

Santa Clara County supervisors are facing staggering budget shortfall
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Finding a bright side
Mayor, Vice Mayor accept economic recovery plan from Recovery Roundtable – **SEE PAGE 5**

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SEPTEMBER 2020 ■ VOL. 16, NO. 5

Willow Glen **Times**

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San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** and volunteers from his neighborhood clean up the graffiti to his home scrawled by protestors. *Photo credit: KTVU.com*

Protesters vandalize Mayor Liccardo's home; neighbors volunteer to scrub away graffiti

A group protesting for social justice vandalized San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo's home Friday night, August 28.

The group was seen scrawling graffiti on the front walls of his home and on the steps to his house. Protesters also set fire near the sidewalk.

Liccardo was seeing a family member and was away from his home at the time of the vandalism as more than 100 people gathered outside the mayor's home just before 11 p.m.

The group spray-painted phrases included "BLM," "Jacob Blake," and profanity including an expletive, F_ _ _ 12. The number 12 is code for police. The American flag was burned along with a Blue Lives Matter flag taken to the scene, according to police.

Earlier, 150 protesters marched near San Jose City Hall as part of what began as a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest. The demonstrators chanted and carried signs that read "Stop killing us" and "Defund SJPD."

Liccardo spent the night cleaning up the graffiti and eggs with the help of two dozen neighbors.

Liccardo told KTVU-TV, "It's very heartening to see people take time out on a late Friday night, to help someone out. I'm very grateful for
See GRAFFITI, page 2

City council challenger Tonkel welcomes key endorsements from south bay democrats

District 6 San Jose City Council challenger Jake Tonkel's campaign has announced the endorsement of California State Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-27) following a joint virtual event about state-level legislation.

Kalra is joined by Santa Clara County District 3 Supervisor and candidate for State Senate District 15 Dave Cortese in supporting Tonkel's candidacy.

Tonkel is a biomedical engineer who has never run for political office before. He is taking on a prominent incumbent Dev Davis. His has a grass roots approach by waving off contributions from corporations, developers, and the fossil fuel industry.

Tonkel was considered the underdog in the election, but recently released fundraising totals show his campaign has double as many District 6 donors as his opponent and nineteen times as many donations under \$100.

Kalra said Tonkel is a much-needed, progressive voice for San Jose during a time of serious distress for working people and their families.

"To be effective, California's COVID-19 recovery must happen in collaboration with the cities and lift up all families through this economic downturn," Kalra said. "Jake has policy experience in Sacramento and San Jose, along with the thoughtfulness



District 6 San Jose City Council challenger **Jake Tonkel**

and compassion needed to be a powerful voice in helping navigate our city toward a brighter future."

Cortese has been a fixture in San Jose politics since 1992, said, "Jake is showing, through his service-oriented campaign and vision for District 6, that he will serve San Jose well."

"The only way we can success-

fully navigate the various crises we face is by working together. Collaborative, open governance is one of many qualities I bring to the table," Tonkel said. "I'm incredibly grateful for the support of Assemblymember Ash and Supervisor Cortese and I look forward to being a Councilmember who builds bridges at City Hall."

San Jose Police Department shows its pride for LGBT community with new pride-themed shoulder patch

Patch unveiling at Rainbow flag raising ceremony

The San Jose Police Department is showing its support of the LGBT community.

The unveiling of a new optional rainbow-bordered shoulder patch for SJPD uniforms was made during the second annual raising of the rainbow Pride flag at police headquarters which was presided over by Police Chief Eddie Garcia.

"When people ask me why we do this, we do it for the support that we have not only for our community but for our rank and file as well," said Police Chief Eddie Garcia. "I stand proud with the rest of my department, the allies, and the members of the LGBT community in our department and in our community today. I hope this is a small symbol of our respect for

our entire community and the beautiful diversity we have in the city of San Jose."



The new patch, purchased with the support of the San Jose Police Foundation, is very popular. The department has ordered an additional 500 patches as the original shipment of 300 sold out immediately.

One of the few openly gay members of the department, Officer James Gonzales, said the department has made great strides toward building better relations with both the South Bay's LGBT community and its own LGBT officers during the tenure of Garcia. Those efforts have included establishing an LGBT advisory board, raising the rainbow flag the past two years and supporting a state Assembly bill that required LGBT awareness training for police officers and dispatchers.

"As an LGBT officer for 20 years, I think we

have done a really good job of entrenching this in our culture," Gonzales said. "I think other departments should look at the things we're doing here."

Last year, the San Jose Police Department became the first big-city Police Department in the Nation to Fly the Rainbow Pride Flag.



