

Bellarmine High School planning 66th annual fashion show
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Virtual performance
Opera San José announces virtual performance of 'Dichterliebe' (A Poet's Love)
SEE PAGE 10

High School students inspiring the 'Next Generation of Innovators'
SEE PAGE 8



JULY 24 – AUGUST 6, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 15

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Almaden Times

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High school sports delayed until 2021

The state's governing body for high school athletics, California Interscholastic Federation, announced Monday that the fall sports season is being delayed until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The revised calendar calls for CIF football playoffs to be held April 17, with section playoffs scheduled for no later than April 10. The CIF playoffs will end on June 19, one week after the completion of the section playoffs. Basketball will be played in the spring.

California and New Mexico are the only states thus far to postpone high school sports until 2021.

Mortgage rates fall below 3% as homeowners rush to refinance

Mortgage rates fell below 3% for the first time ever as the economy continues to struggle from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic as homeowners rush to inquire about refinancing.

The record low rates have come amid a roller coaster of optimism and pessimism about the economy, said Danielle Hale, chief economist for Realtor.com.

Concerns about the economy recovering amid the Covid-19 pandemic have helped to push mortgage rates lower, while the lower mortgage rates are driving up home buying, and pushing up new mortgage applications and refinancing from a year ago.

Americans refinanced nearly 2 million home loans from January through April, more than double the same four-month stretch in 2019, according to real estate data company CoreLogic.

The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to a record low of 2.98% this past week, according to Freddie Mac. That's the lowest level in the nearly 50 years of the mortgage giant's survey. The 15-year fixed-rate mortgage dropped to 2.48%.

SJUSD announces plans for upcoming school year

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

On July 16, San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) announced it will provide distance learning for the start of the upcoming school year. However, the district said it is taking measures to improve the educational experience.

The final decision came after a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, a decisive letter from the San Jose Teachers Association (SJTA) and the results of a parent questionnaire.

"After a marathon week of meetings with SJUSD management, the Executive Board came to the conclusion that there was no realistic way to safely resume in-person teaching in August," said SJTA President Patrick Bernhardt.

Bernhardt said teachers were disappointed with the county health department guidelines for reopening schools as they "seemed to be driven around what was easiest to implement, not what was safest." Bernhardt said he received unsolicited emails from 1,000 district teachers asking about early retirement, unpaid leaves of absence or taking a year off.

He advised SJUSD Superintendent Nancy Albarran that many district teachers were unwilling to return to in-person teaching in August and urged the district to use the time remaining to prepare a robust distance learning program.



"There was no realistic way to safely resume in-person teaching in August," said San Jose Teacher Association President **Patrick Bernhardt**.

"The San José Teachers Association...let us know that teachers would not provide in-person instruction in August, stating it was unsafe at this time," SJUSD Superintendent Nancy Albarran said in a letter to the community.

The district cited its concerns with the widening opportunity gap and emotional toll students experience with distance learning. It also noted that on July 8, Santa Clara County set a single-day
See DISTANCE LEARNING, page 14

Almaden teen's book is relevant in this time of COVID-19

Kimaya Saijpal writes book on the ups and downs of teen life, setting a relevant course of rediscovery

"Love yourself for who you are, and who you want to be."

— Kimaya Saijpal

Almaden Valley teen, Kimaya Saijpal, has written about these ups and downs of teen life in her book *Angst, Anxiety, and Acceptance: A Relatable Guide to a Teenager's Life*.

Kimaya, a sophomore at Leland High School, has authored a timely book that is an easy read - light-hearted and relevant, temperamental and unapologetic, sensitive,



Kimaya Saijpal

and hopeful, all at the same time.

New Year Publishing, who published the book last month, was impressed with Kimaya's talent for writing and also recognized that while teen years are exciting, they can sometimes be excruciating, filled with doubt and despair. One of the reasons the publisher short-listed Kimaya's book was for the content and its relevance in this time of COVID-19.

Kimaya said her passion for writing started early in life; blessed with a vivid imagination. "I started writing as a way to show the people in my life that they are not alone and that everyone

is just waiting for someone to tell them that 'where you are in your life is completely ok,'" Kimaya said.

Angst, Anxiety, and Acceptance sets the readers on a course of discovering themselves and finding their voice. Through raw and relatable poems and fictional stories, she has captured the emotions of an adolescent trying to form their

See BOOK, page 2



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Times **Community News**



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An application for Residential Care Facility for the Elderly will be filed with the California Department of Social Services.

258102



ProjectMaskify Youth organization equips health workers with handmade masks

ProjectMaskify is a local youth-led non-profit organization striving to make an impact in our community and globally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization objective is to equip healthcare workers, first responders, and those in need with handmade masks. During the past four months of volunteers cutting fabric, pleating, ironing, and stitching, ProjectMaskify has produced and distributed more than 3,000 masks.

Mask donations included Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, the Milpitas Police and Fire Departments, Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care, Regional Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Kaiser Hospital - San Jose, O'Connor Hospital, and the American Red Cross.

Not only has the ProjectMaskify team been able to impact hundreds of healthcare workers and first responders in the community, but they have also inspired the founding of numerous new organizations that have a similar mission to help those in need during our fight to end COVID-19.

"Masks are in a severe shortage, especially for healthcare professionals and first responders who are risking their lives for us every

day," said Amy Stanley, ProjectMaskify Founder and President. "As the future of our society, we as the youth must rise up and initiate change in this time of great need."

Originally from the Bay Area, the ProjectMaskify team has expanded globally to four countries and 10 states, and is currently composed of 50 dedicated high school students from around the world.

"I was personally astounded by the number of volunteers who dedicated their time to this cause. Due to their unwavering support, our organization is able to flourish and aid those who need it," said Aditi Hariharan, VP of Public Relations.

"The effort and passion displayed by our ambassadors worldwide is a testament to how much compassion we have in our society," said Rachel Pham, VP of Marketing & Media

For more information, visit: website://projectmaskify.wixsite.com/official

To donate, visit ProjectMaskify's GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/f/project-maskify



Book

Continued from page 1

own identity, while dealing with the world's expectations of them.

In her book, Kimaya relates, "I never realized that more than half the problem was my constant self-deprecation, and if I could learn to love this part of me, then no one's opinion could stand in my way. "The more I didn't care, the more I noticed that others were too focused on themselves to spend much time on what I did or how I looked. As long as I was smiling and waving at my teachers and friends, they would reciprocate. The reason is simple: humans are masters at picking up on emotional atmospheres and mirroring those feelings."

Kimaya explained that we all think that every dirty look is directed to us, that every glare is because of us. But we don't see the mirror behind us, and we don't realize that both of us are looking and judging ourselves. Once we understand this, the answer is sim-

ple. Love yourself for who you are, and who you want to be.

