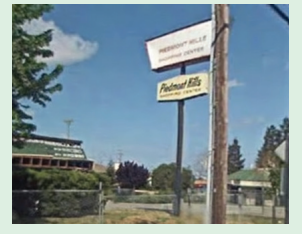


National Night Out car parade honors Evergreen's police and firefighters
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Election 2020
Kansen Chu & Otto Lee make their cases for County Supervisor race
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OCTOBER 23 - NOV. 5, 2020 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 22

EvergreenTimes

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Op Ed

Halloween is not a Christian tradition anymore

By John Goldstein

Pastor, Grace Church of Evergreen

It has been many centuries since Halloween was a Christian celebration.

It's been so long that some Christians call it a satanic event. It is what you determine it to be. Today, it is a quintessential American tradition that has gone in many directions; some quite discouraging.

Halloween was once one of my favorite American traditions. I
See HALLOWEEN, page 5



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'ZOOMBOMBED'

ESD's online meeting abruptly ended due to offensive tirade

By William Bellou
Publisher

Evergreen School District's (DELAC/DAC) English Learner Advisory Committee/District Advisory Committee held Thursday evening, October 14, 2020 was the target of a Zoom-bombing.

"Our online DELAC/DAC Zoom meeting was the target of a racist and offensive Zoombombing committed by several individuals," said Dr. Emy Flores, Evergreen School District Superintendent.

"Because multiple individuals were involved, the meeting had to abruptly end in order to take control of the situation."

Along with the San Jose Police Department and Zoom security team, an investigation is underway to determine the source and to identify the individuals who committed the offensive Zoom-bombing.

"We realize that this situation was traumatic to those who were in attendance at this meeting, and while our district staff followed the necessary steps and protocols to guard against hacking and Zoombombing, we will review our Zoom security settings and measures to prevent this from occurring in future Zoom meetings," Flores explained.

In a letter on the Evergreen School District website, Flores said, "The Evergreen School District condemns this racist and deeply offensive Zoombombing perpetrated against our DELAC/

DAC members, composed of parents, staff, teachers and others within the Evergreen community. The Zoombombing is far more than a disruption to our DELAC/DAC meeting; it was a bigoted and deeply offensive affront to the very mission of our district. Moreover, because the current pandemic has shifted meetings into our homes, this attack has invaded the safe havens we all strive to maintain.

The Evergreen School District will remain vigilant in determining who was responsible for this act—hate crimes and offensive behavior should not be tolerated in any environment. We stand not only with our staff, parents, and students, but also with all vulnerable groups who are being targeted during this crisis."

Editor's note: Wikipedia defines "Zoombombing or Zoom rading as the unwanted, disruptive intrusion, generally by Internet trolls into a video conference call. In a typical Zoom-bombing incident, a teleconferencing session is hijacked by the insertion of material that is lewd, obscene, racist, homophobic, or anti-Semitic in nature, typically resulting in the shutdown of the session. The term is especially associated with and derived from the name of the Zoom videoconferencing software program, but it has also been used to refer to the phenomenon on other video conferencing platforms."



Siddharth Sharma

Sharma of Evergreen works with team of high schoolers to publish best-selling book on Artificial Intelligence

Professors endorse book including Dr. Bernard Widrow at Stanford University

Along with a team of nine other high schoolers, Siddharth Sharma of Evergreen Valley, a rising senior at BASIS Independent Silicon Valley, has written and published an affordable best-selling 280+ page book on Amazon.

The book is titled *A Guide to Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and their Applications*, and it provides a full break-down of AI, from basic math to the more advanced techniques.

During his AI research projects, Siddharth perceived a knowledge gap in the field: "It seems as though you would need a Masters or Ph.D. just to get started!" Siddharth came up with the idea for the book through his nonprofit organization: StartOnAI. The inspiration for StartOnAI was through a project that Siddharth did back in 8th grade. In 8th grade, Siddharth built an application that used machine learning and AI to analyze whether a child has dyslexia.

Siddharth got the chance to

speak about his project with Microsoft Research advisors and present it to the Amazon Web Services AI Team in Seattle. After seeing how AI could be applied to solve major problems in society, Siddharth established an Artificial Intelligence club during his freshman year.

Year by year, Siddharth's AI club kept growing, and has now taught nearly 100 students over the course of three years.

From the very beginning, Siddharth made every slideshow, document, and video for the club, and by producing and teaching the content, he became more familiar with machine learning.

During his sophomore year of high school, Siddharth realized that students outside of his school do not have access to an AI curriculum, so he created his own nonprofit organization - StartOnAI (startonai.com), to spread the mission of an AI education without barriers.

While several organizations provide coding education, none provide AI education. StartOnAI is the first nonprofit to accomplish this tall task while also working

See SHARMA, page 20

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Times **Community News****Op Ed****Temple developer revising plans to eliminate underground parking garage in Evergreen residential neighborhood**

By Janet Holt

Special to the Times

At a recent meeting with Council Member Sylvia Arenas and staff, the nearest neighbors of the Temple Project at Ruby and Norwood and members of the Evergreen Neighborhood Community Core group, Council Member Arenas revealed news that the developer has dropped their plans to build an acre of underground parking garage for their project. This revelation comes as positive news to neighbors.

The neighborhood involvement helped move the needle and continued engagement is still needed. The developer will also reduce the overall square footage and combine some buildings to allow for quieter operation, including sound walls and other elements not yet disclosed. They also say they want to retain the feel of the single family home residential neighborhood.

The welcome news came after months of sometimes contentious talks between the developer and neighbors through community meetings, calls, and letters. Neighbors have been very involved from the start of the project's announcement, and the majority have expressed their welcome for another religious facility to the area.

Regional cultural center

The underground garage, extended construction process, traffic, noise, safety, operating uses and the anticipated number of people who may be attracted by what appeared to be a regional cultural center rather than a local community worship space concerned neighbors most. A community planning meeting about the project in August was attended by more than 100 residents where many of these concerns and the rezone application were documented.

As the neighbors organized, they reached out to various members of the community for help negotiating with the developer including our District 8 Council Sylvia Arenas office. The Council office put out a letter in February 2020 supporting neighbors' key positions on the project and the steps the developer would need to take to gain her support. Her office has been in talks with the developer since that time to drive a change in design toward the letters' key primary concerns. She also updated that letter in a post to "NextDoor" with the recent news.

Neighborhood reaction has been relieved with the news, but at the same time cautiously optimistic. There is still the matter of the P/QP rezone application and what the new plan will look like, how big, tall and the operating conditions. The P/QP was an added key area of concern from neighbors after the developer filed for a rezone from R1-5 Single

family residential to Public/Quasi Public in July which could allow for taller heights, higher noise tolerances and more uses incompatible with a residential neighborhood.

We thank the tireless efforts and great results of our D8 Council Office and our neighbors. This major change would not have happened without their continued support. We also thank the developer for listening to neighbors thoughtful concerns and making changes. We look forward to the new plan. The neighborhood and D8 council office will stay engaged as there is still a long road ahead and some areas of continued concern, including the PQ/P (Public Quasi Public rezone).

Below is the updated letter from Council Member Arenas Office.

San José City Council
City Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas
RE: Norwood temple update

Dear Neighbors,

I'm writing today to share some updates regarding the proposed Buddhist temple on Norwood and Ruby, which has been an issue of concern and interest for many – myself included.

On August 19th, the City of San Jose Planning Department held their first official community meeting on the proposed project. Many of you attended, and I'm very thankful for all the feedback you gave the Planning Department and the developer.

Since that meeting, the developer reached out and agreed to redesign their project based on feedback from the community and

from my letter back in February, which outlined issues with the project.

My office has begun to negotiate with the developer, to seek major changes to their proposal that would respect our community's concerns. Today we have a few important updates to share. The temple developer has agreed to a number of items that were of great concern for neighbors:

- Agreement to eliminate the underground parking garage, which has been the issue of greatest concern for neighbors.

- Agreement to reduce the overall size of the buildings and also the number of buildings

- Agreement to reduce the square footage of some spaces and also find ways to combine multiple uses into the same space.

- Agreement to provide sound walls and landscaping that will reduce the impacts on immediate neighbors.