San Jose Police Chief **Eddie Garcia** speaks at the raising of the rainbow Pride flag at police headquarters recently. *Photo courtesy San Jose Police Department.*

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 11

Times Feature

San Diego Mayor Faulconer and San Jose Mayor Liccardo urge California to avoid exodus of ride-share companies

San Diego Mayor Faulconer and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo released the following statement regarding the impending exodus of ride-share companies from California due to AB5:

"As the Republican and Democratic mayors of two of California's three largest cities, we have serious concerns that this Friday, most of California's nearly one million gig workers will lose their rideshare income when Uber and Lyft shut down their operations in the Golden State. A court's decision to not exempt ridesharing companies from the dictates of Assembly Bill 5, which forces many businesses to treat independent workers as employees, has caused Uber and Lyft to prepare to exit their largest domestic market. This sudden disappearance of jobs and transportation options will only deepen the economic pain felt in our communities during this historic pandemic and recession. Most of us appreciate the critical value rideshare services provide, but this is about more than the mere convenience that these businesses bring to our daily routines. Uber and Lyft deliver food to homebound seniors, transport patients to and from medical care, support the nation's largest bike-share networks, and serve as a lifeline for essential workers who need transportation. We ask that the Court of Appeal grant Uber and Lyft's writ petitions and stay the injunction that would require these companies to restructure their entire operations virtually overnight. A stay could provide an opportunity for parties to come together with state leaders to negotiate a resolution to this complex issue and avoid irreparable harm upon hundreds of thousands of residents whose lives and livelihoods daily depend on these services."

Santa Clara County declares Lyme disease awareness



The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously declared Lyme Disease Awareness in the County.

Bay Area Lyme Foundation studied ticks in a dozen open space preserves in Santa Clara County and found

ticks carrying the bacteria that cause Lyme Disease in all twelve locations. The growing spread of Lyme disease has been linked to both climate change and land use change, as warmer temperatures and habitat destruction have pushed ticks further into densely populated areas.

"With our belief that being outside is safer than being inside in preventing COVID-19 transmissions, it is important that we call attention to Lyme disease, which is also a significant public health threat," said Supervisor Dave Cortese. "Thank you to the Bay Area Lyme Foundation for bringing awareness to this tick-borne disease and the precautions we can take to prevent it."

Raeena Lari, a San Jose resident, welcomed the awareness initiative by Supervisor Dave Cortese. "My family was exposed at a Santa Clara County park," Lari said. "The debilitating illness took us to 26 different doctors and specialists over an entire year, before a diagnosis was eventually made because of the widespread and mistaken notion that Lyme does not exist in California."

Linda Giampa, executive director of the Bay Area Lyme Foundation, said, "Many people are unaware of the dangers of tick exposure and the need for tick checks when returning from outdoor activities."

The California Department of Health recommends the following precautions for protection:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered repellent to keep ticks off your skin and clothing. Use tick repellent with at least 20% DEET as an active ingredient, which is safe when used as directed and is proven to prevent tick bites.

- Wear clothing treated with 0.5% permethrin, which is an active ingredient designed to kill ticks. (Permethrin should never be applied to skin.)

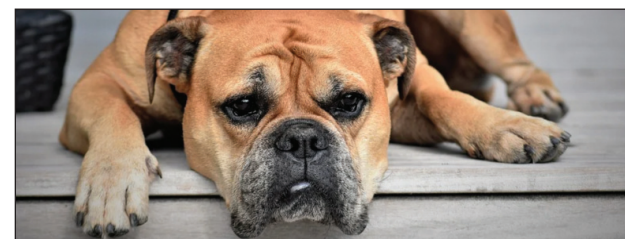
- While walking outside in areas where ticks live, stay in the middle of trails, and avoid grassy areas, leaf litter, contact with rocks, logs, tree trunks, and fallen branches or tree limbs in forests. Ticks are often hiding in these areas, waiting to bite and feed on an animal or person.

- After returning indoors from an area with ticks, thoroughly check yourself and others (including pets) for ticks during and up to three days after being outside in areas with ticks.

- Shower as soon as you can after leaving areas with ticks.

- Place any clothing you were wearing while in areas with ticks in a hot dryer for 10 minutes to kill ticks crawling on clothing.

For additional information on Lyme disease, please contact the Bay Area Lyme Foundation at www.bayarealyme.org.



Report: Best 10 dog-loving states

National Dog Day was celebrated this week, a time when we celebrate all our furry friends.

Can you believe that dogs have been with us for at least 14,000 years?

The holiday experts at National Today, the internet's #1 authority for holidays, surveyed 3,000 Americans about everyone's favorite furry friends and found:

- The majority of dog owners (70%) would prefer to spend time with their dogs versus people
- Nearly a quarter of men (23%) would prefer to spend time with their dogs than go on a date
- Nearly 4 in 10 women (39%) would prefer spending time with their dogs to dating
- 68% of dog owners allow their dog to sleep with them at least once a month

Additionally, the top 10 dog-loving states are:

1. California
2. New York
3. Washington
4. Tennessee
5. Florida
6. Massachusetts
7. Texas
8. Missouri
9. Ohio
10. Arizona

Graffiti

Continued from page 1

the good people in this community."

