many. His kind and passionate spirit will be missed.

Thomas is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Harney (and son-in-law Bruce Cabral), Katherine Houghtby (son-in-law Michael Houghtby preceded him in death in 2011), Patricia Harding (and son-in-law Barry Harding), and six grandchildren: Julia, Elise, and Will Cabral; Julian and Conrad Houghtby; and Ian Harding. Carol, his wife of 45 years, his sister, and parents preceded him in death.

A private burial was held at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose. A memorial mass will be celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi once shelter-in-place restrictions have been lifted.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association or the American Lung Association in honor of Thomas Harney.

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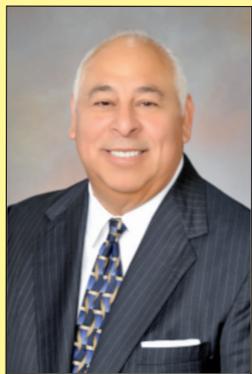
Continued from page 4

grant management activities with a racial equity lens including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotions, leadership appointments and funding.

- Promote racially equitable economic and workforce development practices.
- Promote and encourage all policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experience and trauma in childhood.
- Train all elected officials and staff on workplace biases and how to mitigate them.
- Partner and build alliances with local organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism.
- Support local, state and federal initiatives that advance social justice and combat racism.
- Encourage community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and to activate the above items.
- Secure adequate resources and funding to successfully accomplish the above activities.

Organizations supporting the resolution include NAACP Silicon Valley/San Jose, Roots Community Center Clinic, Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet, Working Partnerships USA, Youth Hype, La Raza Roundtable of California, and the American Muslim Voice Foundation.

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3300 Quimby Rd., San Jose, CA 95148

Location: Bus Loading Zone in Student Parking Lot

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

Independence High School

617 N. Jackson Ave., San Jose, CA 95133

Location: Bus Loop by the Stadium

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

James Lick High School

57 N. White Rd., San Jose, CA 95127

Location: Drop Off/Pick up Drive Through at the Flag Pole

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

Mt. Pleasant High School

1750 S. White Rd., San Jose, CA 95127

Location: Front Parking lot off White Road

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

Oak Grove High School

285 Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose, CA 95123

Location: Student Parking Lot Near the Oak Grove

Sign off Eagles Lane

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

Silver Creek High School

3434 Silver Creek Rd., San Jose, CA 95121

Location: Staff Parking Lot

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

Wm. C. Overfelt High School

1835 Cunningham Ave., San Jose, CA 95122

Location: In Front of Apollo (Bermuda entrance)

Serving Time: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

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Times **Community News**

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LOOK MA, I'M SWIMMING!

Grebe chicks (10-days-old) swimming and acting like big birds with their mother at the Villages Golf and Country Club. *Photo by Lou Alexander.*



Below: While many were admiring the cute chicks, a hungry Green Heron swooped down and picked up a tasty frog! *Photo by Frank Langben.*



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Times **Community News**

Volunteers for Community Seva cook a nutritious meal.

SERVING OTHERS*Feeding the hungry and helping the unhoused***Community Seva nonprofit reaches further out**

By **Nathan Ganeshan**
*Founder & President of
 Community Seva Inc.*

Community Seva's mission is to "Feed the Hungry & Serve the Homeless."

Since 2013, Community Seva Inc. has served over 150,000 meals, distributed over 7,000 backpacks filled with winter essentials, delivered 6,000 hygiene kits, and given over 1,000 showers to the homeless population in the Bay Area.

During the 12 weeks since the COVID-19 pandemic began alone, our organization has served more than 12,000 healthy, nutritious, and freshly-cooked meals to the people living in 7 different shelters, 5 encampments, and even to individuals who have been forced to live in their cars or RVs. The challenges faced by the homeless community are growing, but we believe that "Together we can, and we are, making a difference!"

The homelessness problem is increasing dramatically now that many more people are losing their jobs, and hundreds have been recently forced out of their homes and onto the street. These are people who are the same as you or I. Community Seva Inc., is a non-profit organization I started with others and we are based in the Evergreen area of San Jose. Together with the entire community we aim to alleviate some of the struggles that these individuals face.