Kimaya is a lead vocalist and plays the guitar. "Music is life and life is music" is her mantra. Kimaya is also passionate about teen mental health issues and at the school she attends she has started a student club on stress reduction and meditation which has become quite popular. She also manages her own website www.KimayaKalm.com, which concentrates on meditation for teenagers, by teenagers, to help educate them on the powerful benefits of meditation.

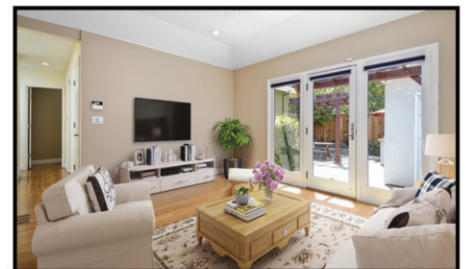
"If my writing can help motivate someone to tell their own unique stories, in the ways that they excel in, then that's all I can ask for," Kimaya said. "Write a song, write a book, create a piece of art; but make your story heard. It's these stories that leave the greatest impact on others and it's this notion that'll push society further into the future."

Editor's note: To purchase Kimaya's book, visit: Amazon.com and enter the search word Kimaya.



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Americans experiencing significant stress due to COVID-19

With nearly four in 10 Americans experiencing significant stress due to COVID-19, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2020's Most & Least Stressed Cities in America, as well as accompanying videos.

In order to determine where Americans cope best with their stress, WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 42 key metrics. The data set ranges from how vulnerable the state is to COVID-19 to average weekly work hours to divorce and suicide rates.

Most Stressed Cities

1. Cleveland, OH
2. Detroit, MI
3. Birmingham, AL
4. Gulfport, MS
5. Newark, NJ
6. Baltimore, MD
7. New Orleans, LA
8. St. Louis, MO
9. Mobile, AL
10. Jackson, MS

Least Stressed Cities

173. Billings, MT
174. Fremont, CA
175. South Burlington, VT
176. Madison, WI
177. Bismarck, ND
178. Overland Park, KS
179. Fargo, ND
180. Sioux Falls, SD
181. Boise, ID
182. Lincoln, NE

The full report is available at: wallethub.com/edu/most-least-stressed-cities/22759

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Valley Currents

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

Bellarmino planning 66th annual fashion show

Bay Area's longest-running show to be produced by MHP; benefits tuition assistance

After 65 years, the Bellarmino Mothers' Guild (BMG) is determined not to allow a pandemic to cancel the Bay Area's longest-running fashion show - and disappoint Bellarmino College Preparatory students who rely on the annual tradition for vital tuition assistance.

Bellarmino Mothers' Guild is adjusting its format this year to accommodate the most current health regulations for the November 14, 2020 event.

With a theme of "2020 Vision: Seeing the Past Become the Future," proceeds benefit the school's Direct Tuition Assistance Fund and Tuition Assistance Endowment.

"The fashion show has faced other challenging times such as the Vietnam era and September 11," said Kelly Rainey, BMG president. "In fact, BMG was founded to help face challenges during the early days of the Great Depression."

Since 1851, Bellarmino College Preparatory has provided young men with an unparalleled Jesuit education that includes strong academics, a commitment to service and social justice, competitive athletic teams, and unique co-curricular offerings. Bellarmino offers more than 26% of its students some form of tuition assistance.

Previous fashion shows, which typically sell out, have included lunch and dinner performances totaling more than 1,300 attendees and



The Bay Area's longest-running show benefiting tuition assistance will be held November 14 with a new format produced by L.A.-based production company MHP for this year's Bellarmino College Preparatory's Fashion Show. Pictured are students featured in last year's show.

contributing more than \$500,000 annually to tuition assistance. The format of this year's event, to be held on the Bellarmino campus near downtown San Jose, will be determined by the safety requirements at the time.

Fortuitously, the fashion show chair, installed in early 2019, is a medical doctor. Dr. Caroline Stratz is balancing her fashion show commitment with a private internal medicine practice.

Given the challenge of executing a successful show - no matter what format it may take - the Bellarmino Mothers' Guild is looking to Hollywood for assistance. This year, **Michael Holdaway** (pictured, right) and his Los Angeles-

See FASHION SHOW, page 7



Op Ed Strong Mayor initiative is a shift in authority from City Council

By Pat Waite

Special to the Times

"Never waste the opportunity offered by a good crisis."

- Niccolò Machiavelli

On July 1, 2020, the San Jose City Council voted 6-5 to place a ballot measure amending the City Charter on the November ballot. The

proposal would move the mayoral election to the presidential election cycle, enact certain campaign contribution restrictions, and increase the power of the Mayor's Office. It has been referred to as a strong mayor initiative, but it is more of a shift in authority over the San Jose bureaucracy from the Council to the Mayor. In a traditional strong mayor government, the Mayor sits as the executive of the city with a separate legislative body. This is nowhere near that.

For all of San Jose's imperfections, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility (CFR) believes that our City is much better run than many of our peer cities, those both inside and outside the Bay Area. We attribute a significant amount of that to the Council-Manager form

of government, where professional administrators oversee the delivery of the City's services. The city's managers are seasoned professionals, not political appointees subject to the whim of the occupant of the Mayor's office. CFR believes that has by and large turned out to be a good thing in San Jose.

CFR has not yet taken a position on whether the Charter should be changed, but we have an opinion on the proposed ballot initiative. It is best summed up as "what's the rush?" Charter changes of the magnitude proposed require a significant vetting process. The decision process must include public engagement beyond the one-minute comments allowed at the June 1st Council or the thirty-sec-

ond sound-bite advertisements of an ensuing political campaign. In the past, San Jose has used a Charter Review Commission to deliberate significant changes to the City Charter. Nearly 35 years ago, a Charter Review Commission review spanned sixteen months. The current initiative schedule would allow a mere three months for voters to study and decide on the actual written initiative.

The issue today, Mayor Liccardo posts, is that San Jose needs to "align authority with accountability."

He claims that people "vote for a mayor with an expectation that the person they vote for has an executive role in the government." CFR believes this is not justification for an accelerated Charter

See STRONG MAYOR, page 10

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Times **Community****Op Ed****Asian American resentment against affirmative action (SCA5)***A case of performative allyship for the BLM movement*By **Aroshi Ghosh**
Special to the Times

The recent 2020 protests in favor of the Black Lives Matter movement were unique in that they unified people from many minority communities, especially young Asian Americans, who defied their parents to challenge the systemic racism prevalent in this country.

Should a person's race be a consideration in entrance to universities?