Liccardo said mayors of other cities, such as Oakland's Libby Schaaf, have also had their homes targeted with graffiti. Protests have erupted nationwide after Jacob Blake was paralyzed in a police shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

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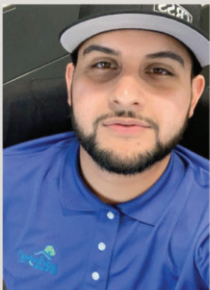


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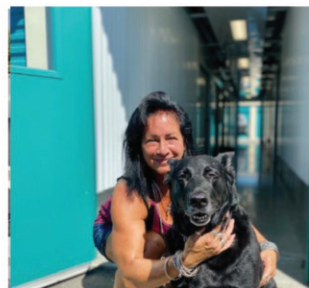
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DMV provides extensions for expiring licenses

The California Department of Motor Vehicles announced that it is providing an automatic one-year extension to Californians age 70 and older with a noncommercial driver license with an expiration date between March 1 and December 31, 2020.

While the new extensions are automatic, drivers will not receive a new card or paper extension in the mail.

Commercial licenses, including those for drivers 70 and older, expiring between March and September are extended through September 30, 2020, to align with federal guidelines.

Non-commercial licenses for drivers age 69 and younger have been extended to July 31, but there will be expanded eligibility to renew online or by mail.

DMV field office employees are assisting customers with appointments with limited transactions that require an in-person visit. The DMV continues to recommend that customers use its online services, expanded virtual services and other service channels to complete transactions, including eligible driver license and vehicle registration renewals. Customers can use the Service Advisor on the DMV website to learn their options to complete DMV tasks.

Valley Currents

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

Santa Clara County supervisors are facing staggering budget shortfall

By Madelyn Reese
Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County supervisors started the daunting task of addressing an anticipated budget deficit of between \$200 million and \$600 million, with jobs as the first place to cut.

Before kicking off discussion Aug. 17 of the specifics of how to address the shortfall, supervisors reviewed their challenges, including uncertainty in federal and state funding and the unclear severity and duration of the pandemic. They were stymied by the knowledge that this massive deficit cannot be solved with one-time funding solutions.

The current budget up for debate is planned to resolve about \$144 million of the county's shortfall, primarily through the elimination of staff. Jeffrey Smith, county executive officer, said the proposed job cuts are primarily funded, vacant positions.

"We asked certain departments to match, or come up with reduction targets ...This is just a start, we expect more later," Smith said. "But we think we gave you a proposal here that is relatively easy because the positions, the majority of the positions are vacant..."

Department heads have come up with plans to move employees around to prevent layoffs. "So with this budget, no one will go out the door," Smith said.

Despite the proposed budget cuts and deletions, the county acknowledges there still will be a large deficit that will need continual cost reductions throughout the next fiscal year. Supervisors plan to revisit the budget in November and February.

Proposed position deletions

WHERE TO CUT?



Santa Clara Board of Supervisors members **Cindy Chavez** (top left), **Mike Wasserman** (top right), **Joseph Simitian** (bottom left), and **Susan Ellenberg** (bottom right) on a Zoom budget meeting. Photo by Madelyn Reese.

include:

Office of the County Executive: One public communication specialist, one protocol officer and two multimedia communication officers.

Office of Sustainability: One program manager II.

Division of Equity and Social Justice (DESJ): Two management analyst, one community outreach specialist, one training and staff development specialist, one graphic designer II and one research and evaluation specialist II.

Also planned is the elimination of one senior loss prevention specialist in the Liability and Property Insurance Division of the Risk Management Department.

There weren't only cuts in the proposed budget. Suggested places to allocate county funds included:

Registrar of Voters: Ongoing funding of \$952,800 to fund addi-

tional extra help hours.

County Library District: One-time funding of \$4,522,136 for the purchase of fixed assets.

Budget Director Greg Iturria said the county is attempting to balance the rest of the budget. The county expects to lose an expected \$24 million on delinquent tax payments and penalties because Gov. Gavin Newsom in May signed an executive order mandating property tax relief.

"On everyone's mind right now is that we don't have the additional federal stimulus money ...many of us hoped for," Iturria said. "The state budget was adopted with automatic trigger cuts. If the federal government doesn't provide at least \$14 billion in new flexible aid ... we need to be prepared for another round of cuts... We want to have some set aside to help us prepare for that."