- Agreement to make design changes that will make the project more closely match the family neighborhood feel of our community.

Our next steps will be to continue to negotiate with the developer – particularly for the additional items that the community has raised and that were included in my letter. That includes traffic safety, temple operations, construction impacts, environmental impacts, parks fees, and community engagement.

Your continued involvement, feedback, and interest is essential to getting to a good outcome for our community. Thank you!

Sylvia Arenas

San Jose Councilmember

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Analysis shows SJECCD contributes nearly \$900 million annually to local economy

San Jose – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) and its current and former students were responsible for generating more than \$895 million to the local economy in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The new report, conducted by EMSI, a global leader in labor market analysis, shows that a nearly \$900 million economic contribution by SJECCD is enough to support nearly 7,000 jobs.

“San Jose – Evergreen Community College District has a significant impact on the regional economy,” said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, SJECCD chancellor. “Through the educational opportunities and operations of Evergreen Valley and San Jose City Colleges, students thrive and thousands of employees and contractors contribute to the regional economy. As this study shows, the district is a beneficial investment that pays enormous dividends by generating far more tax revenue than it receives.”

Among the report’s highlights:

- For every dollar students invest in their education at Evergreen Valley College (EVC) or San Jose City College (SJCC), on average they see a return on that investment of \$6.10 in higher future earnings.
- The net impact of former students who are now employed in the Santa Clara County workforce amounted to \$726 million in added income.

- For every tax dollar invested in SJECCD in 2018-2019, taxpayers will receive \$2.30 in future tax revenue and government savings for
- See ANALYSIS, page 11

Valley Currents

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

National Night Out car parade honors Evergreen's police and firefighters

Dozens of neighbors active in the Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association lined up together in a Covid-19 safe car parade, to honor Evergreen's Fire Fighters from Fire Station 21 and 31 and our San Jose Police Department for National Night Out on Oct. 6.

Every year National Night Out brings neighbors together to celebrate their community and get to know one another – including our local first responders. While Covid-19 changed how we celebrate this year, the Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association was not about to let Covid-19 get in their way of celebrating! They decided to get creative and continue with the tradition of celebrating National Night Out.

Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas and Patti Andrade, President of PTA Council, attended the celebration and presented both our First Responders and the Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association with a Commendation for all their work in the community.

Councilwoman Arenas said she was proud to be part of the festivities, stating, “It brings me so much joy to see our community come together and celebrate our First Responders. I know our Firefighters were really touched.”

Patti Andrade agreed and added, “Thanks to the Evergreen Leadership volunteers for coming up with this fabulous way to celebrate. I am continually inspired by the community’s passion and proud to be part of such an amazing community.”



The neighborhood association provided the materials each participant would need to decorate their vehicle. Each kit included poster paper, cards for thank you notes, & washable

pens to write messages on their vehicles. For those who were not able to attend the parade, they were still able to participate by making cards and then dropping them off at the starting point of the parade to Patricia Mendoza, President of the Association, and Janet Holt, a board member, who then presented the cards & gifts to the first responders. Nothing Bundt Cakes donated Bundt cakes and the Starbucks at Tully & King donated mugs and coffee.

“This year more than ever, we felt it was important to bring our community together and celebrate our first responders,” Patricia Mendoza said. “The National Night Out Car Parade provided our community the perfect opportunity to honor their sacrifices and commitment to our neighborhood, especially during the pandemic and recent fires.”



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Khmer Krom to address neighbors' concerns in new temple design

Dear Editor,

As the Khmer Krom Buddhist community proceeds through the entitlement process for our new Temple in Evergreen, we are pleased to share that we are working on solutions to address the top concerns expressed by neighbors, while preserving the Temple as a place for our members to worship, pray and meditate in a peaceful setting. We are grateful for the constructive input from neighbors and the leadership of our D8 Councilmember, Sylvia

Arenas, through this important community process.

The top concern expressed by many neighbors was the underground parking garage. We heard numerous people state on several occasions they would support the Temple if the underground parking was eliminated. As a result, all parking will now be above ground, surrounded by landscaping with mature trees and lush plants, and no other underground uses will be built. While we believed that parking underground would have been a good way to reduce the visual impact of parked cars, we understand that our neighbors did not agree.

Another frequently heard concern was the overall size of the buildings. To address this,

we will be working to reduce the number of buildings and the total square footage by leveraging existing spaces for multiple uses and making other spaces more compact. We believe the new floorplan will still meet the needs of our community for daily use, small weekly gatherings, and occasional holiday events.

We appreciate the feedback we’ve received and we look forward to continuing to work with the community throughout the approval process. We are peaceful neighbors and look forward to being welcomed into the Evergreen neighborhood as we have been welcomed in San Jose since many of us arrived here as refugees nearly 40 years ago.

–The Khmer Krom Temple Foundation

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

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES: WILLIAM D. BELLOU
408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM,
SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD,
KEVIN LARSEN, NIRBAN SINGH,
FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE LUU,
APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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O P E D

Halloween

Continued from page 1

enjoyed spending time with my children and grandchildren. They are in costume, filled with anticipation and story, imaginations running wild with excitement.

I got to walk the streets with the children and visit neighbors whom I rarely see except on the way to work or some weekend chat. We actually talk, share stories and do so without any pretense or agenda! 'Hey!' 'You live down the street!' 'I didn't know that.' 'And these are your kids?' 'Wow! They are growing up so quickly!'

It is also a time to reconnect with children of all ages and to be reminded that they, like myself are filled with excitement about life and its surprises. 'Trick or treat' the littlest ones try to say. They are amazed that the words magically trigger smiles, laughter, and best of all candy treats!

Little kids can barely 'trick or treat' now. They are confronted by too many horror filled costumes and displays that generate fear and anger. Some of the displays focus on perverse cruelty and shock. One year I dressed myself in a sesame street costume and discovered that children gathered around me for protection of a fun clean, friendly character in contrast with the costumery of violent characters from war trilogies, destructive evil characters and unsettling faces and designs.

Most of this is unsettling to an adult too. I can't imagine how the children remember it. Shutting down 'trick or treating' due to the pandemic may provide a breather space for people to rethink the purpose of costumery and displays. Halloween in its roots was not designed for a ghoulish 'shock' factor.

Halloween may be an American celebration; but it draws from the supermarket of world celebrations to create a fun evening of costumery, celebration and reminder that life is filled with all kinds of mysterious and unanticipated aspects that have no power over us.

Halloween has its roots in ancient beliefs and practices. It is most easily traced back to pre-Christian England and Ireland and celebrations to remind the living of their link with their deceased ancestors. The ancient celebrations were 'Christianized' by the Christian conquerors as they contained elements of essential truths about life. The elemental truths are found in most cultures and religions throughout the world.

Religion is not shy to consider the profound issues of life and death, meaningful existence, relationship with our ancestors and our descendants, life values and purpose. Religion discusses them using such terms as 'reincarnation', 'incarnation', 'resurrection', 'eternal' even 'caste' or 'social place'.

Interest in 'ancestors' and the 'forces that



give way to life' also gives rise to questions about the existence of spirits and other kinds of ethereal beings that work for good or evil. The Christian view is that evil does not exist as a god force. Evil is overcome by turning on the light of truth in the midst of darkness. Darkness disappears in the light. Costuming is one ancient method to show that feared entities have no power (and in most cases) no existence beyond the imagination. Dress up as the 'evil one' and see that you can play the part as well as anyone! Because it is a part that can be dissipated and eliminated by good and kind and righteous people!

Be 'Spiderman', 'Superman' and discover in your imagination that you are as power-

ful as the creature that you portend to be! It is a simple method to allay fears of creatures that do not exist and even if they did, they have no power or control over you – only the power and control you give to them. Turn on the 'light' in the midst of the darkness so the Christian would say!

Okay. This doesn't sound like Halloween anymore! But the roots of the Halloween celebration head in a direction that we all long for. We all need a path to confidence and courage when we are confronted by life situations and experiences that make us fearful and afraid. There is no need to cower in fear at the forces we don't understand. Indeed. We should be mindful of our predecessor generations that survived to give us life and a life story to tell. But they don't have power over us.