Yes, this allyship took a hit when the University of California's Board of Regents voted unanimously to support restoring affirmative action in California after the protests. If this measure passes, it would reverse the 1996 passage of proposition 209 to ban affirmative action at the state's public institutions.

In 2014, when there was a proposal to reinstate affirmative action, the Chinese American community took a lead in opposing it and started a Change.org petition that gathered over 115,000 signatures. In my own Indian American community, there is considerable skepticism about the fairness of a system that considers prospective students' race, ethnicity, gender, and national origin in the admissions process to highly selective universities. So was this show of solidarity temporary and dissolved quickly when the avenues of economic advancement through academic success were challenged.

If we want to be real allies to the Black community and the BLM cause rather than play at performative allyship, Asian Americans must research how the principles of affirmative action really operate and explore the underlying causes of resentment that prevents us from looking at the bigger picture of racial injustice. Instead of supporting one camp or the other on SCA5, we must ask the right questions to understand the nuances for Asian support of BLM and the antipathy towards SCA5 within our communities.

The strongest criticism against SCA5 or affirmative action is that Asian American children strive so hard to be successful, yet even with perfect SAT/ACT scores, stellar extra-curricular activities, internships, community service, athletic camps they are rejected by schools like Stanford, Harvard, and Princeton, while candidates from other minority groups sail through the admissions process with lower statistics.

Being branded as the model minority i.e. achieving a higher degree of socioeconomic success has resulted in many Asian Americans internalizing the notion of being superior to other ethnic or minority communities. In reality, this image is a myth, a strategy used to drive a wedge between minority communities and pit them against each other.

Interestingly, the term "model minority" was coined by a White sociologist William

Petersen in 1966, when he wrote in The New York Times about how a stable family structure and the ethos of hard work helped Asian Americans "to overcome the discrimination" and "achieve success in the United States." P. Kasinitz' article counters the validity of this

image and highlights how many Asian American communities are not doing so well in reality and how it is, in fact, detrimental to the well-being of the younger generation from these communities as they are pressured by parents and peers to live up to unrealistic ideals.

Being a student at Leland High School, one of the more competitive high schools located in the affluent community of Almaden, I have personally witnessed this phenomenon in action. Stressed-out students struggling to compete with each other and trying to hire the best counselor in the hope of

securing admission to their dream school is a widespread trend. Sometimes, this pressure takes on more sinister overtones when it results in cheating scandals or suicides.

Counselors often recommend Asian kids to appear less Asian in their activities to have a shot in the competitive arena of college admissions. Maybe it is time we realized that the model minority myth is not sustainable and maybe we should open our eyes to a flawed system that merely encourages hostility against one another in a war of attrition where no one really wins.

See *AFFIRMATIVE ACTION*, page 7

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Times **Community****Affirmative Action***Continued from page 5*

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, many Asian Americans had to face the brunt of racism because the coronavirus had originated in China. The stereotype of the model minority quickly evaporated and many Asian Americans were victims of violence and verbal insults. You probably remember the Japanese internment during WWII, when 120,000 people of Japanese origins were put in concentration camps. You may have heard about the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that suspended Chinese labor migration to the US and excluded them from citizenship.

Most of us witnessed the post 9/11 backlash against Arab and Middle Eastern Americans. It is important for all ethnic communities in the United States to realize that a fundamental change in the system can only be achieved if we unite with each other and strive for equity. Otherwise, we will always be seen as “foreign” or the “other”.

If Asians are such natural allies for the BLM movement and the rights of other minority groups in the United States due to shared experiences of discrimination, why are they excluded from the “defined minority group” for affirmative action like Hispanics or Pacific Islanders?

While I agree with affirmative action, I feel that the way it is implemented may warrant a change.

It is my belief that economic factors are stronger indicators of the need for affirmative action rather than racial classification. By clubbing together diverse ethnic communities along racial lines, we are playing into the “divide and conquer” strategy of the establishment. Immigration policies shift continuously and there may be significant gaps in education, income, and socioeconomic status within Asian, Black, Latino, and other minorities. Interestingly, Southeast Asian Americans are known to face “poverty at 11 percent higher level than the national average” and 57 percent of Cambodian Americans and 53 percent of Hmong Americans have very poor access to education through quality children’s schools. See article. This suggests that class equality is a bigger problem than racial inequality when it comes to access to education because leveling the playing field through affirmative action actually benefits only the upper-class African Americans or Hispanic Americans.

This does not mean that we refrain from standing by the Black or Brown members of our community in their moment of struggle. Rather, it implies that we must change the premise of the debate. Instead of arguing that affirmative action is biased towards Asian Americans, we must work together to implement affirmative action using an economic model. Ultimately, the economic standing of an individual’s family should be the deciding factor in all attempts to level the playing field rather than race.

Fashion Show*Continued from page 4*

based production company, MHP, will produce the show. As a stylist, MHP’s energetic namesake founder worked with names like Adrien Brody, Nancy O’Dell, Elijah Wood and musical legends B.B. King, Fergie, Thelma Houston, Paulina Rubio and Steven Tyler. MHP has a range of fashion show production credits, including luxury brands Louis Vuitton, Dior and Kenzo, among others. “No matter what form the show takes, it will be spectacular. You’re going to have an extraordinary fashion experience,” Holdaway said.

Three-time Emmy nominated Gabor Heiligenberg (hair department head for hit TV shows including *Desperate Housewives*) will try out looks on potential models, while judges Gerren Taylor (coined “baby Naomi” by Oprah after supermodel Naomi Campbell), Sarah Welch (model and Bachelor finalist), Bradley Dodds (actor and former runway model) and actress Gabby Sanalitra (Dexter, Disney’s “Ravens Home” and upcoming show “Just Roll With It”) instruct candidates on walking the runway. All welcome Bellarmine’s inclusive stance on model selection.

The Bellarmine Mothers’ Guild is delighted to also announce that ParkPlaceVintage.com has committed to the show and will add striking vintage looks highlighted by style and elegance.

ParkPlaceVintage.com is celebrating its transition to an online-only establishment after serving San Jose from its unforgettable brick-and-mortar store for decades. Additional fashion partners will be announced in coming weeks.

So how has the beloved annual production at Bellarmine College Preparatory stood



The Bay Area’s longest-running show benefiting tuition assistance will be held November 14 with a new format produced by L.A.-based production company MHP for this year’s Bellarmine College Preparatory’s Fashion Show. Pictured are students featured in last year’s show.

the test of time? Aside from long-term planning, key to the effort is the army of 200+ committed volunteers and loyal underwriters who understand the impact of a Bellarmine education. “A Bellarmine education is a gift, whether or not you’re a tuition assistance recipient. We are deeply grateful for our Bellarmine community which continues to support our show and our mission,” maintains fashion show chair Stratz.

