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FEBRUARY 2021 ■ VOL. 17, NO. 2

Willow Glen *Times*

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A single-family home in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose. Photo courtesy Spencer High/Santa Clara County Association of Realtors.

How much do you need to earn to purchase a home in San Jose? More than \$240K a year

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The housing market in Silicon Valley is notoriously expensive. But a new report from HSH.com shows just how much a resident needs to earn in San Jose to pay for a home.

According to the study, to afford the principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments on a median-priced home, a buyer in San Jose must earn \$243,303 a year to cover the \$5,600 monthly mortgage payment.

A typical family in San Jose makes around half that amount.

"While we are producing housing, it's also about what cost point we're producing that housing," said Noni Ramos, the chief executive officer of Housing Trust Silicon Valley, an affordable housing advocacy group. "We need to recognize that we have a spectrum of individuals who have a spectrum of income levels, and not every household will even be remotely able to come close to be able to buy something in that range."

That's priced out San Jose natives like John De Guzman, a procurement specialist for a Silicon Valley tech

company. De Guzman and his fiancée, a nurse practitioner, both work in the area. They got a head start in their search for a single-family home before getting married, but even with their combined incomes, they realized buying a home would be difficult.

"We looked at a few houses. It was kind of scary looking at prices and seeing what we could afford," De Guzman said. "We used Zillow just to browse but the down payment and mortgage looked too much for what we want to pay on a monthly basis."

Instead, they've considered moving to places like Tracy or Manteca, even though the commute might put them an hour away from their workplaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated issues of housing affordability, leaving many people priced out of homes due to unemployment. That's despite the fact that the area has seen a "red-hot" market in recent months, with demand keeping single-family home prices high.

"That has resulted in increased prices and multiple offers, and homes selling over asking price," said Doug Goss, broker associate at Keller Williams Bay Area Estates and president of the Santa Clara County
See REAL ESTATE, page 2

Knitbuds donate 200 beanies to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospital and Clinics

Knitbuds, a social entrepreneurship initiative by a local High School junior, has contributed 200 handmade beanies to The Sobrato Cancer Center of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospital and Clinics (SCVMC) on South Bascom.

"Thank you for the beanies!" Christina Egan, a manager at the SCVMC, said appreciating the gesture from Knitbuds. "These will be used as gifts for the chemotherapy patients!"

Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy find beanies as head coverings to be a convenient and comfortable solution to keep them warm and boost their self-esteem by covering their hair loss.

According to the National Institute of Cancer, "In 2020, an estimated 1,806,590 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States." There are many social organizations supporting the cancer patients and standing by them as they fight the battle against cancer. Knitbuds is motivated by such organizations and makes a humble attempt to support this cause.

Knitbuds was founded by Presentation High School junior Mrudula Chodavarapu in December 2018 to bring the community together in an initiative to support the cancer patients. At Knitbuds, volunteers learn how to knit using materials paid for by funds raised by selling vegetables from Chodavarapu's home garden and small stuffed bunnies Knitbuds volunteers make as they learn to knit.

"It is indeed unfortunate to see the growth rate of cancer patients; and inspiring to see the brave individuals who fight the battle against cancer. I wanted to do something to tell them that I stand by them. Handmaking beanies was something I enjoyed doing and gave me immense happiness for being able to help. Teaching this to others and having them participate compounded

See KNITBUDS, page 2



Pictured (left to right): Madhavi Nori, Mrudula Chodavarapu, Christina Egan (Manager at SCVMC)

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15

Times **Community News****COVID-19 tree planting dedication**

Greenkeepers USA, an environmental nonprofit from the Bay Area, is hosting a "Life for a Life" Memorial Tree Planting to remember those who have passed away due to COVID-19.

Trees will be planted near the Sabercat Trail in Fremont, and for a donation of \$60, you can adopt a tree and receive a certificate with a tree dedication and information about the tree that you have helped plant.

To adopt a tree or donate to our GoFundMe page, visit <https://tinyurl.com/gktrees>. The organization appreciates any amount you're able to donate. For more information,



visit greenkeepersusa.org or email us at greenkeepersusa@gmail.com. All donations are tax deductible.

Badagliacco of Willow Glen named to College Of William & Mary Fall Dean's List

Kaitlin Badagliacco of Willow Glen (inset) is named to College Of William & Mary Fall Dean's List.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

Badagliacco served as an intern for the office of San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo for 6 months in 2017 and 2019. There she wrote one-pagers of the Mayor's accomplishments in each policy area to be sent to the media, created and posted content on the Mayor's social media channels, and drafted English and Spanish talking points and memorandums for the Mayor, and managed social media channels.