Halloween would be better if we could discover and rediscover how fun, light hearted events can help make life safe, secure, anchored in the inheritance from previous generations; fun for self and the people that surround us.

I'll probably take a breather this year; but I do love seeing the children in costume. Maybe we will all rediscover the power of children asking, receiving, laughing, having fun dressed up as someone that they respect or admire. We were children once. Remember a costume only has the power you give to it.

Have a fun Halloween; if that's possible!

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SJPD begins new reimagining of mental health crisis response process

The San Jose Police launched a new pilot program last week in collaboration with the County of Santa Clara Department of Behavioral Health pairing San Jose Police Officers and clinicians to more rapidly assist individuals in a mental health crisis.

Officers in the program are dressed in a special uniform, receive additional mental health and de-escalation training, and respond to calls with the county's MCRT (Mobile Crisis Response Team).

The program will utilize enhanced referrals that better connect social services and community organizations to

people who are experiencing a mental health crisis or may not have reached a crisis level. Goals include improving outcomes for individuals with mental illness, redirecting the mentally ill away from the criminal justice system and to the appropriate system of care.

"People are experiencing a mental health crisis in alarming numbers, and this partnership will get help there faster. We have been working for a long time to build a better system that integrates county health with police response. This partnership is a giant first step in improving outcomes and reimagining approaches to mental health crisis" - Chief

Eddie Garcia.

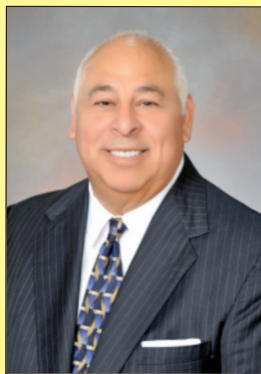
Responding to in-progress calls with officers, clinicians will help de-escalate and resolve emergencies, minimizing police intervention. The teams of officers and clinicians will also conduct home visits through county referrals, identify people frequently in mental health crises, and connect them with services before we receive a 911 call.

"I applaud Chief Eddie Garcia and his team for their persistent, multi-year efforts to enlist County staff in a partnership that will enable us to respond to calls of severe

See MENTAL HEALTH, next page

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Times **Community News**

Big City mayors urge leaders to consider safely reopening schools

Mayors of California's 13 largest cities call on state officials to safely reinstate in-person classes

Mayor Sam Liccardo, chair of the Big City Mayors Coalition (BCM), along with Mayors from the state's 13 largest cities, issued a letter to California's Governor Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent of Tony Thurmond, Public Instruction on Thursday, October 15, urging them to consider safely reopening schools.

The letter calls for a proactive, collaborative, and creative pathway to provide critical in-person education and services to K-12 students to battle the increasing equity disparities generated by prolonged distance learning. Low-income families and children throughout the state have been the most vulnerable to digital learning as it affects students' academic performance and prevents parents from returning to work.

"When the history of this pandemic is written, it will reveal that school shutdowns imposed far greater harms to our children than COVID-19 ever did—particularly for children from low-income families. The lost years of education, mental and emotional anguish, social isolation, limited access to exercise, play, and nutritious food will have impacts that will be felt for a generation, and we need a statewide commitment to get our schools open safely," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Thanks to Governor Newsom, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, and Health Secretary Mark Ghaly for their leadership as we continue to work together to safely return our children to their classrooms."

To lessen the educational and economic impacts in the most underserved communities and bring the most vulnerable students safely back into the classroom, BCM made the following recommendations:

- Direct rapid testing and other testing resources to schools;
- Provide schools with PPE guidance and resources, support for making physical accommodations to school sites and expand contact tracing programs;
- Work with stakeholders statewide to develop uniform standards on priority student populations, testing and contact tracing protocols, site selection and staffing guidance in addition to setting a timeline for the reopening of elementary

"When the history of this pandemic is written, it will reveal that school shutdowns imposed far greater harms to our children than COVID-19 ever did, particularly for children from low-income families."

schools, with the opportunity to quickly expand to secondary schools;

- Prioritize serving students with special needs, Title 1 students in low-income neighborhoods, children of essential workers; and students who have experienced homeless and/or youth in the foster/kin care system, and early learners (K-2nd grade).

- Actively gather, analyze and distribute data from the full range of schools that have received waivers to re-open to develop best practices that could be applied in a public school setting.

- Establish and provide funding for partnerships with cities and counties to develop creative solutions for using underutilized spaces such as libraries, recreation centers and other public venues to provide safe and supervised spaces for students to access remote instruction and educational support. Funding options must provide consideration to the staff and necessary extra training to support this option.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and the resource gap facing poor families has exacerbated existing disparities," The Big City Mayors collectively write. "Black, Latino, and low income students, students with special needs, newcomer students, homeless and foster youth are particularly at-risk of falling further behind their peers. Simply put, we are facing the greatest education equity crisis in most of our lifetimes."

The BCM recognizes the seriousness of reopening schools too early, however, the gap between low-income and affluent students continues to expand negatively impacting the lives of low-income children and their families.

Editor's note: The Big City Mayors is a coalition of Mayors across California's 13 largest cities. Members include Mayors from Los Angeles, San Diego, San José, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento, Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim, Riverside, Santa Ana, and Stockton.

Mental health

Continued from previous page
emotional distress with someone bearing a psychology degree and empathetic ear rather than a gun and a badge," Mayor Sam Liccardo said.

"Partnerships like this can remove bar-

riers that sometimes prevent the people most in need from getting the care they deserve." - Cindy Chavez, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

The one-year pilot program is funded through a 2018 Department of Justice grant and has been in development for the past year. It includes two Officers and a supervisor in the field, two days a week.

DAVE CORTESE: Leadership in a time of crisis



Hard-hit Santa Clara County prepares to manage more COVID-19 patients, **leaders** detail response



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Wild feral pigs destroying property may soon be hunted by archers. Photo by Nite Guard Solar

Lawmakers propose hunting feral pigs with bows and arrows

By William Bellou
Publisher

Everyone knows pigs are smart; smart enough to avoid traps the City of San Jose has been using since 2013 to combat the hogs' appetite for residential lawns.

Proprietors of the Coyote Creek Golf Club say that feral pigs have cost them \$16,000 in damages on their 414-acre property in 2020 alone and also thousands of dollars of damage to residential lawns each year.

To address the problem, councilmen

Johnny Khamis and Sergio Jimenez crafted a proposal that would allow licensed trappers to use their archery skills to kill the feral pigs.

San Jose city officials have some concerns, which are holding up the idea, but the City Council have recently voted unanimously to move forward with the idea as long as city officials work out some of the kinks before letting trappers resort to archery.

Officials' concerns include the vetting process for trappers, restrictions for areas where trappers would be deployed and what would happen if a trapper misses the pig and shoots someone or something else with a bow and arrow. However, in order to

Khamis said "this isn't Wilbur the pig," referring to the lovable hog in the children's classic "Charlotte's Web." Feral pigs—unlike their domesticated counterparts—are aggressive and can't be relocated.

become a certified trapper, you have to pass a written exam and it's up to the property owner to obtain a permit from the state's department of fish and wildlife before any trapping or hunting can begin.

San Jose Acting Assistant Police Chief Dave Tindall said the department prefers using traps over archery—especially as pigs start moving from more rural to residential areas.

Khamis said "this isn't Wilbur the pig," referring to the lovable hog in the children's classic "Charlotte's Web." Feral pigs—unlike their domesticated counterparts—are aggressive and can't be relocated.

We're having some significant problems with property damages. These are feral pigs, they're not indigenous and the last time we went around the Sierra Club actually supported this effort to depredation."

But not everyone was thrilled with the decision.

"I was shocked and dismayed when I saw this proposal," resident Peter Didonato told the council. "I would simply ask each and every one of you to imagine what it feels like to be shot with an arrow. It is a cruel, torturous death."

Timothy Gall—a law enforcement professional with 20 years of experience, including 15 with the San Jose PD—is one of a handful of licensed trappers in the state. Over the years, Gall said he's trapped and killed around 100 feral pigs in San Jose.