Community Seva helps with the little things for those who face challenges

"I just wanted to say thank you again for the portable charger. I need to keep my phone charged in case my kids need me... You really have no idea how much this helps me out," says Angel, as a Community Seva Inc. volunteer gives her a mobile solar charger to keep at a homeless encampment.

To most of us, a dying phone battery is a minor inconvenience with an easy solu-

tion- we can just plug it in at home and go about our day. That simple act is an impossibility for nearly ten thousand unhoused individuals living in the Bay Area.

The number of difficulties that they face every day is nearly impossible to comprehend and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these issues. With no access to news media or health guidelines, many unhoused people weren't even aware of the pandemic for a long time.

Already lacking proper healthcare, nutrition, water and fresh food, the pandemic has exponentially worsened the lack of access to sanitation (toilets) too. Beyond the direct risk of infection, which is already much higher for unhoused individuals, they have no shelter to 'shelter-in-place', and are left with no ability to even maintain basic hygiene.

Our organization, Community Seva has launched a new set of initiatives to respond to the recent needs of the homeless community. As members of the homeless community have lost access to places where they could charge their phones due to the shelter-in-place order, we worked with others to raise funds to purchase and distribute solar power chargers which gave unsheltered individuals the ability to call 911, use flashlights and thus better protect themselves. Further, Community Seva Inc. began our new program to help women in these difficult times.

We packed and delivered female care hygiene kits to the nearly 3,600 vulnerable homeless women living in the Bay Area. Together with volunteers and joining with other nonprofits, we entered homeless encampments in an effort to clean up living spaces, threw out trash and distributed food, hygiene kits, backpacks with essentials such as blankets, towels, beanies, socks, rain ponchos and more. Our Community Seva TEAM also continues

See COMMUNITY SEVA, page 15

Beloved EVHS teacher found dead in Guadalupe River

A body found in the Guadalupe River north of downtown San Jose has been identified by the coroner as that of Evergreen Valley High School Teacher Richard Johnson.

Johnson, 38, was discovered in the Guadalupe River north of downtown San Jose south of Hedding Street and Ruff Drive around 12:10 p.m. Friday, June 26. San Jose police said the coroner's office was called to the scene and took over the investigation.



Richard Johnson
 Photo courtesy EVHS

Mr. Johnson was EVHS's physics teacher and track coach. He recently told family members he missed home and was moving back to Louisiana where he had just started a job as an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana.

EVHS faculty and students were in shock hearing the news about Johnson's death. A memoriam has been set up on the EVHS website with an outpouring of sympathy from more

than a hundred students.

Nathan Le wrote: "Dr. Johnson was an amazing person; he coached me for cross country and made a big impact on my life. He was a kind person and we made many fun memories in cross."

Among hundreds of comments, one student wrote on the EVHS website, "Dr. Johnson, I have had the opportunity to work with & experience how great of a person you were. As our advisor, coming into freshmen year, we

had no idea what to do, but with your unconditional support, you made our experience that much better. You were compassionate, outgoing, and always willing to help others. My heart is heavy hearing this news, amongst the unrest of the rest of the world, but I know that your spirit will shine throughout EV, especially the incoming senior class. My condolences to the family, he will be greatly missed."

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Times **Community**

EDUCATION

Santa Clara County officials announce guidelines to safely reopen schools

Santa Clara County officials announced Tuesday afternoon, June 30 new guidelines to safely reopen local public and private schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

While no exact date was provided for reopening, the date will depend on the containment of the virus in the coming weeks.

The new guidelines were developed by the Santa Clara Public Health Department and the County Office of Education and it focuses on in-class instruction, school arrival and departure, bus transportation, face coverings, hand-washing, school cleaning, food service and extracurricular activities among other topics.

"Schools and other institutions in our community can operate safely if they carefully follow all recommended public health practices," County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said, "and they must move forward with their preparations now to ensure they have all the measures in place."

The 23 pages of guidelines acknowledge things will need to

work differently for kindergarten students than they will for high schoolers.

Elementary school students

The rules for younger elementary school students will focus more on establishing stable cohorts of students that don't intermix, since there is a greater need for in-person instruction and it's harder to enforce social distancing.