For additional information on the Bellarmine Fashion Show, visit: www.facebook.com/BellarmineFashionShow.

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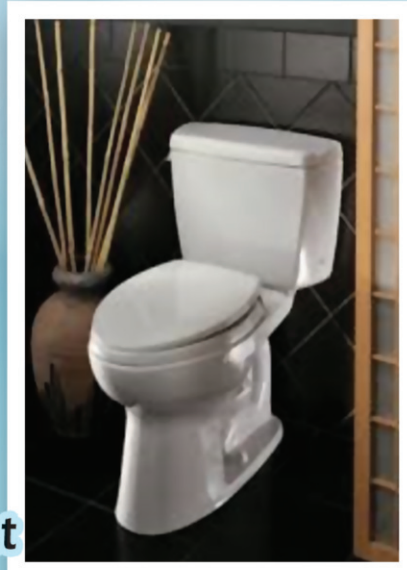
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High School students inspiring the 'Next Generation of Innovators'

Incoming High school seniors, Donna Pham and Nandini Neralagi, have both spent much of their childhoods living close to household tech companies such as Google and Apple in their front yards.

Their strong passion for the STEM field is rooted in being exposed to the related topics in their elementary and middle school years.

With much nurturing and opportunities that numerous technology companies have provided for them, Nandini and Donna counted their blessings as these events opened doors for them to want to pursue future careers relating to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Donna grew up in the city of Saratoga, where she was given the opportunity to take computer application classes and allowed participation in hackathons, exposing her to STEM careers early on, and she has never stopped her love for engineering.

Nandini has lived in San Jose for most of her life and has always been drawn to technological feats presented to her. She has taken computer science classes throughout middle school and high school, encouraging her to take on her own coding projects to advance her programming skills.

Leaving for college next year, Donna and Nandini said they owe it to their communities for shaping a part of their identity. However, a prominent problem in the community was

identified. Donna had noticed how Evergreen Valley's feeder schools did not give a strong exposure to the high school curriculum. Nandini also saw the unequal distribution of opportunities in the middle schools for STEM-related activities.

In hopes of repaying the community and spreading their passion, both Nandini and Donna set out to form a community organization called The STEM Club: Next Generation Innovators in hopes of simply teaching students engaging lessons in various fields of science and math.

The club's mission is to better the community by bringing STEM-related activities and lessons to their first location, Quimby Oak Middle School.

Their lessons include teaching topics on mathematics, science (physics, chemistry), engineering, and technology. The carefully planned activities are geared to train students to apply their learnings from lessons, which are created by the founders, to real-life situations.

Over the course of the year, the club will plan lessons that would allow students to grasp the fundamentals of these challenging topics that would further ease their transition to vigorous high school courses and AP class curriculum.

Targeting feeder schools, the club provides details of high school life that students may be interested in taking up. They ensure that their students are having fun through challenges,



High school seniors (l to r) **Donna Pham** and **Nandini Neralagi** have a strong passion for STEM inspiring the next generation of innovators.

which often include prizes.

With an upcoming partnership with the EVHS robotics team, students in middle school have the rare opportunity to speak with high school students and their experiences in being a part of a high school club, further allowing them to participate in activities that were made specifically for high school students. To contribute to furthering the education of middle school students, the STEM club has created a website that would allow for each lesson to be uploaded. Additionally, they have launched weekly blogs by high school students that will provide useful advice to incoming high school freshmen.

They will be addressing questions and concerns from incoming freshman students regarding high school; a form to ask questions is posted on the blog section of their website.

While some clubs are catered to only a set topic, this club goes deeper into desired topics derived from the feedback of their students and parents. The STEM club uses its connections to offer unique lessons, allowing middle school students to have early exposure to high school opportunities. With real-time feedback from students, the founders hope to revise each lesson to better fit their audience. With feedback given to them on the "Topics" page of their website, Nandini and Donna will soon be creating new content for the 2020-2021 school year.

"I am lucky to be in this club because it gives me an opportunity to be exposed to the field and opens my options when finding my future career," says former member Danielle Pham. Danielle, along with her fellow classmates, all actively compete for who can build the tallest tower out of toothpicks, and who can make the sturdiest structure in hopes of winning a prize; first revealed as a fun activity has deep roots within physics, which was later elaborated by the lesson that followed after the activity.

With a successful year of this club coming to a close, Donna and Nandini are ready to provide another year of competitions and planning educational activities for the new wave of middle schoolers. Although planning the lessons comes with my hours of work, they hope the students will benefit from these lessons and be pushed to take up challenging STEM topics to explore through each lesson.

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Times **Community News**

Tech Jargon of the week:
Bitcoin

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let us teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Bitcoin

You may have heard of the word “Bitcoin” more than the word “Blockchain”. It’s true that today many people are aware of the digital currency bitcoin while it is merely one of the seven hundred applications that use the “Blockchain” technology.

Bitcoin first appeared in a 2008 white paper authored under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto. The white paper detailed an innovative peer to peer electronic cash system called Bitcoin that enabled online payments to be transferred directly, without an intermediary.

So what exactly is a Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is basically a form of virtual currency. It allows you to purchase electronically through merchants and also can be



transferred between friends. Every single purchase or transaction is logged digitally on a transaction track that tracks the time of purchase and updates who owns how many bitcoins. This digital transaction log is called blockchain.

The blockchain records every single transaction - of present and past - and the ownership of every single bitcoin in circulation. The people who are constantly verifying the blockchain, ensuring that all the information is correct and updating it each time a transaction is made, are called ‘miners’. Their job is to ensure that the transaction is secure and processed properly and safely. In return for their services, miners are paid fees by the merchants of each transaction.

More than \$1.5 billion worth of bitcoins are currently in circulation around the world, with millions of transactions occurring daily. Needless to say, the popularity and usage of Bitcoin is picking up very quickly as more and more businesses and individuals are becoming aware of its benefits and advantages over traditional currencies.

About the Author: Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.



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Opera San José announces virtual performance of Robert Schumann's 'Dichterliebe' (A Poet's Love)

To be supertitled in Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

In addition to its usual English supertitles, Opera San José has announced plans to offer its virtual performances of Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe* ('A Poet's Love') with Spanish and Vietnamese translations providing a broader San Jose community for all to enjoy.

When viewing the concert, audiences can choose which translation they wish to see on the supertitles.

"We are always eager to find ways to make our work accessible to as many members of our community as possible," said General Director Khori Dastoor. "This virtual concert provides an incredible opportunity to expand our reach. Finding partners in this effort, particularly our good fortune in identifying high quality Vietnamese and Spanish translations that serve both Heine's poetry and Schumann's score, will enable OSJ to live out its mission of sharing the immense talent and artistry of our company of Resident Artists with the residents of our culturally rich and diverse San Jose home."