Pigs aren't native to the Americas. In the 1530s, the Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, brought the first pigs to the Americas, specifically to the southeastern US. The wild hogs you see running around today are descended from de Soto's pigs and other pigs brought across the Atlantic Ocean by European explorers over the centuries.

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Day on the Bay goes virtual with special boat tour of our magnificent wetlands

By Supervisor Dave Cortese

Special to the Times

For 10 years, I have been privileged to bring diverse groups of residents together on a sunny autumn day to connect with vital resources, enjoy local entertainment and fun activities, ride in kayaks, pick out pumpkins and savor free food at Alviso Marina County Park.

As with many traditional and annual events, the Day on the Bay multicultural festival and re-

source fair will not happen this year because of coronavirus, and I will miss it. I've been riding my bike to the festival since we launched Bike to the Bay, an 8.5-mile community ride along the Guadalupe River Trail in 2016. Upon arrival, I would walk through the park greeting guests, taking in the sights and sounds and reflecting on how lucky I am to live in this beautiful place with these beautiful people.

I found especially rewarding that the festival's resource fair was focused on health. Our guests received free flu shots, vision and hearing screenings, blood pressure glucose checks and lots of information about services and programs in the County and elsewhere.

We can't gather this year, but we can explore the Alviso waterway and its unique ecosystem through a new virtual Day on the Bay boat tour -- an actual "Day on the Bay."

When I knew, for the safety of our community, we couldn't pro-

duce Day on the Bay this year, my office teamed up with the County Parks Department to offer this video tour that simulates the educational experience that the County has been providing to school children through the South Bay Boat Tour Field Trip Program that I initiated in 2015. In 2018, we began offering the tour from a boat that can hold 30 passengers.

On Sunday, October 11, we launched the virtual Day on the Bay boat tour with visitors from across the County climbing aboard. The tour is guided by County Park staff interpreters, Luke and Rachel, who will tell you about the history of the area and the people who lived there thousands of years ago, the plant life and wildlife, and the impacts of humans on the wetlands. So far, more than 500 have taken the virtual tour.

The video tour starts from the Alviso Marina County Park from a dock that was installed during my first year on the Board of Supervisors, opening up access to the



County Report
By Dave Cortese
Supervisor



The Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

Alviso slough and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Traveling through the salt marshes of the Alviso Slough, you'll see the shore alive with dozens of species of plants that provide the habitat for birds, harbor seals and even two endangered species: the Ridgway's Rail (former the California Clapper Rail) and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. Those two inhabitants

feed on pickleweed, a plant that only grows in the marshes of the wetlands.

I don't want to give away all the details of the tour of the Alviso Slough, which is the South Bay's entry into the waters of the San Francisco Bay and a stop on the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail. I invite you to find out for yourself at any time from any device that will connect you to the video tour at www.tinyurl.com/VirtualDOB. The video tour will be shared with teachers from all around the County to provide students with firsthand exposure to the Bay, its wildlife and its connection to our local communities, while providing lessons on the impacts of climate change.

I hope you will join the tour and then plan an actual trip to the Alviso Marina County Park, which besides boating also offers hiking and biking along boardwalks, pathways and trails. And together, let's spend time figuring out how we can be the best environmental stewards of these magnificent wetlands.

You can reach my office at 408-299-3030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org.

Analysis

Continued from page 4

as long as the students who were enrolled during the 2018-2019 academic year remain active in the state workforce.

A student with an associate degree from EVC or SJCC will see an increase in earnings of about \$10,000 each year compared to a person with just a high school diploma or equivalent in California, the report said.

Editor's note: To review the report in full detail, visit: <https://www.sjcc.edu/discover-sjcc/chancellor/economic-impact-analysis>



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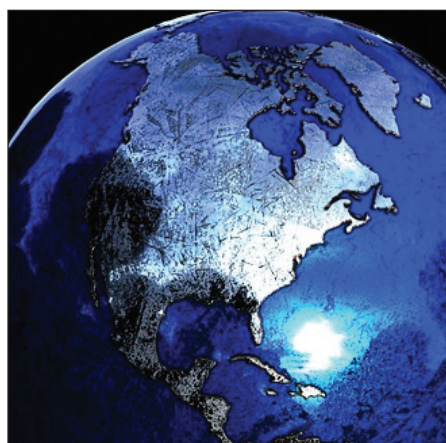


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Times Feature



National Energy Awareness Month Report: 2020's Most & Least Energy- Efficient States

With residential electricity consumption increasing this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2020's Most & Least Energy-Efficient States

To gauge the financial impact of doing more with less energy — the average American household spends at least \$2,000 per year on utilities and another \$2,094 on motor fuel and oil — WalletHub compared the auto- and home-energy efficiency in 48 U.S. states. Due to data limitations, Alaska and Hawaii were excluded from our analysis.

Most Energy-Efficient States

1. Utah
2. New York
3. Massachusetts
4. Minnesota
5. Rhode Island
6. Vermont
7. Colorado
8. Oregon
9. California
10. Wisconsin

Least Energy-Efficient States

39. Oklahoma
40. Georgia
41. Kentucky
42. Arkansas

43. Mississippi
44. Alabama
45. Louisiana
46. Tennessee
47. West Virginia
48. South Carolina

To view the full report and your state's ranking, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-and-least-energy-efficient-states/7354>

East Side Union High School District refinances bonds saving taxpayers over \$15 million

East Side Union High School District (ESUHS) issued a statement announcing it has saved taxpayers in this Santa Clara County, California school district more than \$15 million.

The tax savings was made possible from the school district taking action to refund the redeemable portion of their 2008 Election Series D Bonds.

The refinancing is expected to deliver a savings to taxpayers of \$15,049,879. This represents a substantial net present value savings to District taxpayers of 12.64 percent. The savings is a result of the District refinancing the callable or maturities of the 2008 Election, Series D Bonds, originally issued in 2012.

"Our District's Board of Trustees takes its role of protecting taxpayers very seriously. Being able to reduce borrowing costs and passing these savings on to taxpayers is one of our top priorities," said Lan Nguyen, ESUHS Board President.

The East Side Union High School District worked with financial advisor Dale Scott & Company of San Francisco to provide advice, counsel and execution of the bond refinancing.

"We are always thinking forward to help the school districts who engage us to find ways to deliver world class education at the lowest possible cost to their taxpayers," said Dale Scott, President of DS&C. "Saving taxpayers money while not diminishing funding available for education is a win-win," Scott said.



Frank Cancilla

Broker Associate

DRE#01300425

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Times **OpEd****Op Ed****Prop. 14: In the COVID age can California still afford its stem cell research program?**

Proposition 14 asks voters to spend nearly \$8 billion to continue the stem cell research program at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has decimated the state budget

By Barbara Feder Ostrov
Cal Matters

For the second time in 16 years, California voters will decide the fate of the state's multi-billion dollar stem cell research program that established the state as a world-wide leader.

How the times have changed.

In November, as the pandemic drags on, Proposition 14 asks voters to spend nearly \$8 billion to continue the program during a period when the research environment has significantly evolved and coronavirus has battered the state's budget.

The bond measure would approve \$5.5 billion in bonds to keep the state's stem cell research agency running and grants flowing to California universities and companies.

At least \$1.5 billion would be earmarked for brain and central nervous system diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. The overall cost of the bonds and their interest totals about \$7.8 billion, according to the state legislative analyst. The state would pay about \$260 million annually for 30 years, or about 1 percent of California's annual budget.

Proposition 14 is essentially a repeat—with a bigger price tag and a few tweaks – of Proposition 71, which California voters approved in 2004 after then-President George W. Bush prohibited, on religious grounds, all federal funding of any stem cell research using human embryos.

The bond measure would approve \$5.5 billion in bonds to keep the state's stem cell research agency running and grants flowing to California universities and companies.

That groundbreaking measure authorized \$3 billion in state bonds to create the state's stem cell research agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and fund grants for research into treatments for Alzheimer's disease, cancer, spinal cord injuries and other diseases.

The institute has nearly used up its original funding, so Prop. 71's author, real estate investor and attorney Robert N. Klein II, led a new effort to get Prop. 14 on the November ballot.

This time, embryonic stem cell research is in a much different place, with federal funding no longer blocked and more funding from the biotech industry.