Middle school students

For middle school and high school students, there will be a bigger emphasis on wearing face coverings, keeping physical distance and may utilize more online learning.

The guidelines provided vary according to age group, but overall, the prevention measures focus on the following:

- Minimizing the number of people who come into contact with each other.
- Maximizing physical distance between people.
- Reducing the time people spend in close proximity to others.
- Measures to minimize the dispersion of droplets and aerosols.



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* Sites will continue to be open for lunch on holidays including Caesar Chavez Day (March 30) and Spring Break (April 10-17).

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HOLLY OAK
2995 Rossmore Way
San Jose, CA 95148

NORWOOD
3241 Remington Way
San Jose, CA 95148

O.B. WHALEY
2655 Alvin Ave.
San Jose, CA 95121

In effort to protect social distancing, simply walk or drive up to the front of the school for service. A typical lunch will include an entrée, fruit or fruit juice, vegetable, whole grain snack and milk. A vegetarian choice will not always be guaranteed. Entrees will be served cold for families to heat in the convenience of their own home. Please do not attend if anyone in your party is sick or having any respiratory symptoms. For more information, please call Child Nutrition Services at (408) 223-4500.



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Times **Community News**

Valley Water Board of Directors approve next step in fixing Anderson Dam

By **John L. Varela**
Director, SCVWD

Valley Water has many critical projects in various stages of development, including flood protection projects, infrastructure improvements and work to protect our environment.

But our top priority remains an effort to retrofit and strengthen Anderson Dam,

home to Santa Clara County's largest reservoir, so it can safely withstand a strong earthquake.

Recently, our Board of Directors took a step toward achieving this goal by approving the preliminary project description to empty Anderson Reservoir beginning Oct. 1 to the lowest practicable level possible. Draining the reservoir is the first in a series of activities aimed at seismically retrofitting Anderson Dam to modern-day safety levels.

Our project team is also preparing to begin construction of a larger low-level outlet tunnel in early 2021 which will allow us to better manage the reservoir level, and as a result minimize the risk to public safety. We anticipate construction will begin in early 2021 and last 18 to 24 months.

Once the outlet tunnel is built, Valley Water will begin work on retrofitting the dam itself. That project is currently estimated to begin in 2024 and will last about seven years.

Our efforts to drain the reservoir and expeditiously build an outlet tunnel is in response to directives Valley Water received on Feb. 20 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency that has oversight of Anderson Dam. FERC also directed Valley Water to maintain Anderson Reservoir at about 35 percent of capacity until we begin to empty it this fall and continue to work swiftly to design and secure the necessary permits for the seismic retrofit.

Valley Water has complied with all the directives since receiving the order from FERC, and we remain on target to comply with all the requirements.

Valley Water will drain Anderson Reservoir in a safe manner, doing this gradually so as not to harm the creek channel, our water supply, or the environment. Valley Water plans to put the water currently in Anderson Reservoir to beneficial use by sending usable water to our three drinking water treatment plants and recharging the groundwater basins.



Water District

John L. Varela,
Director, District 1
SCVWD

Other measures that will be taking place as we build the low-level outlet include downstream flood protection mitigation on Coyote Creek. We want the creek to be able to handle greater flows from the reservoir once the larger outlet tunnel is complete.

We remain optimistic that a bill mak-

ing its way through the State Legislature will soon pass and make changes in law that will help facilitate the expedited and expert construction of Anderson Dam. The Expedited Dam Safety for Silicon Valley Act, a bill sponsored by Valley Water and authored by Assembly Member Robert Rivas (D-Hollister), was recently passed by the State Assembly with unanimous, bipartisan support. The bill is headed to the California Senate for further consideration.

One question that I've heard on multiple occasions is why is it taking so long to fix Anderson?

Since Valley Water first began efforts to strengthen the dam in 2012, the scope of the project has significantly expanded. Valley Water learned in 2016 that the dam itself needed a greater retrofit than originally thought, and the project doubled in size. In 2017, the state Division of Safety and Dams changed the design criteria for spillways, which required the

existing spillway at Anderson be completely replaced as opposed to repaired.

Despite these hurdles, we are making progress, and I am optimistic that we have the momentum needed to get this project completed.