Badagliacco graduated from Presentation High School in 2018. She participated in the Student Council and Musical Theater, and was a member of the International Thespian



Society, Presentation Ambassadors Club, leadership Academy and Students for Political Action.

The College of William & Mary is a public research university in Williamsburg, Virginia. Founded in 1693 by letters patent issued by King William III and Queen Mary II, it is the second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States, after Harvard University.

Christina Lefler of Willow Glen named to Dean's List at George Fox University

Christina Lefler of Willow Glen was among those who earned dean's list recognition at George Fox University for the fall 2020 semester.

Traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.5 grade point average or above on 12 or more hours of graded work to earn a spot on the dean's list. Lefler is a freshman majoring in biology.

George Fox University is ranked by Forbes among the top Christian universities in the country and is a Christian college classified by U.S. News & World Report as a "Best National University." More than 4,000 students attend classes on the university's campus in Newberg, Oregon, and at teaching centers in Portland, Salem and Redmond, Oregon.

Real Estate

Continued from page 1

Association of Realtors. "Given the pandemic, it's surprising how well the housing market has really picked up, not only here, but nationwide."

By Goss's estimate, 75% to 80% of the homes he's worked with in San Jose are receiving multiple offers, making homes more likely to be sold over asking price. Single-family homes, he said, are more likely to be sold over listing price, while condos are more likely to be sold near their listing price.

There are several reasons, Goss said, that prices in the area remain so high.

First, the region's position as the tech capital of the world means there is a high number of residents

who want to live near where they work. That means — even with the exodus of big companies in search of cheaper land — people still want to live in Silicon Valley, which keeps demand high. Second, the supply of housing has not kept up with the demand, so there are more buyers than there are homes. Also, interest rates are at historic lows.

According to the study, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate dropped in all 50 of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. In San Jose, interest rates experienced a -0.27% change over the last quarter.

The study used a 20% down payment, a fixed-rate 30-year mortgage, local property tax numbers and homeowner's insurance costs to calculate home costs. The numbers are based on data from

the second quarter of 2020.

For comparison, the average income needed to buy a house nationally is \$60,770 — approximately a quarter of the income needed in San Jose. In the cheapest metro area, Pittsburgh, one must only earn around \$33,000 a year, with the median home price being \$177,250.

The median home price in San Jose is \$1.4 million, according to the study.

The prices might be overwhelming for some prospective buyers, but Helen Gardin, realtor at San Jose-based Pulse Real Estate, has some advice.

"They (homeowners) should watch their credit," Gardin said. "And find a lender to help them with that and to help them figure out what to pay off." She and Goss also recommended homebuyer

assistance programs, such as Empower Homebuyers.

Still, the problem might be more long-term than that, according to Mathew Reed, spokesperson with Silicon Valley At Home, a local affordable housing advocacy group. He said the housing market, which has far outpaced the median incomes of people in the area, is "not sustainable." "It's not good for families and it's not good for the economy," said Reed.

For De Guzman, who is looking to also take care of his parents, it's near impossible — even with what they consider "well-paying jobs," to afford to live in San Jose. "We can't get a break and catch up with costs," he said.

Contact **Lloyd Alaban** at lloyd.b.alaban@gmail.com or follow @lloydalaban on Twitter.

Knitbuds

Continued from page 1

the happiness while helping the cancer patients."

During the shelter-in-place, Knitbuds' volunteers heavily increased their involvement with the organization. Chodavarapu believes that in total next year, Knitbuds will be able to donate 400 or more beanies and hopes to expand Knitbuds in the future.

About Knitbuds:

Knitbuds is a nonprofit founded in December 2018 in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is dedicated to knitting beanies and other objects to help cancer patients in the area. Those interested in volunteering can contact Knitbuds at mrudulach@knitbuds.org.

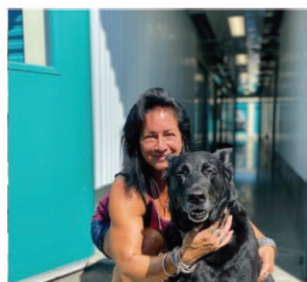
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New year, new me?

Survey reveals many Californians are reducing their alcohol intake in 2021

A new survey shows that one in three Californians have or are planning on reducing their alcohol intake in 2021.

Although many Californian's plan to cut back on their alcohol intake, 80% say they would drink the same or more in the event of another lockdown in 2021. The survey also revealed that there is more of a concern about a loved one struggling with alcohol dependency, than COVID-19.