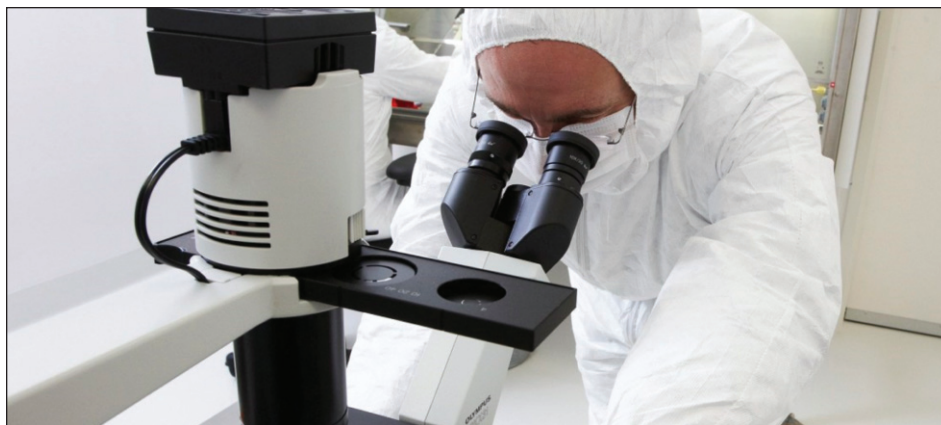
Voters will want to consider what California's previous investment in stem cell research has accomplished. It's a nuanced track record.

While many scientific experts agree that Prop 71 was a "bold social innovation" that successfully bolstered emerging stem cell research, some critics argue that the institute's grant making was plagued by conflicts of interest and did not live up to the promises of miracle cures that Prop. 71's supporters made years ago. Although the agency is funded with state money, it's overseen by its own board and not by the California governor or lawmakers.

The agency had "done a very good job" of setting priorities for stem cell research, in-

cluding research using human embryos, and doling out \$300 million annually to build up California as a regenerative medicine powerhouse, according to a 2013 evaluation by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

But the report also found that because the institute's board is made up of scientists from universities and biotech firms likely to apply for grants, board members had "almost unavoidable conflicts of interest."



Dr. Gerhard Bauer at the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) laboratory at UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures in Sacramento, where stem cell therapies are tested and produced. *Photo courtesy UC Davis Health*



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Assemblyman **Kansen Chu** is pictured on election night during the March primary. Photo by Katie Lauer

ELECTION 2020

Kansen Chu looks to solve housing crisis on the local level

By Adam F. Hutton

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Kansen Chu's campaign to replace Dave Cortese (who is currently running for California State Senator) on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is a homecoming of sorts.

The veteran lawmaker has spent the past six years commuting to Sacramento where he represents parts of Silicon Valley and the East Bay in the California Assembly.

Chu got his start in local politics as a school board trustee in San Jose's Berryessa Union district. When San José Spotlight broke the news that he planned to leave Sacramento to run for local office in May 2019, Chu said it was an opportunity for him to have a greater impact.

In an interview this week, Chu told San José Spotlight that it has been a "rewarding experience" to serve the Bay Area in the Assembly, making decisions that affect 40 million Californians. But in the Assembly, he is one out of 80 votes. If elected to the Board of Supervisors, he'd be one of five.

That's what he means when he says he believes he can have more impact as a local elected official than he can in the Assembly. He also has a passion for local government, telling this news organization it was an "honor and a privilege" to represent his neighbors, first on the school board and later on the San Jose City Council.

Plus, his children and grandchildren live in the South Bay — San Jose is where he's lived his entire adult life and has raised his family here.

Chu immigrated to California from Taiwan in the late 1970s to study electrical engineering at Cal State, Northridge. He worked at IBM for 18 years and opened a celebrated Chinese restaurant near the Winchester Mystery House in 1987 with his wife Daisy.

The couple, who have two adult children, offered daily dim sum lunch and dinner service for 20 years until 2007 when Chu became the first Chinese-American elected to the San Jose Council. He went on to become an Assemblyman representing Dis-

trict 25 in 2014. He finished first in a four-way race in the March primary for the District 3 seat on the Board of Supervisors.

Affordable housing, economic recovery

Leading up to the primary, before the coronavirus pandemic, Chu told San José Spotlight he believes Santa Clara County needs to invest more in housing vouchers and rapid re-housing programs to prevent people who are teetering on the brink of housing insecurity from becoming homeless. Chu also championed greater investments in social services, including mental health programs and addiction treatment as means of prevention.

The effects of the virus on the economy have made those needs more acute and highlighted the root cause of many of the social problems Silicon Valley had before the pandemic, he said.

"As we are working on solving the problems in front of our faces — homelessness and affordable housing, the digital divide, access to health care and child care — we need to also have to look at the underlying cause of those issues which is income inequality," Chu said.

"To have a meaningful recovery we will need to have assistance from the state and federal government and I will use all my resources and the relationships that I have there to make sure that people in Santa Clara County share in the recovery equitably and make sure that our poorest residents don't get left behind," he said.

A 'true ally'

San Jose Councilwoman Magdalena Carrasco ran against Chu in the March primary. After finishing third in that race, Carrasco threw her support behind the Assemblyman when he showed himself to be a "tried and true ally," in the Assembly to people suffering the health and economic consequences of the pandemic.

"This is such an important election at every level," Carrasco said. "What happens in November up and down the ballot is going to have deep and lasting impacts for generations to come."

Whoever wins the District 3 seat will
See CHU, page 16

Times **Local News**

Otto Lee at work in his Milpitas-based Campaign office. Photo by Carina Woudenberg

ELECTION 2020

Otto Lee refocuses on public health, housing in Supe race

By Adam F. Hutton

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Otto Lee is making his second run at a seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Twelve years ago he lost in an election against Dave Cortese. But with the District 3 supervisor term-limited and seeking higher office, Lee finished a close second — by a margin of less than 2,000 votes — in a four-way primary in March.

The former Sunnyvale councilman and mayor hadn't run in a local race in more than a decade, so Lee said his campaign organized a massive door-knocking operation that reached 17,000 households in the district. Lee, his wife and three daughters were out ringing doorbells together at more than 4,000 houses in the days leading up to the primary.

Since then, he's picked up some high-profile support, including labor leader Dolores Huerta, who co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Congressman and San Jose Mayor Norm Mineta.

After the primary, COVID-19 and the public health orders that followed put an end to the usual ways of campaigning.

"Shaking hands and kissing babies is illegal now," Lee joked.

So he had to get creative by relying more on social media to get his message out. Lee says his campaign invested in four mailers sent to voters before Election Day. Campaigning by mail is more traditional than Twitter and Instagram, but it is also expensive. He's hoping that investment pays off because more voters will vote by mail this year.

"If we could knock on doors right now that would be great because everybody is home," Lee said. "But it's just not safe for our volunteers or for voters right now and we don't want to spread the disease."

The pandemic not only hampered the campaign process, Lee said, it also caused him to re-evaluate his priorities — renewing his focus on affordable housing and putting public health on his list of urgent issues to address.

Affordable housing and homelessness prevention

"The need for more affordable housing has become more clear, and its consequences more dire since COVID," Lee said.

The pandemic caused an economic crisis that is hurting landlords and tenants alike. During an interview with San José Spotlight, Lee floated the idea of a countywide rent relief program to help tenants catch up on rent they couldn't pay during the early months of shelter-in-place and provide ongoing assistance for those still suffering from the economic downturn brought on by COVID-19.

Whatever form such a program would take, Lee said the purpose and effect must be to keep people housed, not just provide financial relief.

"We would want to make sure the back rent goes to the landlord and that tenants don't take the money and run," Lee said. "But we also want to be sure that landlords don't take that money and then evict the tenants."

Focus on public health

"We're all waiting for a vaccine, but in the meantime we have to consider what we can do," Lee said.

The county should double its public education campaigns promoting the use of masks and face coverings to prevent the spread of the virus, he added.

"People are sick and tired of being isolated," Lee said. "We are social creatures and without those public health reminders, we can start to go back to our old ways."

