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SEPT. 4 – SEPT. 17, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 18

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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 4

PACKING THE LOVE



Lions and Kiwanis join with Almaden Lions Club to provide backpacks full of supplies for needy children

By Judy Froom
Special to the Times

School supplies along with a backpack seem like such a simple fulfillment to get our kids ready for the school year (either from our homemade work stations or in socially responsible classrooms this year), but for many families of school age children it is a "luxury."

Keeping along with the growth of backpacks for kids for more than 15 years, fifteen members of Lions Clubs from Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, along with two Kiwanis Clubs joined Almaden Lions Club providing backpacks full of school supplies for needy children on Saturday August 1.

While social distancing is observed with online learning, most students still need school supplies and something like a backpack to keep their school work together and to prepare for when school does eventually open up in-person possibly later this year.

In the age of Covid-19, with many parents losing their jobs and needing more assistance more backpacks were needed than ever before, and that's why Lions clubs partnering with Kiwanis Clubs responded in a positive way.

Nearly 300 of the backpacks went to a homeless youth program in Santa Clara County and 30 went to a foster youth program.



Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo: poised to become next SJUSD Trustee, Area 5

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, an advocate for quality education and teachers, is poised to become Almaden's next school board representative.

Almaden resident Mahaney-Gurahoo ran unopposed to replace Kimberly Meek, Area 5 Trustee for San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD).

Throughout the span of her 30-year career, from teaching special education preschool to serving as Deputy Chief of Early Learning at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, Mahaney-Gurahoo has remained dedicated to helping children succeed in school and thrive in life.

"I deeply value quality education as a fundamental right for all children," Mahaney-Gurahoo said. "Quality education is a game changer."

Endorsed by the San Jose Teachers Association and South Bay Labor Council, Mahaney-Gurahoo



Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo

said she felt compelled to run for the San Jose Unified Board of Education because of her lifelong commitment to supporting quality education and re-envisioning its future.

"I believe in the power of amazing teachers," Mahaney-Gurahoo said. "They are some of our community's heroes. My goal is to ensure that our district further supports our teachers with compensation

See TRUSTEE, page 20



HELPING HORSES

Hundreds of horses have been evacuated due to the fires in the Bay Area. Take a Chance Ranch and Coyote Canyon Ranch are working together to secure hay for all the rescued horses. One Bale of hay generally costs \$15 and will feed a horse for three days. To donate, visit: www.gofundme.com/t/horse-rescue-take-a-chance-ranch

Photo courtesy of Take a Chance Ranch

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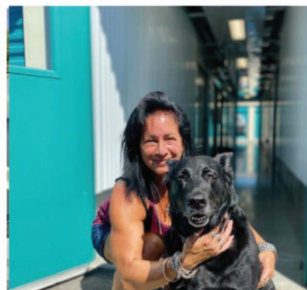
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Almaden Lions Club provides emergency support for evacuees and first responders

The Almaden Lions Club, in partnership with the Freedom Lions Club of Watsonville, is providing much needed support for the evacuees and first responders now housed at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, where hundreds of the 77,000 residents displaced by the CZU fires are living in tents and trailers.

Working with officials in Santa Cruz County, members of the Almaden Lions Club determined that toiletries, portable showers, and laundry services were among the unmet needs for first responders and evacuees housed at the county fairgrounds.

Members of the Almaden Lions Club worked quickly to provide a \$10,000 grant to assist in the acquisition and provision of portable showers and laundry services.

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.

Valley Currents

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

101st birthday drive-thru celebration for retired San Jose Fire Captain



Sam Siebert is the oldest retired San Jose Firefighter at 101. Below: Dozens of well-wishers express their gratitude during a "drive-thru" celebration for retired San Jose Firefighter Sam Siebert's 101 birthday milestone.



The San Jose Fire Museum hosted a 101st birthday celebration for Sam Siebert, a retired San Jose Fire Captain on Saturday, August 29.

Siebert served with the San Jose Fire Department from 1946-1976 and he is the oldest known living retired San Jose Fire Fighter. He is Founder Emeritus of the San Jose Fire Museum where he continues to volunteer.

The San Jose Fire Museum "drive-thru" birthday celebration was a "drive-by" event due to Covid-19. Museum Staff directed traffic south-

bound on Market St. from Devine to allow firefighters and the public an opportunity to drive up and share their best wishes for Siebert from a safe distance.