Performed by Resident Artist baritone Eugene Brancoveanu and Resident Artist conductor Christopher James Ray on piano,



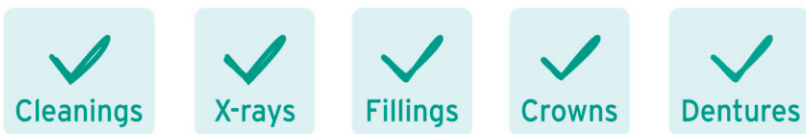
Resident Artist baritone **Eugene Brancoveanu** and Resident Artist conductor **Christopher James Ray** on piano.

this song cycle will be filmed in the Fred Heiman Digital Media Studio, a new performance space that will enable the company to stream high-quality, fully-produced operatic performances into the living rooms of patrons. Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe* ('A Poet's Love') song cycle will be available to stream beginning July 11 [through August 15].

For tickets (Pay-What-You-Choose: \$15-\$50 per household) and more information, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm). Pre-show lectures and post-show In-Conversation events with the artists will be offered on select dates.

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Strong Mayor

Continued from page 4

change process, but a reason for engaging in educating voters about our current form of government.

Then, they can make an informed decision on what that form ought to be through the thorough process of a Charter Review Commission. The timeline of the current proposal is grossly inadequate.

Besides the issue of the compressed timeline, the current ballot measure proposal suffers from several other significant problems. First, and most obvious to our members, the Mayor's proposal includes halting "political contributions to candidates from lobbyists" in contravention to the 2010 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. FEC*. That should invalidate the measure. The *Citizens United* ruling was a significant rationale used by the City Council in deciding against earlier efforts to place a similar measure on the ballot.

Second, without the draw of a mayoral election, voting in off-cycle elections is liable to be lower than previous off-cycle elections. The joint memorandum from Carrasco and Esparza points out that turnout in the 2014 election in Santa Clara County was 50%, while that in the 2016 presidential election was 83%. No doubt moving the mayoral election would exacerbate that discrepancy, resulting in even lower turnout, especially in the primary. It is interesting to note that Councilmember Carrasco won both of her Council terms during off-cycle June primaries, garnering 4,369 votes out of 8,221 in 2014 and 6,707 of 9,729 in 2018.

Nearly 1/2 of the Council could be elected by a small fraction of registered voters. If the mayoral election is moved, perhaps all Council elections ought to be moved as well, but that could be quite disruptive to continuity within the City Council. We could conceivably see an election where 100% of the Council turns over.

Third, presidential election campaigns are very noisy. Voters are inundated with advertisements and sound bites focused on national political issues. It is dangerously likely that discussion and debate of San Jose issues will be drowned out by national static. We will end up with more voters determining who should lead San Jose, which is a good thing, but they may be much less informed on the issues facing our City, which is not.

The City Council needs to pump the brakes on this issue. Rather than a headlong rush to place a Charter Amendment on the November ballot, the Council should defer to a Charter Review Commission that is tasked with the objective of determining what Charter best suits our City.

On July 28th, 2020 at 9:00am the City Council will review the language for the initiative. Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility recommends that you inform your Council representative that you would prefer that they use a more thorough and open process to effect such significant change. We have posted a sample letter on our web site, www.cfrsj.org. Please feel free to pass that along to your council representative and our mayor.

Editor's note: Pat Waite is a longtime San Jose resident and president of Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility.

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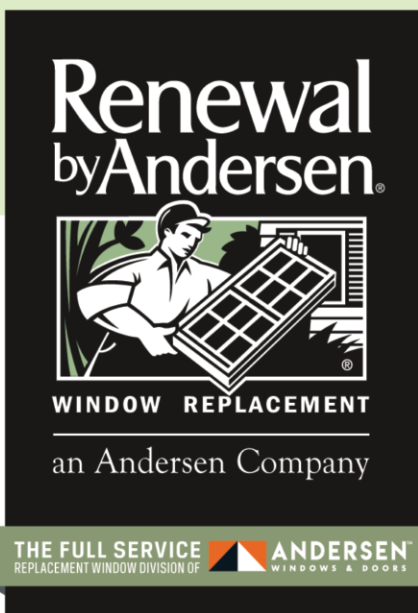
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Times **Community News**

Delany sisters: Timeless treasure found at a used bookstore

By **Denelle Fedor**
Special to the Times

Like many of us, my family was eager to venture out after staying inside for the past few months.

I decided to make a day trip out of purchasing my stepsons summer reading books at our favorite used bookstore, Tom's Used Books in the central valley.

I love used bookstores. Where else can you physically stand and consume hundreds of books that populated centuries of American culture – from love stories to science fiction – from mysteries to biographies. The fact is, only a used bookstore offers this luxury.

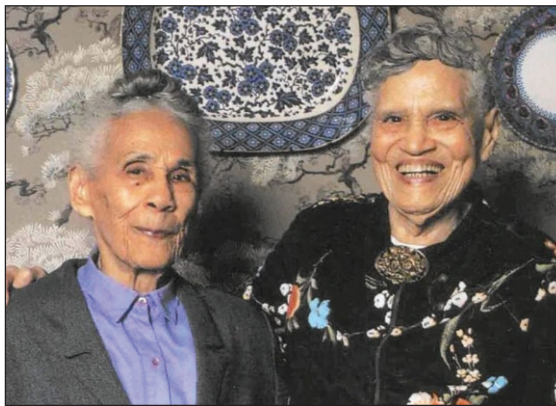
Once we arrived, I thoroughly enjoyed looking through all the used books, DVD's, records, and other items for sale. I picked up a few Sunset books from the 1970's, a 1940's Michael Shayne mystery and a DVD collection of comedy greats from the 1950's.

As I was making my way to the register, a small book with a beautiful older woman on the cover caught my eye. The book, titled, *On my own at 107 – Reflections on Life Without Bessie*, by Sarah L. Delany with Amy Hill Hearth

was written in 1997. I quickly scanned the back of the book to see what it was about. It said that Sarah "Sadie" Delany and her younger sister Bessie Delany - were centenarians - they both lived to be over 100 years old – with Bessie passing at age 104. This memoir was about the first year of Sadie's life without her sister. The description interested me, so I bought it.

Sadie and Bessie Delany were well-educated African-American women in an era when few blacks or women attended college. The sisters were devoted to each other and Bessie's death was a severe blow to her older sister.