For further information, contact John L. Varela at jvarela@valley-water.org, or visit www.valley-water.org/anderson-dam-project

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Libraries

Continued from page 1
pandemic.

"We developed several scenarios," San Jose Library Director Jill Bourne said in an email to San José Spotlight. "This one avoided layoffs by reducing vacancies and operating expenses only."

A total of 79 vacant positions — an equivalency of nearly 28 full-time positions — will be eliminated under the plan, but no current employees will lose their jobs. Bourne said the eliminated positions mean the libraries need to reduce their hours by a proposed cutback of four hours per week at each of the 25 library branches across San Jose.

Bourne said many of the vacancies represent part-time positions that see a higher turnover because they are often filled by students.

Bourne said she understands the cuts are necessary, but it doesn't make them any less devastating — especially when people who are out of work because of the virus rely on the library's services to help get them back on their feet.

"People are looking for jobs. People need computers," Bourne said. "To reduce services is tragic to me."

The library received half a million dollars from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act which could potentially delay the reduction of library hours

by a year.

There is also hope that the proposed cuts can be avoided.

"The ongoing position eliminations are still scheduled to go into effect for 2021-2022, but will be reevaluated as part of next year's budget process," San Jose Budget Director Jim Shannon said in a statement. "It is hoped that over the course of this year, the Library Department may be able to identify other ongoing cost savings measures through an alternative service delivery model that may be able to preserve the current number of operating hours while reducing the total ongoing cost."

Due to COVID-19, the library is already operating differently. Officials have amped up digital offerings during shelter-in-place orders and earlier this month opened for express pick up service at a handful of locations.

Bourne reported last week that the pick-up service was going strong with nearly 16,000 new holds placed. Electronic books, which were already seeing a boost during this time, saw an additional 11 percent increase as well, Bourne added.

Bourne was hired in 2013 during a time when libraries were struggling to recover from the blow dealt by the Great Recession of 2009. During that time, Bourne says five newly-built libraries were closed due to budget cuts and half of them were not open on weekends.

See LIBRARIES, next page



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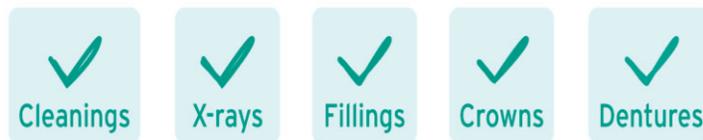
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Times **Local News****Community Seva***Continued from page 11*

to give out Personal Protective Equipment: 400 gloves, masks, and face shields to homeless individuals and homeless advocates heroes working the frontlines.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generosity of Community Seva's supporters. Bay Area businesses such as 8Elements Perfect Indian Cuisine, Jalsa Catering and Events, Bella's Bar and Grill, Shastha Foods, Biryani Bowl and others who have been so generous in donating their time and resources to help provide daily breakfasts lunches and more.

Talented musicians, a youth group, comedians and others participated in fundraisers to help with Community Seva's COVID-19 alleviation efforts. There has been an outpouring of support from the Bay Area community, whether through individual donations from families or corporate grants and sponsorships from Silicon Valley tech giants and other companies.

As founder and president I want to thank all who help us in all we do. This is Community Seva's 7th anniversary and we wouldn't be here without you. We'll continue to work tirelessly



Volunteers prepare to deliver food from Community Seva's new van.



Nathan prepares to serve food, such as these healthy burritos.



to serve the homeless and feed the hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic and it's an honor to do so. We thank the City and County for involving us in the innovative successful plan to work with Community Seva and other organizations to step up our help to the less fortunate during this time of need. We are inspired by who came before us such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

Editor's Note: This top rated nonprofit (Community Seva Inc.) invites everyone, all people from all

backgrounds and religions to help them on their quest. In the past seven years they have been honored with many distinguished awards and are a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Why not consider suggesting that your company also team up with this groundbreaking local nonprofit.

Community Seva's website welcomes individual PayPal donations and states, "Your donations are 100 percent tax deductible and every penny is used to serve the homeless and feed the hungry." To learn more visit: www.community-seva.org

Board approves supervisor Cortese's proposal to bridge the digital divide in Santa Clara County

9,361 families currently without Internet access

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal to invest \$7 million in Internet access and technology devices to help bridge the Digital Divide in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Final approval of funding for the project, which is a partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, will come to the Board through the 2020-2021 Budget process in August.