Siebert, who officially turned 101 years old on August 26, says his longevity comes from the relationships that he has with his fellow volunteers and friends around him. "I've lived a great life," Siebert said.

Everyone around him considers him to be a great man.

For more information about the San Jose Fire Museum, visit: www.sjfiremuseum.org.



When protestors inflict monetary damage lets be sure to bill them personally

Dear Editor,

This previous week, one hundred people went to a private home of our Mayor and vandalized it with graffiti and other harm.

I say let's make sure to bill each of these protestors.

That's right, if anyone participates in an organized protest and monetary damage is inflicted on any sidewalk or building, those costs need to be sent to each protester in the group who can be identified by camera.

This is calmly what needs to be instituted

in our beautiful city of San Jose. Sure you get the right to protest. Nope, if you or others in your group damage property you will be bound by law to pay the clean-up costs.

I don't care what cause or what side, the monetary damages such as fire on sidewalks (got to clean that up right) and graffiti, and broken glass and on and on, all those things need to be paid out of the pockets of the protest group.

Often such groups operate in clandestine ways however with camera and film of faces combined with detective work, we can find out who used the spray paint and bill all

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



those identified in such protests at their home.

So, if they damage property at a home or business, then like a boomerang, they know that they will receive a court summons to discuss a payment plan of how

they will pay monies back to the city or state or even Federal if they damage Federal property.

As far as our Mayor goes and his wife and family; I have this humble message for you all.

We love you and please disregard the paid anarchists from outside of our city that vandalize and harm others in the City of San Jose.

Kevin Larsen
San Jose

AlmadenTimes

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Times **Community News**

Report: 'San Jose has the 2nd worst roads in U.S.'

A new report by CoPilot looking at the U.S. urban areas with the worst roads, reports that San Jose, CA has the second worst roads in the U.S.

Researchers analyzed road quality statistics from the Federal Highway Administration to rank urban areas according to the percentage of all major roads in poor condition.

The analysis found that in San Jose, a staggering 63.3% of all major roads are in poor condition, compared to the national average of 26.4%.

Here is a summary of the data for San Jose, CA:

Percentage of all major roads in poor condition: 63.3%

Interstates and freeways in poor condition: 9.8%

Arterials in poor condition: 53.9%

Minor arterials in poor condition: 88.9%

Daily vehicle-miles per capita: 22.6

Miles of road per 1k people: 2.4

Apart from being unpleasant to drive on, poor roads are linked to worse traffic, reduced safety, and increased vehicle ownership costs. Research from AAA found that potholes alone cost drivers \$3 billion a year in vehicle repair costs. Furthermore, the most recent Urban Mobility Report released by the Texas A&M



Transportation Institute found that the average commuter spends 54 hours per year in traffic congestion and suffers a personal cost of \$1,080 in time and fuel.

Not surprisingly, there is significant regional variation when it comes to road quality—a function of differences in funding, climate, commuting patterns, and other factors. Almost half of all major urban roads in Rhode Island (47.9 percent), California (46.2 percent), and New Jersey (42.4 percent) are in poor condition. On the other hand, less than 10 percent of major urban roads are considered poor in Georgia (6.1 percent), Tennessee (8.6%), Florida (8.7 percent), Idaho (8.7 percent), and Indiana (9.3 percent). Overall, states in the South tend to have a smaller share of urban roads in poor condition than states in the Northeast and West Coast.

To review the data on more than 250 urban areas and all 50 states, visit: www.copilot-search.com/posts/cities-with-the-worst-roads



San Jose Firefighters recognize National Dog Day

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Apple tree splendor

By Kevin Larsen

There's a river called the "Russian" in Cal-i-forn "e" "i" "a." When we were little, mom took us and like ducklings we followed.

It was there we learned about trust. Each day it got so hot that the baked asphalt road melted onto the soles of our feet. Fluffy sand, round pebbles and cool water were created by Mother Nature. Down to Mother's Beach we galloped to where secret surprises waited. Each visit brought us a deeper understanding of life for it was a location of unbridled exploration. My sister was the best for we never argued and she encouraged. All along the way experiences taught us to be brave!