Little did I know that after reading Ms. Sadie Delany's book that it would have such a lasting impression on me. It prompted me to look these two women up and by doing so, I quickly realized the positive impact and contributions they had on American history. Sadie Delany was the first black person to teach home economics for high school students in



Bessie Delany (left) who passed away at 104, and **Sarah Louise Delany**, who passed away at 109.

the New York public schools. She taught for more than 30 years before retiring in 1960 at age 70. Bessie Delany was the second black woman to earn her license to practice dentistry in the State of New York. They were two of ten children. Even though they encountered numerous obstacles and challenges, both sisters worked hard, saved their money, and put themselves through college to earn

their degrees.

It was in 1990 that Ms. Hearth, who was a New York Times columnist at the time, heard about Sadie and Bessie Delany – the two centenarian sisters who lived together – Sadie age 104 and Bessie age 102 in a beautiful 2-story brick home in Mount Vernon, New York. Not only were their ages extraordinary, these two sisters had an incredible life story to share with the world. Ms. Hearth contacted the sisters to ask if she could interview them for an article in the New York Times. Hesitant at first, they cautiously agreed and invited Ms. Hearth to come to their home.

Ms. Hearth's story about the two trailblazing sisters appeared in the New York Times in 1991. It was so well received that a publisher asked Ms. Hearth to write a book about Sadie and Bessie's lives. When Ms. Hearth presented the publishers request to the sisters they were not completely on board, thinking that the world was not really interested in what two "black" women over 100 had to share. However, Sadie and Bessie trusted Ms. Hearth and soon agreed to the idea. The book,

See SISTERS, next page

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Times **Education**

Almaden Valley based coding education non-profit 'Hack on Track' branches out

Hack on Track empowers all to create with technology through its free STEM classes, workshops and courses

By Daniel d'Abreu Noronha,
Duy Lam, and Alex Chen
Special to the Times

Hack on Track, a 501(c)(3) Coding Education non-profit created by students at Leland High School in Almaden, is branching out.

While doing a research paper on education in his freshman English class, co-founder Duy Lam was exposed to the disparity of STEM education in San Jose. He realized that even the Bay Area -- the birthplace of tech giants like Google and Apple -- contained neighborhoods where the only option to learn coding was through sites like YouTube.

As a coder himself, Lam was disappointed that not everyone had easy access to this field. He reached out to some of his peers and pitched his idea of creating an educational organization to get students in his neighborhood interested in this rapidly-expanding field.

The Hack on Track core team is currently made up of Leland High School students Duy Lam, Arya Tandon, Daniel d'Abreu Noronha, Alex Chen, Tobias Worledge and Ryan Niemi. Not only has this team of students worked hard to introduce new coding opportunities in their community, they also manage everything from developing and delivering instruction to public relations entirely on their own.

Hack on Track has hosted classes and workshops at various community centers and public schools over the last two and a half years, delving into topics such as Arduino circuits, Python, Java, and Scratch. As a result of the current pandemic, Hack on Track has turned to online teaching methods to continue to make a broad impact. Over the past two months of streaming on the platform Twitch.tv, they have provided a combined 100+ hours of educational content to over two thousand

viewers.

In an effort to provide more personalized instruction, Hack on Track is now starting new one-on-one and small group lessons where students may request to be taught a variety of programming languages or get help with a coding project they have via the video-calling platform of their choice (e.g. Google Meet, Zoom, WebEx).

In addition to working in their community, Hack on Track is currently looking to expand its reach to the entirety of San Jose. After all, schools in Hack on Track's home town of Almaden are relatively well-funded compared to many other schools in other district areas. In expanding throughout the city to low socioeconomic areas, Hack on Track seeks to prove that economic status doesn't have to dictate who grows up to become the next pioneers of technology. Ultimately, STEM education shouldn't be a premium experience reserved for wealthy people who can afford fancy computers with the latest bells and whistles. Rather, technology should be a tool that anyone can use to spread their vision over even the tallest of mountains of thought.

Hack on Track invites anyone in 8th-12th grade to apply to become a part of their mission. If you have any coding experience and would like to apply your skills to create STEM curriculum and teach workshops, please consider filling out an application at hackontrack.org and becoming a Hack on Track "Go-Doer." Being part of the Hack on Track community is a rewarding experience and a great way to earn community service hours by making an impact.

Editor's note: Hack on Track is always looking to have new students in their workshops. If you or your child would like to sign up for their programs, please visit their website at hackontrack.org or email Daniel, head of PR at: contact@hackontrack.org.

For more information, visit hackontrack.org, or follow Hack on Track on Instagram @[hack.on.track](https://www.instagram.com/hack.on.track)

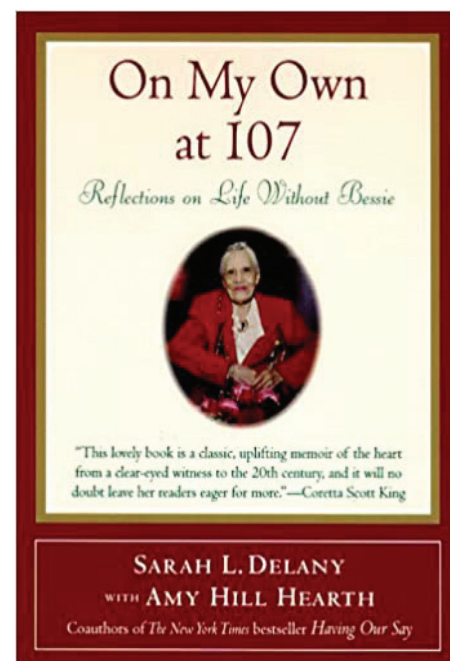
Sisters

Continued from previous page
titled, *Having Our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* was published in 1993. It sold more than five million copies, remained on the best seller list for more than 100 weeks and was translated to six different languages. The sisters appeared on Good Morning America and *Having Our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* became a Broadway Play before becoming a movie starring Diahann Carroll and Ruby Dee in 1999.

The sisters and Ms. Hearth wrote another best seller titled; *The Delany Sisters' Book of Everyday Wisdom* published in 1994. This book was in response to the thousands of letters the sisters received asking them for advice after *Having Our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* was published. The book I bought was the only one Sadie penned before her death at age 109 in 1999.

I am thankful for used bookstore owners as they provide us a place of limitless treasures. There is much to be learned by taking the time to visit, explore and absorb used bookstores. I know I am grateful for Tom's

as I would never have learned about these two fascinating and lovely women otherwise. As our economy slowly reopens, I hope you find time to visit a used bookstore and find your own treasures. I know I'm glad I did.



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Times **Community News**

Distance learning

Continued from page 1

record with 262 new cases of COVID-19.

Based on these developments, the district surveyed the community to inform their decision. Of the respondents, 54 percent of parents (5,936 of 11,063) said they would keep their students at home and about 81 percent of teachers (1,056 of 1,297) supported at-home instruction.