"I called for this report in response to a critical need for information on fighting coronavirus to get out to communities

where the impact is the greatest," said Supervisor Cortese. "But bridging the digital divide in Santa Clara County is long overdue."

Shelter in Place orders have forced school districts to shift to online learning, which leaves out an estimated 15,000 students in the County's 31 school districts who need laptops or tablets and the 9,361 families are without access to the Internet.

This forward thinking action helps plan for the future by reaching out to connect more children and adults to distance learning. It also offers equity to those in need for as the school year begins the children will have better access to the internet at home.

Libraries, continued

"My job when I got here was to recover from the devastating disaster," Bourne said.

The city also faced consecutive years of massive budget deficits from 2009 to 2012 that each exceeded \$80 million, according to Shannon. As of 2012, libraries in San Jose were only open four days a week and were only brought up to six days per week under Bourne's leadership in 2016.

"We are at the beginning of what will likely be several years of challenging budget cycles," Shannon said. "Balancing next

year's budget could be even more difficult than this year."

Before COVID-19, Bourne said the city's public library system was looking to increase hours even longer, including opening up some branches on Sundays.

"I think that's why decreasing is so hard for everyone," Bourne added.

"We're going to try to find a way to mitigate it as much as we can. How can we make sure our services are available to people in their homes?"

Contact Carina Woudenberg at carinaw86@gmail.com or follow @carinaew on Twitter.

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New proposal would give S.J. 'strong mayor'

Council to vote on putting the measure before voters in November

A proposal to give San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo expanded powers like the mayor of San Francisco, and to extend his term two more years may be headed for the ballot box in November.

Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and Councilman Sergio Jimenez, in memos, are calling for a November 2020 ballot measure that would push the mayoral election back two years to 2024 to take advantage of the higher voter turnout aligned with four year presidential elections.

The new proposal, which Liccardo adamantly opposed a year ago, now has his blessing. Liccardo said the current economic crisis spawned by COVID-19 and protests against police brutality in the wake of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis as the reason for now supporting the proposal.

New proposal gives Mayor increased power

The measure would change San Jose's form of government from one run by the city manager to one essentially run by a "strong mayor." For decades, San Jose has operated under a council-manager system in which the city manager largely calls the shots. But according to two separate memos released today by Jones and Jimenez, the city manager would serve at the pleasure of the mayor. That means the mayor would have the power to fire, hire and direct the city manager.

Jones and Jimenez said under the proposal that both the mayor and city manager would have the power to fire department heads, while the city manager retains his or her power to appoint new department heads subject to council approval.

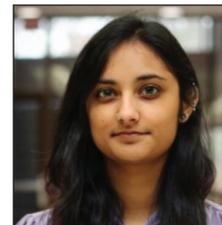
Labor leaders have been pushing the idea of changing up mayoral election cycles in the form of the Fair Elections Initiative. This past week, however, the union-backed proposal fell 2,248 signatures short of making it onto the fall ballot, prompting labor leaders to call on the mayor and council to bring some negotiated iteration of the measure to voters instead.

Nigam of Evergreen makes Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology

Natasha Nigam of Evergreen was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the '20 Spring Semester.

Nigam is in the physics program and a minor in Astronomy and Imaging Science. She is a member of the San Jose Astronomical Association, House of General Science, Society of Physics Students, and Vis Viva Dance Company.

Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.



Tiffany Ta of Evergreen named to Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Dean's List Spring 2020

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that **Tiffany Ta** of Evergreen Valley, a member of the class of 2021 majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2020 semester.

Ta is currently tutoring students taking the Project-Based Engineering Experimentation course and has been preparing lesson plans and drafted instructions for lab activities and assignments.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher.



SVO PAC Endorses Ann Ravel for California State Senate District 15

The Silicon Valley Organization's Political Action Committee (SVO PAC) announced the endorsement of **Ann Ravel** for California State Senate in District 15 on June 25.