One day, mom spotted an abandoned apple tree all alone on an empty plot of land. As I looked up, its bounty of green was just out of my reach. Sticks helped slap the round fruit. We gathered up only what we could eat. An old man told us an old man told him the tree was old. Once a house was there but the river took it. This led us to wonder, how a house could walk away. We learned that summer someone bought the apple tree land. We never saw them. They built a real log cabin with chiseled shiny logs to go with the forest and the tree. It was a grand tight cozy structure. The months to come brought unexpected winter rains with thunder and flood.

When summer arrived the log cabin had vanished. It must have floated slowly away inch by inch with the rising waters. Dependable gravity just decided to give up and let it go. Without anyone seeing, like a matchbox it slid off its foundation and giggled as the water lifted it silently away. All mistakes of construction were now gone as it merrily floated down the river, silently bobbing without a rudder, then it rolled on its side and became a boat. When it rested on the mud banks, there really was no rush, for it would get going again with more rain.

Picking up steam it moved without a care just clearing the Hacienda Bridge. Down the river it continued past Korbel Winery and then through the Bohemian Grove. Stealthily riding majestically on top of the rippled current with air holding it afloat, it rolled past the little town of Duncan Mills and arrived to its destination at Jenner by the sea. The next summer we wondered if our tree would still be there. A sigh of relief came over us. It simply held its breath during the flood and the water tickled the roots. The branches were like arms cradling the apples to us.

Once someone posted signs which yelled: "NO TRESSPASSING." The nerve of them trying to claim our water's edge. The community peacefully went to court to demand it be made a forever beach. My mom spoke to the judge and signed papers. I could not believe she was so powerful and an activist by nature. At the ruling it was pronounced that it would become a public beach so kids in canoes, inner tubes and floating mattresses would have their forever access.

I began to understand how the elements of winter rains, nutrient soil, and sunlight combined with the nighttime dew helped shape its fruit. I would rub off the dust of each apple on my swim trunks before biting in. The taste of the fruit was tart and I would chew it and move the rough skin to a cheek. I'd eat the juicy parts and spit out the skin for the ants. Maybe Luther Burbank made this tree with his grafting for he lived nearby long ago and gave seedlings away. He believed the best education for a child was to play in nature. These were some of my classes in nature.

The river molded me and played a hand in who I became. I remember sneaking up on a crayfish only to have him dart back at me between my legs. How was I supposed to know he ran backwards? Sticking my feet into quicksand along the banks, they would be stuck solid like a Rodin sculpture. Into the blue wet clay they went creating the exhilarating chore of working them out of the quicksand. I learned to fight my fear by putting my hand in holes to capture toads the size of softballs. Fish catching taught me patience with use of Mepps spinner lures. The string tied, the pole bent, the line taunt, reeling in I learned to play the line and inevitably pulled the fish out of water to take the hook out of its mouth. I remember, I could fall and nothing hurt nor did I care. Working to capture a clumsy pollywog I never would believe it to be a baby frog. I witnessed mysterious sun bathing turtles slip into water. Wild liquorish plant was everywhere and its smothering scent cleansed my soul. Gliding on my bike with its silver metallic banana seat I did not know how to become tired in the first ten years of my life. Hearing catchy transistor radio songs of restless romance and finding out about poison oak the hard way were all part of my schooling. Foraging for sunbaked plump blackberries in secret areas I learned to avoid their thorns with my purple stained hands. Our family filled metal strainers full of them. Everyone asked mom to be sure to add more sugar "pleeease!" Mmmm, warm pie, vanilla ice cream, there is a God.

Swimming underwater I strived to increase how long I could hold my breath, while propelling down to the bottom taught me to put my hands out to protect my head. I knew limbs of fallen trees could reach out, capture me and I could get stuck. Stories of drownings only made me stronger. Everyone yelled "remember to let go" while I was standing on the clay river bank holding a strong questionable rope tied to an overhanging tree. That was my baptism. Everyone smiling, even the tough guys, I would pick just the precise moment when to let go and fall into the water where bubbles flowed smoothly out my nose.

Throwing mud at the backs of my enemies was rewarding. Plastic sun lotion bottles of Coppertone acted as water guns and the smell of the lotion was simply intoxicating. After long swims we always had a green apple to choose from. The tree was always gently speaking to us. It mysteriously called out to my mom too. Only some people could hear its voice. She and the tree taught us about freedom. Simple hugs from my mom and dad made me happy inside. The tree occasionally caressed my hair as I walked under it. One day I heard it whisper "Enjoy your life, take what you can grab." I'm sure the tree told my mom, "Visit when you can. Bring the children. Take all you want. Come back to me each summer and play."