Federal funding has been inadequate in volume, in amount and in flexibility, Iturria said. The federal government's aid has too many restrictions on top of inadequate amount of funds, he said, so the county will need to look for additional funding.

Supervisors were concerned about the elimination of positions and how those deleted positions might be added back if needed.

Iturria assured that through an "add/delete" process, county offices will have flexibility in hiring and filling holes. Just because a position is deleted doesn't mean a department can't come back to the county in the event that a retirement or resignation occurs and be able to institute a needed position somewhere else.

Contact Madelyn Reese at reese.madelyn@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @MadelynGReese

Report: 2020's best real estate markets

With mortgage rates hitting record lows but consumers struggling financially due to COVID-19, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2020's

Best Real-Estate Markets.

To determine the best local real-estate markets in the U.S., WalletHub compared 300 cities of varying sizes across 24 key indicators of housing-market attractiveness and economic strength. The data set ranges from median home-price appreciation to home sales turnover rate to job growth.

Best Real-Estate Markets

1. Boise, ID
2. Seattle, WA
3. Frisco, TX
4. Nashville, TN
5. Gilbert, AZ
6. Murfreesboro, TN
7. Austin, TX
8. Spokane Valley, WA
9. Denton, TX
10. Renton, WA

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Times **Community News**

Mayor, Vice Mayor accept economic recovery plan from Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable leaders

Plan presents solutions towards a "Better Normal" in the community

Mayor Sam Liccardo and Vice Mayor Chappie Jones accepted the final economic recovery plan from the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable (SVRR) August 26.

The SVRR was created in April when Mayor Liccardo put out the challenge to some of the greatest innovators in Silicon Valley to work together to tackle the tough challenge of surviving the economic pitfalls of the pandemic. Their plan, titled "Building a Better Normal," focuses on a multifaceted approach to the Valley's most pressing problems such as job creation and small business support.

"Four months ago I convened the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable to challenge innovators and leaders to chart a path for Silicon Valley's revitalization—not merely to restore livelihoods, but to rebuild inclusively and equitably," said Mayor Liccardo. "In the weeks ahead, we will align our collective efforts to achieve this ambitious vision."

32 Silicon Valley cities form new "Mayors' Circle"

"Building a Better Normal" is set to serve as a guide to industries and communities across the region. It was created by 59 Silicon Valley leaders representing industries like education, business, labor, non-profits, health, and service. As the SVRR formed their recommendations, they identified cross-sector opportunities to bolster the efforts of policy makers. To facilitate that conversation, 32 Silicon Valley cities formed the Mayors' Circle, co-

chaired by San Jose Vice Mayor Jones, Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Kelin, Redwood City Mayor Diane Howard and Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, to engage its leaders and maintain communications with local governments.

"During our work together, we quickly realized that the COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity for us to rebuild Silicon Valley using our renowned innovation to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility in housing, transportation and economic opportunity for our most vulnerable," said Vice Mayor Chappie Jones. "As a strong advocate of small-medium business enterprises (SMEs), which according to the report make up 99% of businesses in Silicon Valley and employ 70% of our workforce, I look forward to implementing the outlined strategies and recommendations intended to boost resiliency and strengthen their abilities, especially minority-owned businesses, to weather through this unprecedented economic downturn."

The plan aims to highlight the key proposals and outcomes from the SVRR's discussions and collaboration to have local governments adopt the policies, and have the community come together to "Build a Better Normal" post COVID.

The highlights include recommendations on how to:

- Strengthen financial stability for individuals and businesses, particularly small businesses;
- Drive job creation and support displaced workers to promote economic recovery;
- Galvanize housing preservation, protection, and production;

tion, and production;

- Reimagine neighborhood districts to support small business vibrancy and more flexibility in a mixed-use environment;
- Create next-generation transportation, making it economically feasible and accessible and;
- Continue to expand digital inclusion for individuals and businesses, bridging the digital divide for all San Joseans.

Other key members of the task force include the 5 co-chairs, Cisco CEO Chuck Robbins, AMD CEO Lisa Su, Former Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Guardino, Silicon Valley Community Foundation CEO Nicole Taylor, NorCal Carpenters head Bob Alvarado. Other notable members include: Presidents of Stanford, Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Santa Clara University Kevin O'Brien, and San Jose State University Mary Papazian, Reid Hoffman, Facebook CFO Dave Wehner, Box CEO Aaron Levine, Silicon Valley Bank CEO, Greg Becker.

Concrete step on the path to recovery

The SVRR will continue its cross-sector collaboration as the City of San Jose explores the recommendations it has presented. The Mayor will use the recommendations on the top priorities identified in this report and provide a concrete step on the path to recovery. The Recovery Roundtable has raised the profile of many pressing issues, and suggested specific, collaborative actions we can take to build our new normal. Visit <https://www.siliconvalleystrong.org/wp-content/uploads/SVRR-Report-Final-PDF-2.pdf>

Insect repellent ingredient may kill coronavirus, study shows

British researchers have published a research paper demonstrating that Citriodiol, an ingredient found in insect repellent, may kill novel coronavirus.