The SVO represents a community of 1,200+ businesses and 300,000+ employees throughout the greater Silicon Valley region.

"Ann Ravel is a national leader in the fight for more transparent and accountable government," said Matt Mahood, President and CEO of the SVO. "In the State Senate, Ann will be a champion for bringing common sense to government so we can continue to generate more middle-class jobs, build more housing and create stronger communities here in Silicon Valley and across California."

"California will face difficult choices in the months and years ahead as we recover from the current public health and economic crisis," said Ravel. "I look forward to working with SVO to help grow middle class jobs as safely and quickly as possible."

Ravel's lifetime of public service has been defined by her fights to protect consumers and empower voters. Twice she was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve in his administration – first fighting on behalf of consumers at the Department of Justice, then working to make our elections fairer and more transparent as head of the Federal Elections Commission.

Times **Op Ed**

A new normal: Caution and fear

By **Rachita Pandya**
Special to the Times

The state of California has slowly begun the process of phased re-opening following the stay-at-home order that had been instated during the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic.

While social distancing and public health guidelines are still to be followed, restaurants, malls, and even theaters have started opening their doors to customers. For many, this brings a sigh of relief, a step towards what they used to call "normal." But for others, this marks a time of even more caution and fear.

With more people leaving their homes and being out in public, coupled with the relaxation of some previous strict enforcements in public places, there is increased risk of transmission of the coronavirus. As such, many may still refrain from going out without sincere reason. Particularly for these individuals, June will mark the fourth month of being under a shelter-in-place instruction.

Being cooped up at home without much interaction with the outside world for this long can certainly take a toll on any individual, both physically and mentally. With the drastic lifestyle changes that have occurred due to this pandemic, it has completely uprooted the previous sense of routine, and this can have deleterious impacts on overall wellbeing. So, what are some things we can do to ensure a healthy lifestyle while adapting to the changes of the pandemic?

Maintain an Active Lifestyle

Reaching 10,000 steps a day may

have become a near-impossible feat while at home. The gym might not be open or be a safe option, and the steps that we used to take to walk from our cars to the office or while we went shopping have vanished. We may now be spending more time in front of the computer or the TV. However, there are still ways to remain physically active while practicing safety. There is a vast array of workout videos online, ranging from at-home fitness walking to muscle-building exercises. You can find the video that matches your fitness goals, and follow along from the comfort of your own home or backyard! Also, being out in nature is a great option for getting exercise and avoiding large crowds. Going out for hiking or biking on local trails, or simply jogging around the neighborhood could also be an alternative if they are uncrowded and appropriate health guidelines are being maintained.

Stay (Virtually) Connected

While meeting up with friends and family to celebrate birthdays or have a potluck occurred freely and frequently during the pre-pandemic era, that has certainly come to a halt these days. However, maintaining those contacts and relationships is still very important, especially during these times of isolation, to prevent feelings of loneliness and provide one another with emotional support. Plus, this even helps to maintain some sense of normalcy and connectedness from before. Whether this be through messaging or video-chatting, we must take the time to stay in touch with dear ones, and perhaps even catch-up with

those whom we may have lost touch.

Keep Self-engaged

Working from home has certainly blurred the line of work-life balance. With our workstations set-up right at home, it becomes very easy to work longer hours or immediately respond to new email notifications and tasks. This becomes especially hard for families with kids, where balancing work and their child's education takes up most of their time, leaving them exhausted at the end of the day. Stress and anxiety have the potential to build-up in such times, and it becomes imperative for people to take out some time for themselves. A good way to start could be to get back into an established hobby that you know brings you inner peace, or pick up on a new one. Creative endeavors can be great stress-relieving activities, so this might be a good time to dabble in arts/crafts, music, or even cooking. Whatever you choose, if you can commit to an endeavor that you are passionate about, it can give you something to look forward to and help in making your week a little less wearying.

These are certainly difficult times for all of us that have affected our daily routines, in one way or another. Now, with the reopening, there might be some hope for returning to these routines in the near future, but it is not a reality yet. Till then, as we continue to adhere to the coronavirus safety guidelines, we must maintain an adaptation of this routine to help with our overall health.