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Times **Community News**

Cal Fire using Reid Hillview Airport to battle SCU fire

Reid Hillview Airport in South San Jose is serving as a Cal Fire Helitac base to bring added resources to battle the SCU Lightning Complex Fire, saving lives and property.

The three letters before a name of a fire is an abbreviation of the unit in charge of the response. The letters "SCU" stand for Santa Clara Unit.

Cal Fire started the process of setting up a "dip tank" station used by firefighting helicopters to replenish their supply of fire retardant on the north end of Reid Hillview Airport. Helicopters are loading up with

fire suppressant and targeting the blaze which has burned 374,000 acres and is more than 35 percent contained.

The setup at RHV consists of a semi-trailer sized mixing tank, two dip tanks for the helicopters, two large tanks of clean water used to mix the fire retardant, and several water tender trucks to transport water from the fire hydrant to the pools."

"In ways big and small, our local airports are an irreplaceable resource especially when we are facing a natural disaster," said Walt Gyger who heads up a group working to save Reid Hillview from possible closure. "San Martin, Santa Clara County's other community airport, is at capacity serving as a base for Cal Fire operations focused on the CZU Fire which primarily affects Santa Cruz County. Our airports are a vital lifeline." *Photo by Mark Milioto*



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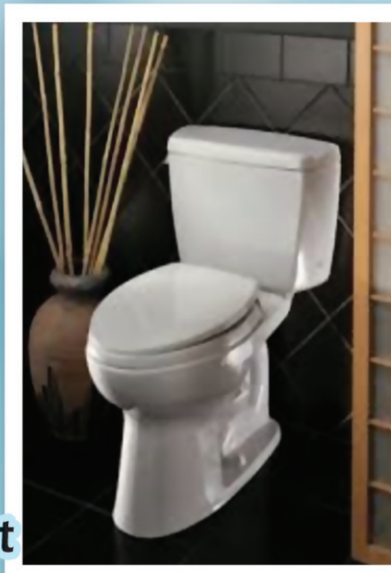
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Times **Community News**

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;
- 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>

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Fire Relief Report

WestGate Church, Fishnet Outreach volunteers help evacuees

By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

Soon after the recent fires started in the Santa Cruz mountains, Finny Abraham from WestGate Church called my office to see what they could do to help. My District 10 team wasted no time in connecting him with the Vice Mayor of Scotts Valley, Derek Timm, and Jim Johnson of Fishnet Outreach.

While the Santa Clara County evacuation sites were adequately stocked with supplies, there was great need in Santa Cruz County. WestGate didn't waste any time. They put out a call for supplies and it spread quickly through social media networks, throughout District 10, and beyond. Here's a video of what was received just the first night. <https://youtu.be/e5coYvWSZ4Q>

All in all, over 100,000 bottles of water were delivered, along with countless tents, blankets, food bars, and tarps. Our residents were so generous that the Santa Cruz County supply center was able to share with the Monterey County supply center to support their evacuees.

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to collect and sort donations and deliver the supplies. One volunteer driver reported, "They were very grateful for all the donations. At the drop off it was amazing to see all the helping hands, especially from the youth. Thank you for allowing me to serve." This was an amazing effort and it took a lot of volunteers to pull it off so successfully.

The evacuees appreciated the support, as well. One WestGate member reported, "I just heard someone share that he received some of the donations we collected and sent to Santa Cruz. He was very blessed and blown away by the generous gift from people who don't even know him. Thank you for your outpouring of love. It is making a difference already!"

While this was truly remarkable, and very much appreciated, we must remember that their struggle is not over yet. WestGate continues to work with ten different churches in the area and has assigned a point person to communicate their needs to the church. They talk every day, and Vice Mayor Timm continues to be involved in the effort.

WestGate Church sent \$50,000 to Twin Lakes Church to help them care for the 80 families now living in RVs. There will be ongoing needs for a very long time. If you would like to donate to this longer-term support effort, please visit <https://www.westgatechurch.org/fire-relief>. 100% of donations will go to the fire-relief effort. In addition, other needs will be posted on this site, so check back periodically to see if there is a need you can fill.