Lee also said it is a good idea for the county to promote the use of pulse oximeters — an inexpensive device that measures a person's blood oxygen levels. The device can be used as an early warning indicator of respiratory symptoms associated with COVID-19.

And when the vaccine does come, sometime after Election Day, Lee says the county's public health department will be responsible for ensuring it is distributed equitably according to need.

"The county will have a huge role to play

See LEE, page 20

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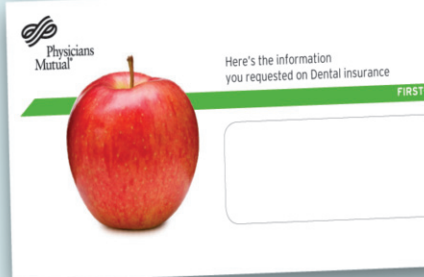


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Times **Local News**

Chu

Continued from page 14

need to be able to “hit the ground running,” and Chu can do that, Carrasco said.

“The county plays such an important role in how we are going to recover and move forward after COVID,” Carrasco said. “We need someone at the county level who has advocated tirelessly for public health and safety, housing, transit and the environment at both the state and local level.”

According to campaign finance reports, Chu has raised \$219,113 and spent \$231,513 this year until Sept. 19.

His fundraising is the subject of a complaint being investigated by the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

The complaint alleges Chu violated the Political Reform Act by using his campaign for Assembly to flout the contribution limits on candidates for supervisor.

Chu denies any wrongdoing.

“I’ve got nothing to hide,” Chu told the San José Spotlight in August. “The FPPC is (looking) into it, but I’ve got nothing to hide.”

AT A GLANCE

Name: Kansen Chu

Age: 67

Family: Married to Daisy for 44 years. 2 children, 2 grandchildren.

Political affiliation: Democrat

Education: Master of Science in Electronics Engineering

Profession: California Assemblymember

Current or previous elected or appointed positions: San Jose City Council, Berryessa Union School Board

Top 3 priorities: 1) Narrow the income gap in Santa Clara County to reduce barriers to housing, child care, digital divide and access to health care, 2) Support local education community, 3) Bring elevated light rail to Eastridge.

Top 3 endorsements: Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Community activist John Leyba, Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

Special talent: Karaoke

In one sentence, why vote for you? “With 30 years of community service experience, I have dedicated 14 years of my life as a full-time public servant, I am experienced, committed and ready to lead the county for a speedy economic recovery.”

Contact Adam F. Hutton at afhutton.sjspotlight@gmail.com or follow @adamfhutton on Twitter.



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Times Feature

Zero the Hero

By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As a recap: this column is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. Quick note: if you believe anything in this article is incorrect, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.

Now, what are we going to talk about today? Nothing!

To be clear, today we'll be briefly discussing the fascinating history of the number zero. Now, using the term "number" is a little

presumptuous, because it first came into play as a placeholder.

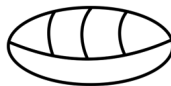
In particular, the first known appearance of this idea of zero was in Mesopotamia, around 5,000 years ago. The Sumerians used a counting system for practicality-- to count their goods and to keep track of things like wild horses and cattle. In writing, scribes used spaces to denote the absence of a number in a place (hence the term placeholder). Naturally, this idea eventually made its way over to the Babylonian empire around 4000 years ago, and they were the first to really use a symbol (instead of a space) to indicate this absence. Their symbol looked like this:



For example, the number 808 means we have no tens, i.e. there is an absence of tens. But at this point, zero was just a symbol-- the Sumerians and Babylonians didn't know how to

perform operations with it.

Independently, the Mayans also coined a symbol for zero around 350 A.D, using it as a placeholder in their (very confusing) calendar systems. Similar to the Babylonians, they never used it with operations or calculations. Their zero looked like this:



And now, the big moment when zero transforms from a sidekick (a placeholder) to a hero (a number)! This change took place in India, where zero ("shunya" in Sanskrit) became a mathematical concept. The concept of zero first appeared around 458 AD. The first example of a written zero was found in India, carved on the side of a temple wall. It dates back to the ninth century, and was thought to be the earliest record. However, researchers later recovered an ancient record called the Bakhshali Manuscript, which sci-

entists also thought came from the ninth century. But, via carbon dating, it was discovered that it was likely written as early as the third or fourth century, making it the new earliest record of zero as a number! The Indian number system evolved into the one we used today, as they used nine number symbols with zero denoted as a dot. In 628 AD, Indian mathematician Brahmagupta was the first to formalize operations using zero, as he quantified it in addition and subtraction. He attempted to also formalize zero in division, but had a hard time with this problem (which will be addressed later).

As mathematics flourished and developed, these ideas started making their way eastwards to China, and westwards to Islamic and Arabic cultures. Zero journeyed with Arabian voyagers and arrived at Baghdad in 773 AD. The Arabian mathematicians started to base their number system on India's system, and started working their own magic with zero.

In fact, in the ninth century, polymath Mohammed ibn-Musa al-Khwarizmi was the first to develop the beginnings of algebra, solving equations equal to zero. He called zero "sifr," which the word "cipher" is derived from. By 879 AD, the symbol for zero looked like how we write it today-- as an oval. (But, at this time it was smaller than the other numbers.)

At first, the idea of zero was viewed as a villain instead of a hero in Europe. In particular, the Roman Empire's established number system opposed the Hindu-Arabic system. But, in the 13th century, European mathematicians like Fibonacci celebrated zero (the hero) by using it in their works, in turn advocating for this new number system. Thus, zero

became a part of Europe's mathematics.

In the following centuries, mathematics evolved from no longer being solely about practicality, but to a beautiful world of abstract concepts and beautiful structures. In this evolution, zero has continued to be a mathematical wonder. Yet, the problem of division by zero confounded many. Working with this problem formed the cornerstone of calculus. Calculus would allow any-

one to break systems into smaller and smaller units that approach zero, meaning we wouldn't have to divide by 0. (Interestingly enough, researchers found earlier signs of calculus in India before Leibniz and Newton's works, likely a result of India being the first to champion zero as a number!)

Nowadays, it's hard to imagine our lives without our hero, zero. It's something schools take for granted to explain we have nothing of something. It helped create the foundation of computer programming-- the binary number system. It plays an integral role in physics, economics, and so many other fields. So it seems that something can indeed come from nothing. All hail zero the hero!

To end this, I want to give you a pick-up line that will definitely work on anyone:

Are you the number zero? Because I can't imagine my life without you. <3

If you do somehow end up with nada, zilch, zero results from this line, remember nothing is still... something?

Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! Again, if you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.



Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu

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IN MEMORY

Alfred Ramirez

Dec. 14, 1934 – Oct. 10, 2020

Resident of San Jose

Alfred Ramirez passed away on October 10, 2020 in San Jose, California at age 85.

Born on December 14, 1934 to Juana Francis Ramirez and Francisco Gutierrez, he was a native of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where he met his future wife when he was 5-years-old. After graduating from Scottsbluff High School in 1953, Alfred joined the US Navy at age 19. He served as Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class (AVT2), a Korean War Veteran, and was stationed throughout the Western Pacific. After serving in the Navy, he made San Jose, California his home where he raised his family. As a civilian, Alfred traveled across the country as a Quality Assurance Rep for Dalmo Victor and Hamilton Standard inspecting aircraft electronics. Alfred also worked as an inspector at United Technologies' rocket testing program.

Alfred really enjoyed visiting family stationed at their naval bases, Independence Day parades, and Fleet Week. He loved golf and football; and never turned down the chance to quarterback a neighborhood game. He frequented the flea market for historical treasures and military regalia. You could often find him at the Evergreen Inn visiting his family and friends, and would never be caught dead without his Navy Coin. Alfred enjoyed dancing, especially after he received a kidney transplant from a Puerto Rican donor, which he joked gave him more rhythm. He was a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in San Jose. He was also a member of several fraternal organizations: Catholic Cursillo, Knights of Columbus, and Loyal Order of Moose.



Alfred is survived by his wife of 9 years, Annette; daughters Carolyn and Dora-Rae; brother Eulogio; sisters Jennie, Audelia, and Yolanda; brothers Eddie and Sonny; 9 grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his wife Dolores; son David; daughter Patricia; granddaughters Dolores and Taurean; father Francisco; mother Juana; siblings Ermilinda, Inez, Tony, Tom, Pete, and Margarita.