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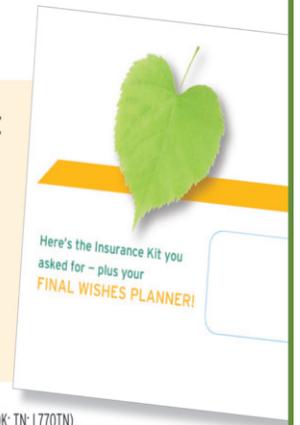
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Places of Worship



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We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community.
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Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.
Our ministries/activities include:

- Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
- A Food Pantry serving anyone in need—open Tu/Th/Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater produc-

tions, informative lectures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment.
Our activities flow from our core values:

- Extravagant Joy
- Passionate Faith
- Loving Respect
- Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- Shared Laughter

Visit us at our web site at church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC
6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.
www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco

Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.
Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments.
1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion
2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.
Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

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www.bibleroad.org
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Worship at 10:30 AM
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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243
Web: www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.


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thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
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Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
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St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
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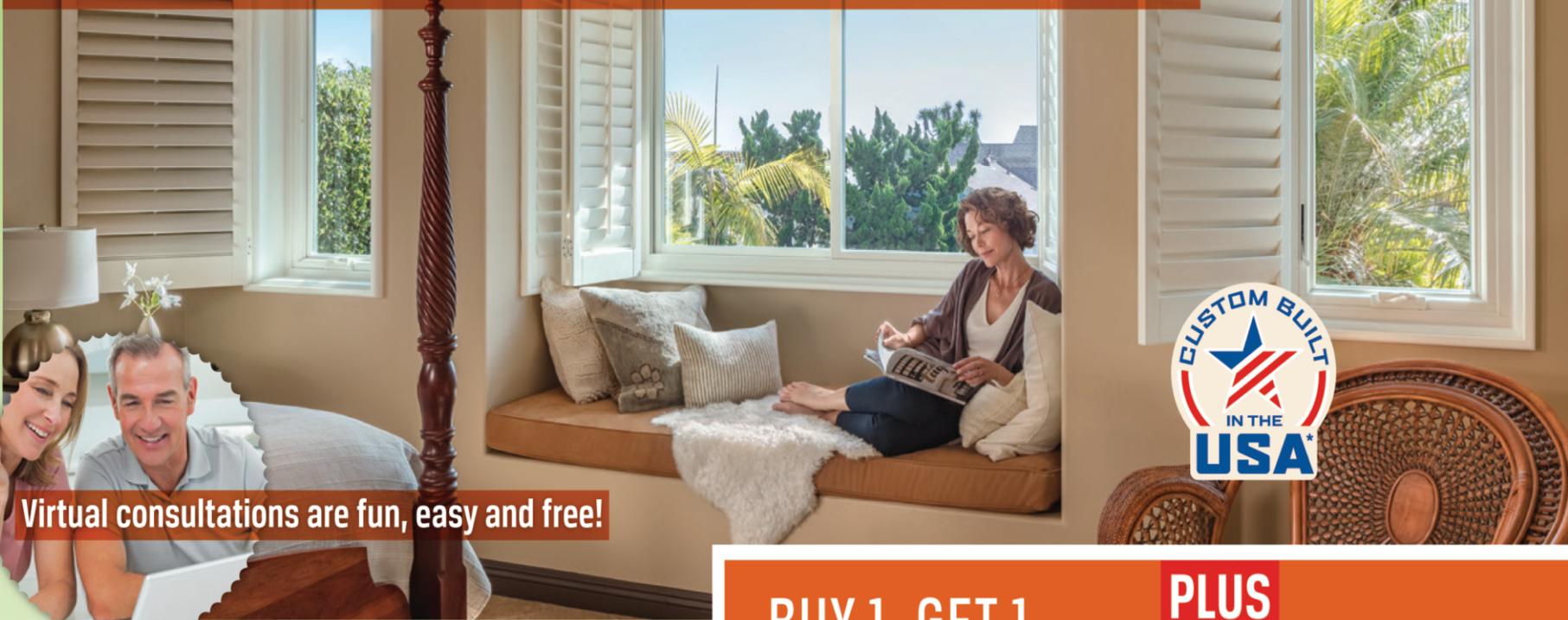
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