**District 10
Report**
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

Almaden resident Jim Johnson with Fishnet Outreach has continued helping fire victims and survivors living in the Santa Cruz mountains who were devastated by the 2008 Summit Hill Fire and the 2016 Loma Fire. Fishnet Outreach has had over 200 volunteers working for years cleaning up proper-

ties, helping rebuild houses, cutting down dead trees, planting thousands of new trees, and providing free food. After the Red Cross leaves and the news stops reporting, there is still much to be done, and Fishnet Outreach continues to provide support for those who need it. Jim Johnson jumped right in

to help with WestGate's effort and expects to be caring for survivors of the SCU Lightning Complex Fire for a long time to come. Donations to Fishnet Outreach can be made online at www.FishnetCareAndShare.org or mailed to Fishnet, PO Box 41034, San Jose, CA 95160.

I am so proud to represent such a generous and caring community. Your willingness to help others in need, wherever they are, never ceases to amaze me. My deepest gratitude to all who gave and continue to give during these challenging times.

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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.

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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.

Report: Best 10 dog-loving states

National Dog Day was celebrated last 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

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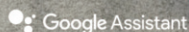
- Allen—820 Steinbeck Dr
- Bachrodt—102 Sonora Ave
- Canoas—880 Wren Dr
- Galarza—1610 Bird Ave
- Gunderson—622 Gaundabert Ln
- Horace Mann—55 N. 7th St
- Lincoln—555 Dana Ave
- Lowell—625 S. 7th St
- Olinder—890 E. William St
- Reed—1524 Jacob Ave
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Leland students promote the power of diversity by creating unbiased AI systems

Al Spectra Bootcamp registration sign ups available

By Aroshi Ghosh

Contributing writer

Today, Artificial intelligence (AI) has manifested itself in all aspects of our lives, yet we see numerous use cases where AI has also failed in its purpose.

Even if we dismiss the representation of AI in sci-fi movies as unnecessarily alarmist, we are all aware of how biased AI systems can impact real people's lives. As an example, consider how Amazon's AI recruiting software can penalize resumes for including the word "women" or Google's photo identification software can label Black people as "gorillas."

Bias is inevitable when the algorithms driving AI rely on datasets and images that are classified and labeled inaccurately based on traditional perceptions. Also, bias is manifested because the creators of AI are not necessarily the end users of AI. To engineer usable and accessible AI systems, we must create a diverse technical workforce that has a sound understanding of the ethical implications of using AI and an ability to identify unique AI applications by integrating various disciplines.

Finding ways to get young women involved in tech

While attending the AI4ALL outreach program at UC Berkeley in 2019, I, being a junior at Leland, realized that a diversity of viewpoints could only be incorporated into AI systems if we created the pipeline for a diverse workforce. It was obvious that enabling girls from underrepresented communities to get involved in STEM and spark their interest in fields like AI, was a crucial step towards this goal. Girls often get discouraged from pursuing STEM disciplines like AI, due to gender bias, stereotypes, unsupportive atmosphere in educational institutions, and school clubs. Due to these factors, many young women are unaware of the creativity involved in STEM and how easily and effectively it may be applied to fields that may traditionally appear to be more interesting to them like fashion, art, environment, music, and language.

As a female member and the Vice-Captain of the Leland FTC Quixilver 8404 Robotics team, I found myself already in a unique position to encourage STEM education among underrepresented minorities in tech, especially girls of a young age through mentoring FLL teams. I realized that activism could begin even on a small stage and founded the AI Spectra program after applying and receiving an Aspire IT grant for \$3000, to fund my initiative from the National Center for Women in Technology (NCWIT).

A student run outreach program, AI Spectra is today focused on bringing FREE structured, hands-on, interactive workshops on Artificial Intelligence to middle school girls and non-binary students. The focus of the program is to help young women explore the wide spectrum of AI's real world applications across disciplines like art, environment, music, language, and fashion so that students can explore various AI careers at

the intersection of the sciences and humanities. AI Spectra's curriculum is designed to help girls realize how simple it is to get started in tech and design simple solutions to solve some of the most fundamental and complex problems in society.