A Visitation will be held at Benito & Azaro Pacific Gardens Chapel, 1050 Cayuga St in Santa Cruz on Wednesday, October 21st from 9:30am to 11:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 435 Monterey Ave in Capitola on Wednesday, October 21st beginning at 12:30pm with a Rosary Service to follow. Graveside services will be streamed on Thursday, October 22nd at 12pm. Services will be viewable online at <http://AlfredRamirez.com>. There will be a worship reception at Hellyer Park, 985 Hellyer Ave, in San Jose, CA at 3pm in the Sylvandale Group Area. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity, or one of Alfred's: local VA, Catholic Charities, and the National Kidney Foundation.



A snapshot from the documentary showing the left wing of the plaza.

East Side Rewind: Revisiting the Piedmont Hills Shopping Center

A look back at local history

By Eugene Luu

Times contributing writer

Just six miles north of White Road, an animal hospital and a fire station numbered 19 stands visibly at the intersection of Piedmont and Sierra Road.

Behind the modernistic-looking buildings lies a suburb of houses that appear no older than two decades.

However, a much more different scene emerged more than 20 years ago at the same location.

Piedmont Hills Shopping Center once graced Piedmont & Sierra Road for several decades.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, renewed interests like historical/former landmarks are discussed amongst online groups such as "San Jose History" or various school alumni groups on Facebook.

The Piedmont Hills Shopping Center was one of the few topics of interest discussed by online groups such as former employees, store owners, and Piedmont Hills High School alumni who reminisced about their experiences through discovered old photos and stories.

During its existence, online communities and review websites such as Yelp didn't exist so information about the plaza was extremely scarce.

According to several comments by members in the Facebook group "Piedmont Hills High School Alumni", the plaza featured a range of businesses such as a pet store, dental offices, a floral shop, restaurants, video rentals, and a liquor store.

Moreover, major chains such as Mountain Mike's Pizza, Subway Sandwiches, Lucky's Supermarket, and Nation's Hamburgers were some of the most notable at the plaza during its time of prominence.

Joel Goodman, a San Jose resident who grew up in Piedmont, northeast of Evergreen has preserved the legacy of the classic shopping center.

Goodman graduated from Piedmont Hills High School in 2003 and grew up in East San Jose, currently residing in Santa Teresa since last year.

One of his notable works is his documentary that he released on YouTube in 2015 ti-

tled "The Piedmont Hills Shopping Center Documentary."

In his film, Goodman provides a background and history on the plaza, accompanied by a 25-minute store-by-store walk-through he filmed in 2000 when he was a teenager.

"It was quick, unprofessional, and emotional. I wish I could've performed some interviews with the remaining tenants and carefully filmed the exteriors to provide better context before providing close-ups," Goodman said.

Wonderful memories of the Piedmont Hills Shopping Center

Goodman shared some of his memorable times at the plaza.

"I loved going to the video store every couple of weeks with my family, when my dad would take my family to Nation's for a big pancake breakfast, and when carnival rides would overtake the parking lot in the early 90's," he said.

The Piedmont High School alumni also shared his knowledge on the history of the plaza including its decline.

According to Goodman, the Piedmont Hills Shopping Center opened between the years 1960-1968.

"Based off Facebook comments, I would speculate that the plaza's prime was likely from opening day until the anchor supermarket (Luc-

ky's) closed around 1991."

The plaza then went into decline for several years until the decision to close down the Plaza was made in 1999.

Jessica Claspill-Garcia, another Piedmont High School alumni, says her family was the former owner of Subway Sandwiches in the plaza.

She says that her family was striving to keep the business and plaza alive but to no hope.

"My dad fought with the landlord but she was determined to sell the grocery center," Garcia said.

According to Garcia, her father constantly told the landlord that she needed to fix the parking lot and do repairs but she was always out of the country and didn't put much effort into it.

(Continued, next page)

Op Ed

Reflections on School Board Service

By Bonnie Mace

Evergreen School Board Trustee

I've been fortunate to serve the Evergreen community on the Evergreen School Board for the past eight years. In that time, I've learned many important lessons about leadership and being a good public servant.

As I leave this Board in December, here are some of the key takeaways that I hope to impart to those who follow me:

Listen – In this day of political polarization, it seems that the ability to listen has been forgotten. My general rule is to listen more than I talk, and to listen to a wide range of people with different viewpoints. It's also important to be empathetic and try to put yourself in another's shoes.

Learn – We must all be lifelong learners,

especially in the field of public education. In my day job in which I work with board members across the county, we are constantly bringing in professional development so that everyone can learn and share new ideas.

Be Humble – I don't have all the answers, but I do know how important it is to stay curious and ask questions. It's important not to have hubris and come to a Board thinking that you have the right solutions to every problem.

Be Respectful – Gaining trust from your colleagues is the most important tool in the leader's toolbox. That means being respectful, and treating everyone so that they feel valued.

Express Gratitude – I am one board member, and there are thousands of people who work on behalf of children in this district. I appreciate them all, and I try to express gratitude often.

As I move to other public service opportunities, I want to thank everyone who has worked to support children and families in our district.



Bonnie Mace

Times Feature

"The city wanted it gone so they made the land owner a million dollar offer," she added.

As a result, Garcia's father successfully sold the franchise before the plaza's demise after his lease was not approved for renewal.

Lisa Ball, a member of the Piedmont Hills High School Alumni shared a similar story as her family were former owners of a hamburger chain in a post.

According to Ball, Nation's opened in the late 70's as she's worked there from 1978-1979.

She also noted that before Nation's opened, Arthur Treacher's Fish & Chips occupied the building.

"I know, because when we took over, we found rotting fish in the warm walk-in fridge."

"My parents owned the Nation's, and the same thing happened to them. Landlords refused to renew their lease. They were getting older so they decided to close the place and retire instead of trying to start it again someplace else," Ball added in the alumni group Facebook post.

Shortly after the plaza's closure and before its demolition in 2000, then-15 year-old Goodman took the opportunity to

document the shopping center.

"When I recorded this footage in 2000 I didn't have any intention of making a documentary. I just wanted to archive the last days of this shopping center before it was torn down," he added.

Piedmont Hills Shopping Center demolition commenced shortly before the end of the millennium, as also seen in Goodman's documentary.

Residential houses were then build around the former plaza and construction completed shortly.

From then on, the only remaining remnants of the plaza was the standalone Nation's building and the notable shopping center sign at the intersection.

However, the two remnants were preserved for less than a decade before the city



Piedmont Shopping Center sign



A snapshot from the documentary showing the construction of houses over the former plaza in 2000.

decided to demolish them.

In a December 2009/January 2010 community newsletter, then-councilmember Kansen Chu addressed the fate of the Nation's building and shopping center sign.

"I am pleased to announce that the Piedmont Hills Shopping Center sign, located at the former Nations Restaurant, at the intersection of Piedmont Road and Hostetter Road, has been demolished," Kansen announced in the newsletter.

"In June 2009, the former Nations building has been an ongoing eyesore in our community and was demolished back."

An animal hospital and fire station stands in place of the former Nation's and shopping center sign today.

According to Goodman's documentary, the city allowed him to keep the sign after its demolition and his film documented his journey retrieving the iconic sign.

He still reflects positively on the plaza and is constantly active in keeping its memory alive.

"I never knew the shopping center in its heyday which made it that much more appealing, mysterious, and ultimately frustratingly ambiguous. In my own way I wanted to honor those individuals that dedicated their lives working there and the patrons that frequented these businesses. Here today, gone tomorrow," Goodman concluded.

The Piedmont Hills Shopping Center Documentary can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bD20NkVoUU& (Source: Joel Goodman (TheProsperitySummit))

Editor's Note: If you have any old photos or homemade movies of the Piedmont Hills Shopping Center why not consider getting them to the author?