As a result, the district decided to provide distance learning for all students from Aug. 12 through Oct. 2, 2020.

"This decision didn't come lightly," said Kimberly Meek, board president, SJUSD. "I heard from families with students with special needs who are concerned how they're going to educate their children at home. I heard from parents whose jobs require them to be on location without child-care. We have concerns... but we err on the side of safety."

"We know this will be an incredibly challenging effort for all of us," Albaran said, "especially with the circumstances around us changing so frequently and unpredictably. We all want to get back to school, our activities, and life outside our homes. The surest way to do that

is to heed the advice of our medical professionals so we can flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus."

On July 17, Gov. Gavin Newsom put the question to rest. Newsom ordered distance learning for the beginning of the school year for all Santa Clara County schools, as the county is on the state's watch list for COVID-19 outbreaks. As of July 20, there had been 7,456 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Santa Clara County and 178 related deaths.

"Public education is absolutely about our kids," Newsom said, "but we cannot deny the fact that we have hundreds of thousands of adults that are responsible for taking care of and educating our kids...and their health has to be considered as well."

Following community feedback on distance learning in the spring, Albaran said at home learning this fall "will be significantly different."

There will be a bell schedule, live instruction, attendance taken and grades given. Professional development will be provided for teachers on engaging students remotely and how to address behavioral issues.

"There were a lot of lessons learned about what families wanted, what worked for students and what teachers needed," Meek said.

Meek said that the district intends to provide an electronic device for every single student, even if they already have one. Students in transitional kindergarten through grade 3 will receive an iPad and students in grades 4 through 12 will receive a Chromebook preloaded with Canvas software, an online learning management system.

"I can imagine some people will go, 'That's really stupid. I already have a device for my child,'" said Meek. "But students will be lim-

ited to what is needed to be a student in SJUSD. For children who are tempted to go to YouTube or Google Hangouts, I hope these devices don't allow that and help them stay focused."

Meek said that with each student receiving the same device, in addition to creating a consistent learning platform, it provides equity for students and teachers alike.

In the spring, Bernhardt said a third of the district's teachers didn't have reliable internet access at home aside from their smart phones, which made synchronous learning (live teaching) difficult. Inconsistent platforms and conflicting schedules for secondary school also complicated matters.

In addition to a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning, Bernhardt recommends a flexible distance learning model which can be used when it's safe for students to return to the classrooms.

"Students develop connections to their teachers and content narratives span the entire course," he said. "We want to assemble kids in classes the ways we normally do. We don't want to have to reassemble the entire school system every time the governor issues a new health order."

"Students develop connections to their teachers and content narratives span the entire course," he said. "We want to assemble kids in classes the ways we normally do. We don't want to have to reassemble the entire school system every time the governor issues a new health order."

—San Jose Teacher Association President Patrick Bernhardt

On August 12, students will be enrolled at their normal school and assigned to the school's typical bell schedule.

At-home students will receive live instruction streaming from teachers in their classrooms. Daily attendance will be taken for every class. Report cards will be sent home for elementary school students and grades issued for middle and high school students.

Bernhardt said the district wanted a learning management system in which parents could support their students and see how they're progressing.

"If a student is not participating in online learning 60 percent of the time, the district has an obligation to find out why," he said. "There are several layers of accountability in the fall that weren't in existence in the spring."

Bernhardt recommends that everyone involved in distance learning in the fall practices patience.

"I do not believe that patience requires you to accept something that is substandard from individual teachers or San Jose Unified," he said, "but...in holding teachers and the district accountable, you do so with more than a little grace, just as I hope my colleagues, when they're holding students accountable for doing work in this new environment, also offer students a greater amount of grace than they would during the regular school year, because this is truly undiscovered country."

Meek agrees.

"I hope all families can be patient as we go through this process," Meek said. "Just be a bit patient and kind with each other. Whether we're parents or staff, I think everybody is trying to do what's right by our students."



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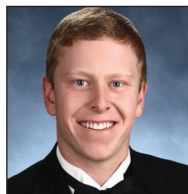
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Times News

Ryan McCahan named to Emerson College Baseball academic all-conference team

Ryan McCahan (inset) of Almaden Valley is among the six Emerson College baseball team honorees.

McCahan is pursuing a degree in Communication Studies and is a member of the Emerson College Class of 2020. He graduated from Leland High School in 2017.



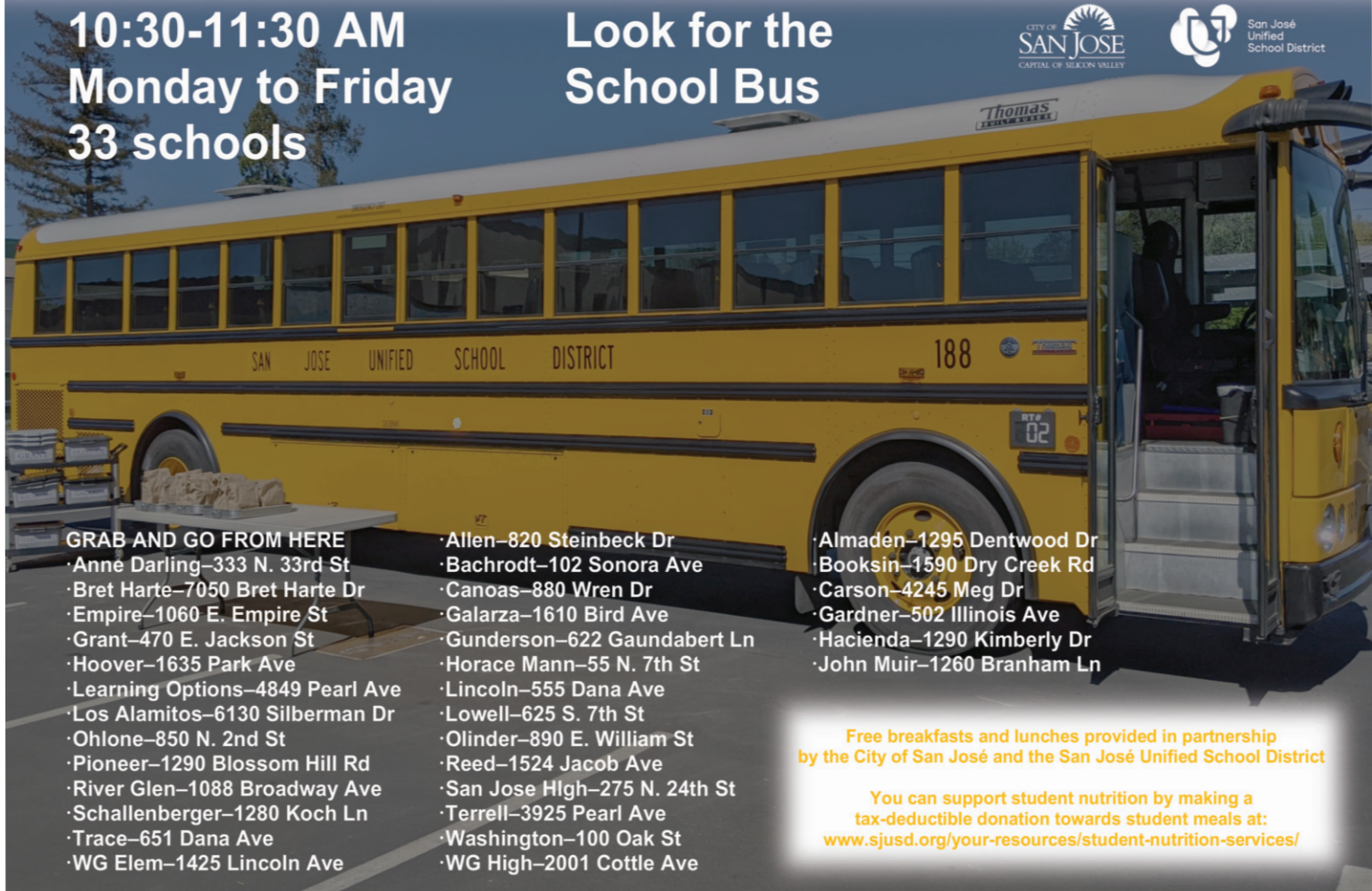
Honorees must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 (4.0 scale) or 4.35 (5.0 scale) after the 2019 fall semester, achieved second year academic status at their institution, and been a member of the varsity team for the entire season.