The ingredient extrapolated from the eucalyptus citriodora tree was studied for its use as a protective layer against SARS-CoV-2 by the UK's military, according to a release by the Ministry of Defense.

The team of researchers out of the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) investigated the antiviral properties of Citriodiol against coronavirus by using a mosquito repellent which was applied to a liquid drop of the virus and then to a synthetic skin made of latex.

"We are very excited by these findings and have several new studies either already going through laboratories or planned," Jacqueline Watson, managing director of Cetrifine, which produces Citriodiol, stated in a release on the company's website.

The researchers stated in the report that "this research paper demonstrates preliminary findings on the effectiveness of Citriodiol against COVID-19."

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Times **Community News**

Why residential real estate in South Bay is red hot despite the pandemic

By Neil Collins

CEO at Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS

The shelter-in-place order issued by Santa Clara County on March 17 led to weeks of confusion about how the real estate industry was to comply.

We had people in the middle of transactions left in limbo. Would the seller really move out? Are banks still willing to loan? How would inspections occur and title companies sign off? How could you purchase a home without being able to do a walkthrough? The county Clerk-Recorder's office was even closed for a while.

Fortunately, clarification came rather quickly from the county. Real estate was deemed an essential service and home sales once again began to occur. While many steps in the home-buying process became virtual, there was still nothing that could replace a buyer's desire to visit a home in person before making an offer. Luckily, private showings have been allowed to continue.

To be certain, showing a house during this pandemic is no picnic. Real estate agents are required to conform to both state and local showing guidelines. In Santa Clara County only two buyers from the same buying party can view the house at a time, by appointment only.

Rules of entry get posted on each property outlining the requirement for everyone to wear a mask, wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering, avoid touching anything inside the property and maintain social distance.

Prior to entering the property, visitors must sign a Coronavirus Property Entry Advisory and Declaration understanding the risks of exposure to COVID-19, representing to the best of their knowledge they currently are not afflicted with COVID-19 or within the last 14 days, been in contact with someone afflicted with COVID-19 and are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. These showing appointments are staggered to allow time to clean and disinfect the property between showings. Open houses are still not permitted.

These restrictions do make it more challenging to buy and sell your home. With the added uncertainty of the virus and rising unemployment numbers, you would think the housing market would be down. To many people's surprise, it's been just the opposite.

I recently spoke with Doug Goss, broker associate at Keller Williams Bay Area Estates, about his take on the market. He said that it has been a very strong summer for home sales.

"The real estate market has been red hot. Last month was our second highest July sales month ever," he said. "We are seeing multiple offers on a lot of properties. The secondary home market is especially robust."

The secondary home market growth seems to be tied to the ability to work remotely. The further you get away from Silicon Valley the more affordable your housing options become. While not all workers can thrive working remotely, we expect this trend to continue. Some of these destination purchas-

es might actually end up becoming the primary residents for people who can continue their remote work indefinitely.

Goss added that we are, however, seeing some signs of cooling in the condo and townhome market.

"With the increase in the number of condos and townhomes available on the market, combined with the incredibly low interest rates, this is a great opportunity for first-time homebuyers to purchase a home in the area and start building wealth through home ownership," he said.

So why is our housing market still so strong? First off, we live in the tech capital of the world. Many tech workers here have not been negatively affected by the stay-at-home orders.

Another factor is the inventory of available homes for sale is historically low. According to MLSListings Inc, there are only 984 single-family homes and 675 condos/townhouses available for sale in Santa Clara County. For years, housing production has lagged woefully behind demand in Silicon Valley.

Lastly, record-low interest rates are giving consumers that extra purchasing power to enter this hot market.

The continued housing demand during this pandemic has made it clear: Real estate will always be one of the safest places to invest. COVID has definitely made it more challenging to buy and sell a home but the extra precautions put in place by the real estate industry have created a safe and efficient environ-

ment for transactions.

I anticipate some of the changes in showing practices will extend well beyond this pandemic. Limiting the amount of physical traffic in your house while still fully exposing the property in a virtual way will continue to be popular.

I also expect the convenience of meeting with your real estate agent through video conference will be a lasting trend as well. Real estate agents seem to be just as creative and resilient as the housing market itself.

Neil Collins represents the Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS, a trade association representing more than 6,000 real estate professionals in Santa Clara County and surrounding areas. Contact Neil at neil@sccaor.com or follow @neilcollins on Twitter.