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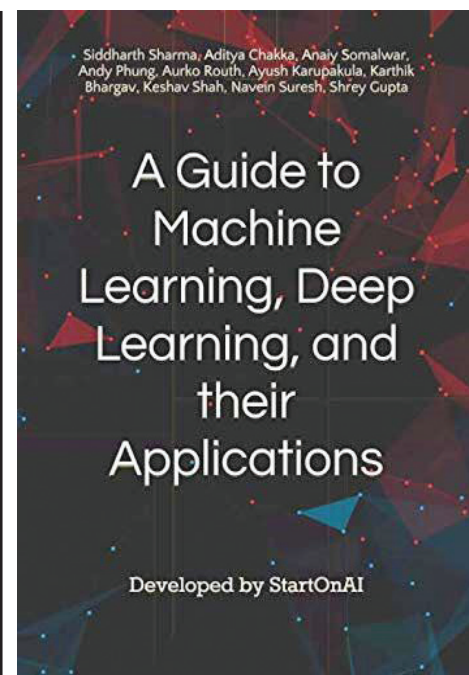
Sharma*Continued from page 1*

towards increasing diversity in the field. The nonprofit has been quite successful: it has 11 YouTube videos, 24 tutorials online, 5 workshops, and 25+ partners.

It is important to note that other books that cover Artificial Intelligence are typically expensive (\$30+) and are usually designed for students and experts who already have a degree or high background knowledge in the subject. Siddharth's book is only \$14.99 and does not require heavy math or computer science background to understand the content.

Siddharth plans to donate the proceeds of his book to Hope Services, the Bay Area nonprofit that inspired his first AI project. The book has been a best-seller during July and August and is endorsed by professors like Dr. Bernard Widrow at Stanford University. Here are more specific rankings from July 2020:

- #1 best new release in neural networks
- #1 best new release in AI and semantics
- #24 in AI and Machine Learning BEST SELLERS
- #3 in New Releases for computer science
- #1 in AI and Machine Learning new releases
- #6 in Neural Networks BEST SELLERS
- #21 in AI and Semantics BEST SELLERS
- #58 in top computer science best sellers in the world



While Siddharth came up with the idea and the initial draft, nine other high schoolers from across the United States played a major role in writing chapters and editing sections during the pandemic. The team members are: Aditya Chakka (NJ), Anaiy Somalwar (CA), Andy Phung (CA), Aurko Routh (TX), Ayush Karupakula (NJ), Karthik Bhargav (VA), Keshav Shah (TX), Navein Suresh (PA), and Shrey Gupta (VA).

Editor's note: Here is a link to purchase A Guide to Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and their Applications: Visit <https://amzn.to/3jfgw4D>

Lee*Continued from page 15*

in distributing a vaccine when it finally comes and we need to make sure that it is distributed fairly and not only to people with means," Lee said.

'Independent thinker'

Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg has known Lee for a decade. In that time, Ellenberg told San José Spotlight she's been "continually impressed by his intelligence, thoughtfulness and his balanced approach to issues."

That temperament will serve him well if he is elected to the board, Ellenberg said. As an "independent thinker," Lee will give

careful consideration to all the potential outcomes of decisions he makes, she added.

"A lot of complicated and nuanced issues come before our board," the supervisor said. "Otto will think through the consequences, intended and unintended, of every action we take and use that to make the best decision. We'd be lucky to have someone like him on the board."

Lee has raised \$638,017 in 2020, according to finance reports, and spent \$559,883 on his campaign this year through Sept. 19.

He's headed into a match-up against Assemblyman Kansen Chu on Nov. 3.

**AT A GLANCE****Name:** Otto Lee**Age:** 53**Family:** Married, 3 daughters**Political affiliation:** Democrat**Education:** UC Berkeley; UC Hastings; Leiden University, The Netherlands**Profession:** Intellectual property attorney, retired U.S. Navy commander**Current or previous elected or appointed positions:** Sunnyvale City Council, County Blue Ribbon Commission for Custodial Operations**Top 3 priorities:** Affordable housing, homelessness and protect public health & behavioral health, COVID-19 recovery**Top 3 endorsements:** Civil rights leader Dolores Huerta, former Congressman and San Jose Mayor Norm Mineta, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

Special talent: Cooking. In addition to BBQ ribs, crepes and tiramisu, I learned a few new recipes during COVID-19, including cooking bitter melon and steamed fish with ginger/scallion

In one sentence, why vote for you? "Through compassion, equity and justice, to ensure our county public safety net is helping our most vulnerable populations with affordable housing, accessible quality health care and efficient public transportation."

Contact Adam F. Hutton at afhutton.sjspotlight@gmail.com or follow @adamfhutton on Twitter



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Times **Feature**

Second Harvest facing critical volunteer shortages at food distribution sites

Food bank urgently calls on volunteers to help address the unprecedented need for food assistance during the pandemic

By William Bellou

Publisher

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is issuing an urgent call for volunteers to help distribute food to the half million people now receiving food assistance from the nonprofit every month.

In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the number of people relying on Second Harvest for nutritious groceries has doubled as Silicon Valley residents—many of whom have never received food assistance before—struggle with job loss and depleted savings.

In response to the crisis, Second Harvest and its partner agencies have continued to open new public food distribution sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including 130 new drive through sites to help ensure the safety of volunteers and the public alike.

While these new sites have also created a need for more volunteers to staff them, the food bank and its partners have struggled to fill open slots and many distributions have been operating with only half of the needed workforce.

"With such tremendous need right now, we are calling on members of our community to volunteer. Help us provide this much needed relief to our neighbors in crisis," said Leslie Bacho, CEO for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. "Since the pandemic began, we have seen an outpouring of support from people wanting to help, but we are now distributing 80 percent more food than we did



before and we simply need more help. Tell your friends, family, neighbors and your coworkers that the time to step up and help is right now.

How to Volunteer at Second Harvest

Individuals and groups can volunteer to hand out food at distribution sites located throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties or to sort and box food at Second Harvest's Cypress warehouse, 4001 N 1st Street in San Jose.

Volunteers must be in good health and adhere to county mandated safety measures, including social distancing and wearing masks and gloves. The minimum age to volunteer is 14, and all volunteers ages 14 to 17 must have a signed electronic permission slip on file at least 48 hours before volunteering. High risk populations are asked not to volunteer at this time.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for shifts on Second Harvest's website: www.shfb.org/give-help/volunteer

SOS AUTO REPAIR COLUMN

But I hardly drive my car, so why do I need to replace my tires?

People have been relying on tread depth to determine when to replace a tire for years.

Remember the "penny test," assuming a tire still has life, regardless of how old it is, which can be a fatal mistake, because old tires can be dangerous, regardless of tread depth.

Although there's no federally sanctioned safety guidance on when a tire is too old to be safe, many carmakers recommend replacing tires every 3-6 years from the date of manufacture. The reason: old tires have been the culprit in fatal accidents.

Here are just two examples:

In 2008, the owner of a 1998 Ford Explorer in Georgia needed a new tire for his SUV and bought a used one. When he was driving two weeks later, the tread suddenly separated from the tire. The Explorer went out of control and hit a motorcycle, killing its rider. An analysis of the used tire revealed that it was nearly 10 years old.

In a more recent and high-profile example, the investigation into the cause of the 2013 accident that killed the actor Paul Walker revealed that the Porsche Carrera GT in which he was riding had 9-year-old tires. The California Highway Patrol noted that the tires' age might have compromised their drivability and handling characteristics, according to an article in the *Los Angeles Times*.

A tire's tread will wear out in three to four years diving 12,000 to 15,000 miles per year normal driving, long before the rubber compound does. But if you drive much less than that, or have a car that you only drive on weekends, remember aging tires could be an issue, especially when you purchase a used car that may have sat on a car lot for undetermined amount of time.

What should you do?

Check for cracks in a tire's rubber appearing on the sidewall surface and inside

the tire as well. This cracking can eventually cause the steel belts in the tread to separate from the rest of the tire. Improper maintenance and heat accelerate the process.

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"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "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. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine holy book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. Please visit our website to learn more.

Jazāk Allāhu Khayran!

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
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Together let us build lives toward excellence!
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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 Terrasse 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 community, promoting spiritual

NOTE: Due to the coronavirus, many religious institutions have services online.

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



God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ 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.stfrancisofassisipreschool.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!



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Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;**Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com**

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