AI Spectra has also partnered with LITAS Learn for Girls, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that aims to inspire middle school girls to pursue careers in STEM. LITAS is the Global Finalist for the 2019 Nature Innovating Science Award and Anvita Gupta, the CEO / Founder has a successful track record of helping other programs (SheSTEM, Tinkering with EV3, My STEmpowerment) to launch their outreach efforts with Aspire IT grants. Additionally, LITAS has its own learning platform litaslearn.org, which includes modules in AI, web development, and Python.

Girls can join AI Spectra bootcamp without coding experience

The boot camp attendees are not required to have any prior coding experience, but must have an interest in computer science and be willing to attend the program for the entire two day duration. The bootcamp will provide an introduction to how AI works and various machine learning (ML) algorithms, such as Decision Trees and Neural Networks. From simple group activities to tensor flow demos, students will gain the introductory background knowledge they need to create their own simple Machine Learning models.

The program is structured into four modules, each focusing on a specific aspect of AI and application within that field. The module on "AI and Art" teaches how AI can be used in art and photography, how filters can turn a simple selfie into an oil painting, and how generated art can create animations. Students will also create their own simple animation in Javascript. The module on "AI and Music" teaches how to compose soundtrack music for movies, commercials, games, and trailers that may span a wide range of emotions and moods using AI. The "AI and Environment" module focuses on how different classification techniques may be used to help detect pollution and solve the problems of climate change. Students will use the famous Iris Dataset to create a neural network in Python utilizing Google Collaboratories. And finally, the module on "AI and Fashion" will show how to use AI and ML algorithms to design products and fashions that predict customer preferences and make the manufacturing supply chain more efficient by designing customized and wearable costumes for specific purposes like dance or sports. Additionally, the bootcamp will feature a panel discussion on the ethical aspects of using AI in creative fields.

I, (Aroshi Ghosh), worked as a research intern at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and became an experienced speaker who presented my research and projects at several technology events like the Climate Action Summit at San Francisco, where I facilitated a workshop on using AI and machine learning to solve

See AI, next page

Times **Community News**

Nearly 100 people gathered at San Jose City Hall to commemorate Juneteenth, which had a renewed call for action this year. *File photo by Luke Johnson*

Santa Clara County employees on Verge of getting Juneteenth holiday

By Madelyn Reese

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Juneteenth is one step closer to becoming a holiday for Santa Clara County workers but not before the Board of Supervisors got an earful.

During the course of budget talks addressing a multi-million dollar shortfall Aug. 21, supervisors entertained the idea of making Juneteenth a paid holiday. The sticking point, however, was that it would incur an additional \$2.3 million in overtime and set off millions in other potential losses through lost labor and productivity.

Then, a county staffer offered a suggestion: Swap out Juneteenth for Cesar Chavez Day, currently observed in Santa Clara County on March 31.

The idea inflamed members of the public, some of whom interpreted it as pitting the Latinx community against the Black community, and prompted more than a 100 to speak their mind.

June 19, also known as Juneteenth, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day, celebrates the day slaves were freed in the United States.

Cathy Blake, resident of District 4, noted the African American Community Service

Agency has been celebrating Juneteenth for more than 30 years. The objective, Blake said, is to educate the public and recognize the African American community.

Resident Cheryl Thompson called in to voice her support for the holiday. "The importance is not just for African Americans, but this is for all people to learn our history and about the freedom we have received," she said.

The board received the brunt of much of the public's consternation, forcing

Supervisor Mike Wasserman to set matters straight. "Nobody on this board said Juneteenth would be in place of Cesar Chavez Day at any time," Wasserman said. Other board members made it clear they were not interested in pursuing this route.

Added Supervisor Susan Ellenberg: "We certainly don't want to pit one community against another."

The board unanimously voted to set aside \$2.3 million in the county budget for Juneteenth. It would only be a holiday for county employees — not a general, public holiday. A final vote is expected to take place at the supervisor's Sept. 1 meeting.

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

AI

Continued from previous page

environmental issues in different communities. The other members of the AI Spectra team include Anahita Kashani Gregg and Amelia Khor, both Leland High School students, who are also members of the world ranked Leland FTC 8404 Quixilver robotics team. All the students have considerable experience conducting workshops and managing outreach efforts and worked hard to develop the curriculum modules and videos to host the bootcamp and motivate the next generation of girls to think outside the box.