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Chuck McDowell,
Founder & CEO

Op Ed: Community newspapers are key to a more inclusive America

Assembly Bill 323: Helping local news outlets survive

By Blanca Rubio and Evan Low

More than 50 years have passed since President Lyndon Johnson heralded ethnic newspapers for their role in building American unity.

"Your publications represent one of the most American of all our American institutions," Johnson told a roomful of publishers in the East Room of the White House. "Beyond this moment, beyond this hour, beyond this year, we must work for a better America - for all Americans ...this is the work we must always do." In these desperate times of horror and righteous anger over the needless deaths of George Floyd and countless others - and dawning shame that microaggressions against people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQIA are so commonplace they rarely draw more than passing acknowledgment - we recognize we have a very long way to go to reach America's promise of compassion and unity; a promise that our country will embrace all people from different genders, religious affiliations and ethnicities equally.

And more than ever, America's newspapers are vital in helping our nation reach its potential.

Citizens in our country turn to the news for information about the state of our coun-

try and the recent riots. The only reason we know about injustices in our backyard is because journalists rushed to the front lines to report in real time so we might know what was happening and what it might mean for the future of our community and society at large.

Newspapers shine a light on injustice and keep public pressure on the powerful. They combat the insidious spread of false information, especially un-vetted rumors that spread like wildfire across social media. They provide more than sound bites and 280-character tweets; they inform our communities with insightful, in-depth coverage of weighty challenges and the truth.

Newspapers are messengers of our work toward a better society

And in these troubled times, they are messengers of our work toward a better society that prioritizes peace, respect, interfaith restorative justice and the value of all humankind. Indeed, the great theologian Karl Barth once told Time magazine



Blanca Rubio (above) and Evan Low



newspapers are so important that "I always pray for the sick, the poor, journalists, authorities of the state and the church - in that order." But the old adage "What we take for granted will eventually be taken away" has never been more prescient.

Newspapers struggling with the one-two punch of the financial impact of COVID-19 on advertising revenue now face impending increased costs of new employment laws in California. As many as 20% of California's newspapers are teetering on the financial cliff, putting many communities in jeopardy of becoming news-less.

As representatives of vibrant and extremely diverse districts, we are gravely concerned about the future of community and ethnic media. These outlets not only provide facts but also guide how to operate in American society - including how to participate civically. And local print newspapers ensure seniors and those without reliable internet access

stay informed and engaged.

That's why we are authoring Assembly Bill 323 (Rubio), which will bolster local news outlets, including ethnic media outlets, by establishing a path for them to access state advertising and providing more time for these outlets to adjust to independent contractor laws. This lifeline will help community and ethnic outlets survive, stabilize and continue to serve their communities.

Ask for a "Yes" vote on AB 323

AB 323 needs to pass the powerful Assembly Labor Committee and be voted upon by the state Assembly before the end of this month. Readers can support its passage by calling the Labor Committee chair, our respected colleague Assemblyman Ash Kalra, and asking for a yes vote on AB 323. Assemblyman Kalra can be reached at 916-319-2027.

Our great democracy - and our ability to improve it - is predicated on an informed citizenry. We cannot allow our community newspapers to die when we need them the most - in our pursuit of a more just, more inclusive America. Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, represents the 48th District in the California Assembly. Evan Low, D-Campbell, represents the 28th District in the California Assembly. Readers can support AB 323 by going to www.savemypaper.com.

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Times **Community News**

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo endorses Ravel for State Senate

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo has announced her endorsement of Ann Ravel for State Senate.

Eshoo has represented Silicon Valley in the House of Representatives since 1993. She is the first woman ever to serve as Chair of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

“Ann Ravel is a lifelong consumer advocate, a fierce defender of fair elections and a champion for women. But above all else, she is a fighter – willing to take on powerful interests on behalf of the people and her community,” said Eshoo. “I can think of no better way to add to Silicon Valley’s clout in Sacramento than sending Ann Ravel as our next state senator.”