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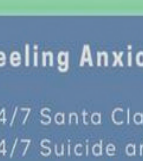
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Want to submit a news item for the **Almaden Times?**

Press day: August 5, 2020
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Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com



Times **Community News**

The fight to safely open businesses goes on

By **Johnny Khamis**
Special to the Times

I was disappointed by the announcement from Governor Newsom that just two days after some of our small businesses like hair and nail salons were opening up they were suddenly closed because of rising COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations.

I have been fighting to safely open businesses so that our struggling owners and workers could begin to dig out of the financial hole this global pandemic is causing locally, so this came as quite a shock.

I look forward to when this latest order will be lifted and people can get back to safely earning a living - especially those who've been the most affected - those from our lowest-income neighborhoods, along with the business owners who continue to pay leases for bars, gyms, salons, retail spaces, and entertainment venues they cannot operate. We've seen success in controlling the spread of this coronavirus elsewhere with the wearing of face coverings when in congregate settings, improved hygiene practices such as disinfection of surfaces and hand washing, and social distancing. I hope that we can apply these practices consistently to again slow the spread of the virus and get these important elements of our economy back up and running.

The City Council is on recess until 9 AM on July 28th when we return, virtually, to consider a ballot measure that will:

- Move the Mayoral elections to Presidential election years
- Implement new campaign ethics rules
- Empower the Mayor to hire and fire the City Manager and other department heads to increase responsiveness and accountability
- Extend the Mayor's term by two years to accommodate the change in the Mayoral election year

- Convene a Blue Ribbon Charter Commission to look at other potential changes to the City Charter that could improve City operations

Also included was my proposal to maintain City Council oversight on hiring and firing of the City Manager and expanding Council oversight in the employment or termination of other department heads by implementing Council review of the Mayor's hiring and firing decisions, and allowing the Council to override such decisions on a 7-4 super-majority vote.

Here are the City Clerk's instructions on how you may participate in the July 28th meeting:

1. By phone (888) 475-4499. Webinar ID: 915 6205 3469. Click *9 to raise a hand to speak.

2. By online <https://zoom.us/j/91562053469>.

■ Use a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer. Mute all other audio before speaking. Using multiple devices can cause an audio feedback.

■ Enter an email address and name. The name will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.

■ When the Mayor calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on "raise hand." Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak.

■ When called, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted.

The meeting may be viewed at the City's website or on Comcast Channel 26, as well.

My office is still available to serve you, and you may reach us at 408-535-4910 or via email at district10@sanjoseca.gov. Please stay safe and stay healthy. I look forward to seeing you after this short break.



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

Mackenzie Meyer of Almaden named to McDaniel College Dean's List

Mackenzie Meyer (inset) of Almaden has been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the McDaniel College Spring 2020 Dean's List with Highest Honors.

Highest honors are earned for a semester grade point average of 3.90 or higher, high honors for a grade point average of 3.70-3.89, and honors for a 3.50-3.69 grade point average.

Meyer, a graduate of Pioneer High School, is a member of the McDaniel Women's Cross Country Team. She is majoring in Biology.

McDaniel College, founded in 1867, is a four-year, independent college of the liberal arts and sciences offering more than 70



undergraduate programs of study, including pre-professional specializations and student-designed majors, and over 20 graduate programs. Its 24 athletic teams compete in the NCAA Division III Centennial Conference.

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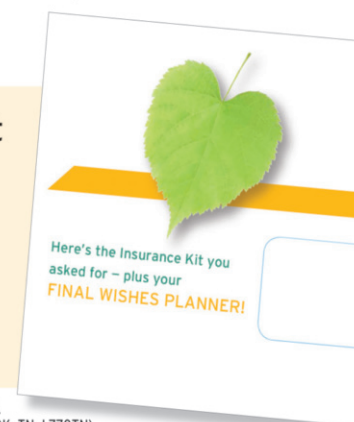
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tures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment. Our activities flow from our core values:
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www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, 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

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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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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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nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
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Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148
The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk

the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

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St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
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
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
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- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

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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.

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Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;
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1129 Trevino Terrace



Over \$200k was recently spent on this amazing townhome that been totally remodeled, top to bottom in designer quality finishes. Located in the private Country Club Complex of Almaden Valley with views of the surrounding hills. Beautiful walnut hardwood flooring, high peaked ceiling, bright sunny windows, plantation shutters, wall mount fireplace insert with glass ember bed. Wet bar with a wine refrigerator. Large updated kitchen has granite slab counters and backsplash, plenty of soft close cabinetry. Luxurious master bedroom suite with a high peaked ceiling. En suite includes a skylight, large vanity area, and a rain faucet with an adjustable shower faucet. Fenced for privacy, this serene backyard has a beautiful Belgad paver patio pergola and low maintenance landscaping around the perimeter including a Japanese Maple Tree. San Jose Unified School District: Simonds Elementary School, Castillero Middle School and Leland High School.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 11 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2019 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home in 2020, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.



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