Bootcamp goes virtual

Initially designed as an on-site outreach program AI Spectra planned to target multiple Bay Area communities irrespective of zip codes. However, the COVID-19 pandemic forced a change in the team's plans. Currently, the program is being offered virtually through the ZOOM platform and applications

are open to all students within the United States, including the Almaden community.

Perhaps one of the hardest challenges was to develop a meaningful curriculum and design the interactive workshops so that the students would stay engaged over the virtual sessions. Despite the unpredictability of the times, the team is confident and optimistic about potentially expanding the scope of the program beyond 2020, by including students and regional leaders from other countries to reach even more diverse communities.

If you or anyone you know would like to apply, please note that registrations are open for the AI Spectra Bootcamp: <https://tinyurl.com/aispectraBootcamp>

Additionally, students can visit their website: <https://aispectra.weebly.com> and corresponding YouTube channel to learn some of the basic concepts taught in the boot camp.

Editor's Note: The AI Spectra Bootcamp is free of charge to qualified applicants with limited availability.

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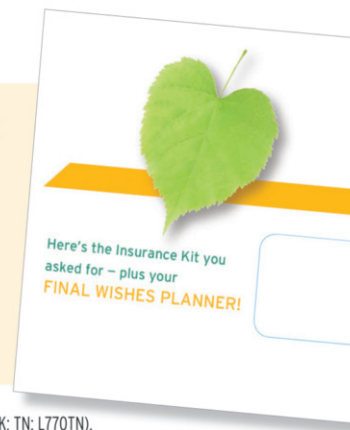
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Times **Community News**



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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.

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 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 additional 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

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 purchases 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, com-

bined 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 environment 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 @neilvcollins on Twitter.

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Times Feature

Trustee

Continued from page 1

equity, collaborative family partnerships, continued support with professional development and daily classroom instructional needs."

Mahaney-Gurahoo said she wants to work with teachers and the community to create innovative and equitable solutions.

"I am committed to ensuring there is community partnership supporting school readiness, so our children enter kindergarten ready to grow and learn," she said.

Mahaney-Gurahoo said she understands educational advocacy from a parents' perspective as her sons attended school in San Jose Unified; her son, Andrew Martin, graduated from Pioneer High School and her stepson, Dominic Gurahoo, is currently a sophomore at Leland High School. Her daughter-in-law, Tori Leigh Martin, is a kindergarten teacher at Los Alamitos Elementary School.

She said her frustrations with the district propelled her to run for the school board and she is prepared to engage in "uncomfortable conversations" with the other trustees to support parents' concerns.

"Watching Tori and Dominic struggle with distance learning forced my hand," Mahaney-Gurahoo said. "I feel like teachers are being disrespected in SJUSD. I'm afraid Tori is getting beaten up and going to lose some of her shininess, which means our kids lose."

Tori testified before the school board requesting teachers have a choice to teach from home or the classroom. Although the teachers won that choice, they had to quickly make the decision on Aug. 11, the day before the new school year started.

Mahaney-Gurahoo said that although she knows the administration is working hard, she has been dissatisfied with how SJUSD handled distance learning and its lack of communication with parents. In addition, she believes boardmembers should be more transparent.

"At board meetings you don't see boardmember's faces, yet if a kid's face isn't shown on the screen at school, they're marked absent," she said. "What message is the board sending? Trust is such a fragile thing and I'm very worried a storm is coming. Parents and teachers are very dissatisfied."

According to SJUSD spokesperson Jennifer Maddox, as the district offers two live Webex meetings simultaneously, one in Spanish (including translated PowerPoint presentations) and one in English, there's no way to have a camera on a board member showing a video in both meetings at the same time.

"Technically, we haven't been able to find a solution for doing the same video stream for two Webex events at the same time," Maddox said. "The board decided to keep the simultaneous Spanish translation and forego video."

However, Maddox said if they had two cameras, or showed the Spanish one later, they could show the board members.

Mahaney-Gurahoo is no stranger to issues regarding students with special needs, from advocating for her brother, Ronnie, who is autistic, to teaching special education preschool and writing Individualized Educa-

tion Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities.

"I have sensitivity to both sides," she said. "I understand the limitations of resources available and know the tension between teachers and families around this."