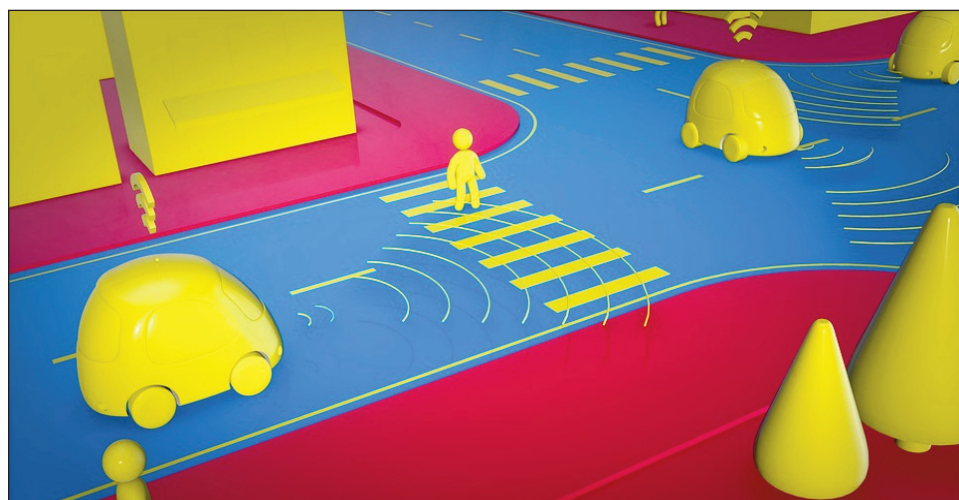
“There are few people, if any, who’ve done more for the people of Silicon Valley over the last forty years than Anna Eshoo,” said Ravel. “I’m deeply honored to have her support for our campaign to take back power for the people and make our state government work better for all of us.”



Anna Eshoo (left) and Ann Ravel (right)

Ravel was also appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Chair of California’s Fair Political Practices Commission. As Santa Clara County’s chief attorney, she took on tobacco companies and won support for better healthcare, won pioneering cases protecting consumers, was a champion of a precedent-setting case to safeguard children from lead paint.

California’s State Senate District 15 includes San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga. This is an open seat — current State Senator Jim Beall is termed out in 2020.



Tech Jargon of the week Self driving cars

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:

Self-Driving Cars

Today, every person working in the automobile industry has a different definition for self-driving cars, driverless cars, automated cars etc. The cars you buy today might have some intelligent driver assistance systems like detecting blind spots, control steering or even self-braking. But nothing of what is available now allows you to take a nap, or email or watch a video while you are behind the wheel. Today’s cars still need a human supervision to drive and only gets some assistance from the car’s intelligent systems.

On the other hand, a self-driving car is supposed to be a robotic car which is able to take you from Position A to a destination of Position B without human assistance. To qualify as a fully autonomous vehicle, it should be able to navigate in the busy roads without human intervention to a predetermined destination, sharing roads with human-driven cars and

pedestrians. The three core technologies that build a self-driving car are: sensors, connectivity to other cars and the software running it.

There are many sensors installed in the car that observe both the state of the driver (sleepy, drunk etc.) as well as scan in multiple directions outside the car. The concept of self-driving is a step towards safer roadways and less human errors.

There are many companies working on the concept of driverless cars including Audi, BMW, Tesla, Volvo etc. Closer home to our Silicon Valley, Google’s Waymo team has been aggressively working to test their self-driving car on the roads.

Of course, with all the testing going on with self-driving cars, we had to come across some funny incidents. Back in 2015, a police officer pulled over one of Google’s self-driving cars in California. The car wasn’t speeding. On the contrary, it was driving too slowly – 24 mph in a 35 mph zone – which is a violation. As the officer approached the car, he realized no one was driving the car. There was however a passenger who later explained the concept of self-driving car to the cop. In the end, no ticket was issued.

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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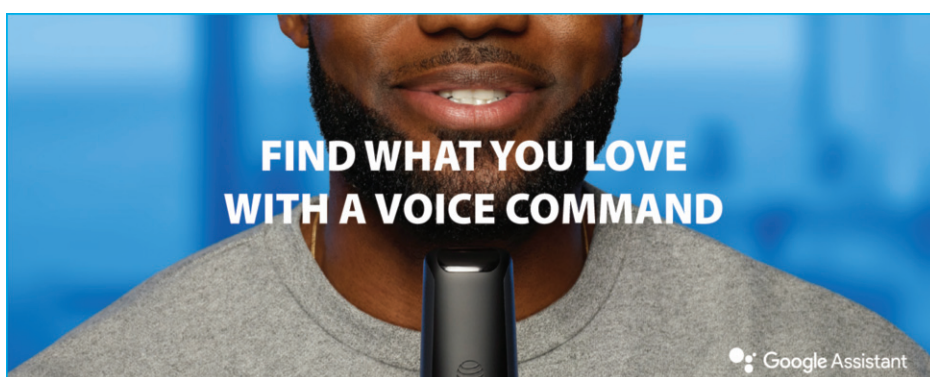
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Times **Community Notebook****Board moves toward strengthening aid to landlords and tenants***Proposal calls for expanding mediation services*

In order to better respond to landlord-tenant disputes, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted on Tuesday, August 25, to focus on expanding county mediation services for tenants who have fallen behind on rent during the pandemic and their landlords.

The Board approved Supervisor Dave Cortese's call for expanded services at a time when there is a growing need for mediation services emerging from recent eviction moratoriums and the back payment of rent to landlords. With the loss of jobs because of COVID-19, thousands of tenants cannot pay rent and are at the brink of evictions and homelessness. At the same time, landlords also have financial burdens and limited cash flow.

Administration will return to the Board at the September 22 with a report.

"During these challenging times, tensions may be running high for both tenants and landlord," said Supervisor Cortese. "Sometimes all it takes is getting the two sides to sit down and work out a solution."

The mediation is a voluntary, non-binding process aimed at ensuring that a mutual resolution for all parties can be reached.

There are an estimated 43,490 households in Santa Clara County that are most at risk of eviction because residents have lost work with no replacement income, according to a report by Working Partnerships USA and the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. These households are disproportionately people of color, women-headed households, and families with young children.

The County Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services, which conducts mediation service, was established in 1977 to help in the mediation of conflicts for County residents. Omos is currently open during COVID-19 offering services by phone, email and video conference.

Taxpayers affected by wildfires granted extension to file

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) announced on Friday, August 28 a special tax filing relief for Californians affected by wildfires.

Taxpayers in governor-declared or presidentially declared disaster areas are granted an extension to file tax year 2019, California tax returns until December 15, 2020.

"We are doing everything we can to help people affected by these devastating wildfires focus their immediate attention on themselves, their families, and their properties," said State Controller and FTB Chair Betty T. Yee.

Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury seeking volunteers for 2021

Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan has announced that the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, is seeking volunteers to serve on the 2021 Civil Grand Jury.

The Civil Grand Jury, an arm of the Superior Court, is a part of the judicial branch of government. It serves as the county's civil watchdog agency and may examine all aspects of county and city government, special districts, and school districts. It is authorized to inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures, to ensure accountability of public funds. The Grand Jury may also inspect jails and juvenile detention facilities.

Grand Jury service affords citizens the unique opportunity to contribute to the efficiency of local government and play an integral part in ensuring that government officials are accountable to residents. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, United States citizens, and residents of Santa Clara County. Service on the grand jury does require a time commitment of an average of 25 hours per week, or as determined by the Grand Jury.

Due to the challenges posed by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in line with California Penal Code §905.5(b), the Court determined it is in the best interest of the institution of the Civil Grand Jury to transition from a fiscal year term to a calendar year term. This change was considered and approved by the County Board of Supervisors and has necessitated that the next term of the Civil Grand Jury begins on January 4, 2021.

Additionally, the Civil Grand Jury Ceremony to honor and discharge the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury, and impanel the newly selected 2021 Civil Grand Jury, has been rescheduled to Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 4 p.m., and will be held remotely.

Persons interested in applying may obtain an application online at www.sccscourt.org under "Civil Grand Jury". Questions may also be directed to Britney Huelbig, Deputy Manager for the Civil Grand Jury, at 408-882-2721 or CGJ@sccscourt.org. The deadline to submit applications is September 25, 2020.

California joins feds for jobless benefits*There will be a wait before the payments start rolling*

California workers are now eligible to receive an additional \$300 in unemployment benefits amid the coronavirus. The benefits are expected to start within 10 days.

Governor Newsom said the state agreed to participate in a program made possible through an executive order signed by President Donald Trump.

The U.S. government's Lost Wages Assistance Program is tapping the Federal Emergency Management Agency for funding which replaces a prior program that provided \$600 in extra weekly benefits.

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the state's application and will provide an initial amount of \$4.5 billion, with the possibility of additional funding going forward," the Employment Development Department stated in a post on its website.

Workers entitled to the maximum state payment of \$450 a week can now receive \$750 a week. The worker receiving the average EDD payment of \$287, as of

June, will receive a weekly payment of \$587. There is a restriction, as jobless workers must be eligible to receive at least \$100 in weekly unemployment benefits, according to the EDD. Unemployed California workers also must provide a certification that they are out of work, or have suffered reduced hours, due to disruptions that the coronavirus caused.



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Back to School Safety Tips



With distance learning, getting kids back to school can have a new set of challenges. We wish you and your family well during this unprecedented time.

Use everyday opportunities to talk to your kids about being online. For example, news stories about cyberbullying or texting while driving can spur a conversation about their experiences and how you expect them to behave.

Clearly communicate your expectations and how they apply in an online context. Sharing your values clearly can help your kids make smarter and more thoughtful decisions when they face tricky situations. For instance, be specific about what's off-limits — and what you consider to be unacceptable behavior.

Resist the urge to rush these conversations with your kids. Most kids need to hear information repeated, in small doses, for it to sink in. If you keep talking with your kids, your patience and persistence will pay off in the long run.

Keep the lines of communication open. Even if you find out your kid has done something inappropriate online, listen and consider their feelings. You may not have all the answers but being honest and receptive can go a long way.

—Tips courtesy FTC.gov/KidsOnline



*Wishing the best
for you and your
family this year!
- Jackie*



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