As Advocacy and Communications Consultant for the California Head Start Association, she worked with Assemblyman Kevin Mullin to author an infrastructure bill on integrating childcare licenses. Previously, workers had to apply for a series of licenses covering different ages of children. The bill took about four years to pass, teaching Mahaney-Gurahoo patience for change in a big system.

"Wendi is visionary," said her previous boss, Carol Anderson, President Child Development, Inc. "She has the ability to see the big picture as well as the details...she works hard to hear and understand problems that arise, solving them effectively."

Mahaney-Gurahoo earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development from California State University, Chico and her Master of Science degree in Management, Organizational Leadership, and Change from Colorado Technical University.

She is Philanthropy Liaison to the Boys Team Charity of Almaden Valley and Chair of the City of San Jose Library and Education Commission.

With her early learning background, she plans to make preschool part of the school board's regular conversation.

"SJUSD runs a large preschool and TK (transitional kindergarten) program," she said. "There's a correlation with a quality preschool experience and third grade reading outcome. It's important to me that SJUSD understands that."

As a previous single-parent, Mahaney-Gurahoo said she understands the critical need for equity, including online PTA meetings and affordable childcare.

"San Jose is the tale of two cities," she said, "and I've lived in both worlds from almost needing subsidies to living in Almaden. The bulk of my career has been working with families needing a safety net. I listened to the special board meeting about defunding the police. They're doing the right thing getting into the conversation and saying we need to listen."

To help teachers afford to live near the schools they serve, Mahaney-Gurahoo is in favor of converting excess buildings into childcare facilities for the teachers' children.

"After rent or mortgages, childcare is the most expensive bill," she said. "Some districts have pods. Why aren't we doing that for our teachers? Without teachers, a school is just a building. Teachers bring education alive. They're our intellectual asset. We have to take care of them."

According to SJUSD Public Engagement Officer Ben Spielberg, during distance learning, staff who chose to teach from their classroom are permitted to bring their own children to the workspace, as the household unit is consistent with the shelter in place philosophy. Spielberg said the school district is currently using almost all its spaces because of its one person, one workplace protocol.

"I don't know if that includes all the multi-

See TRUSTEE, next page

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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.



British military scientists have discovered that a product found in insect repellent can kill the strain of coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

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."

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

Worst Real-Estate Markets

- 291. Newark, NJ
- 292. Hartford, CT
- 293. Shreveport, LA
- 294. Waterbury, CT
- 295. Bridgeport, CT
- 296. Jackson, MS
- 297. Dayton, OH
- 298. Albany, NY
- 299. Baltimore, MD
- 300. Miami Beach, FL

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit:

wallethub.com/edu/best-real-estate-markets/14889

Trustee

Continued from previous page purpose rooms," Mahaney-Gurahoo said. "What about providing a short-term stipend for teachers who have children age birth to five-years-old in quality community family childcare homes? What are we doing for teachers who have children with special needs?"

Mahaney-Gurahoo said she wants to continue education advocacy and rebuild trust

with the community.

"We can do anything if we get back to trust, which is going to take communication, accountability, transparency and opening the doors to making decisions together," she said. "If I could have any effect at the end of four years, and if I'm lucky, eight, people would say, 'SJUSD has been more inclusive than before. They've asked me more. They've included me in the decisions that affect my family and my kids more,' I think I'll feel successful."

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CAMPBELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
400 W. Campbell Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 378-4418
Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz
No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays. Our ministries/activities include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118
408.265.5837
www.bibleroad.org
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

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



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)
<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148.
(408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum", which means "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. It is the last in the line and a continuation of the Abrahamic faiths. People who follow Islam are called Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides all mankind to come closer to their creator. Please visit our website to learn more.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchSJ.net
See you on Facebook
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor
Christian Worship every

Sunday at 11:00 am
Together let us build lives toward excellence!
Music Institute
(408) 791-7772
After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute
PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.



thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrace Cir
San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service:
Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service:
11:00 AM
Cambodian Service:
11:00 AM
Cantonese Service:
11:00 AM
Mandarin Service:
11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade):
Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever 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
ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
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>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfranciscofassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
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;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
- 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.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com**



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Please give us a call today and we'll be happy to
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(408) 270-6080

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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
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Tuesday of each month at
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Princeton Plaza Mall,
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CABINETRY

6563-6565 Crown Boulevard



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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.

Therese Swan
408.656.8240
tswan@tswan.com
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com
DRE 01355719



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