AlcoholRehab.com, a leading provider of alcohol and drug addiction treatment resources, surveyed 3,000 adults (aged 21+) and found that over 1 in 3 (37%) Californians plan on reducing their alcohol intake, not just for the month of January, but for 2021.

'Dryuary' (Dry January)

Dry January, or Dryuary, the month where many people opt to drink less, has become an annual ritual. Some participate as part of a New Year's resolution, some use it as a vehicle to save money, and others claim it's a way to 'detox' from excessive drinking over the holidays. However, following a challenging year in which many turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism for a multitude of situations, this month's attempt at sobriety has added significance.

According to the survey results, the most abstemious state is Louisiana, with nearly 70% saying they plan on drinking less this year. Comparatively, only 16% of those in Iowa say they will cut down on their drinking this upcoming year.

In the spirit of 'New Year, New Me,' the survey showed that 1 in 10 reassess their drinking habits every January to make some changes (usually for the better!). When quizzed on their primary reasons for cutting their alcohol in 2021, 62% want to create healthier habits for themselves, 17% say it's to save money, 12% say it's to avoid hangovers, and 10% want to cut down as they're

See DRINKING, page 6

Valley Currents

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

State announces lifting of regional stay at home order, returning Santa Clara county to purple tier

Outdoor dining, personal care services, sports programs may resume with required modifications; mandatory travel quarantine remains in place

On Monday, January 25, the State of California announced the lifting of its Regional Stay at Home Order for all regions statewide, including the Bay Area. Effective today, Santa Clara County has returned to the Purple Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, with some additional local restrictions remaining in place.

Outdoor dining may resume today, as well as personal care services and professional, collegiate, and adult and youth sports. The County's mandatory travel quarantine remains in place, requiring a 10-day quarantine for most people who travel into the county from more than 150 miles away. As always, businesses and individuals must follow both the State and County Health Officer orders, and where there is a conflict between the two, the stricter rules must be followed.

"Santa Clara County continues to experience very high rates of COVID-19 transmission," said Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer and Director of Public Health for the County of

Santa Clara. "Our collective actions to date have saved lives and helped protect our healthcare system from collapse. I encourage all residents to remain vigilant, wear a mask anytime you leave your home, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from anyone outside your household, and get vaccinated when it is your turn."

Below is a summary of changes:

- **Outdoor dining** may resume, subject to the Mandatory Directive for Dining. Indoor dining remains prohibited. Bars, breweries, distilleries, and pubs may serve alcohol only outdoors and only in the same transaction as a meal.

- **Personal care services** may resume indoors and outdoors, subject to the Mandatory Directive for Personal Care Services.

- **Professional and collegiate sports** may resume, subject to the updated Mandatory Directive for Collegiate and Professional Sports.

- **Adult recreational sports activities** may resume subject to the updated Mandatory Directive for Gatherings, including specific rules in Section 9 of that Directive.

- **Youth sports** may resume subject to the State's guidance applicable to those activities, as well as the County's Mandatory Direc-

tive for Programs Serving Children and Youth.

- **Most businesses that are allowed to open indoor operations** to the public must limit capacity of their publicly accessible space to 20%. The County's Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations has been updated to reflect current openings and closings.

- **Outdoor gatherings with up to three households** are now allowed for any purpose. Larger outdoor gatherings with up to 200 people are allowed only for political, religious, or ceremonial purposes, or as otherwise specifically allowed by the State. Indoor gatherings of any kind remain prohibited. All allowed gatherings must comply with the County's updated Mandatory Directive for Gatherings.

- **The County's Mandatory Directive on Travel**, which requires most people who travel into the county from more than 150 miles away to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival, is still in effect.

- **The County's Mandatory Directive for Lodging Facilities** is still in effect. Lodging facilities may not provide lodging services for non-essential purposes, such as tourism, recreational, or leisure purposes. Non-essential travel should be avoided, especially in light of new variants of COVID-19 that are circulating globally and in the United States.

Key rules remain in effect and applicable to all businesses:

- **Telework:** All businesses must continue See ORDER LIFTED, page 6

IN MEMORY

Sandra Davidson

March 16, 1962 -
December 11, 2020

Resident of Willow Glen

Sandra Davidson passed over to peace and joy after a brief illness.

A native of Willow Glen in San Jose, she attended River Glen Elementary, Markham Junior High and Willow Glen High

School. Later, she earned a bachelor's degree from Mills College in Oakland, majoring in Women's Studies and Philanthropy.

Sandra (Sandy to some) never met a stranger, and showed her vivacious personality to all she met. A serious Rock 'n Roller, she went to hundreds of concerts from the mid '70s onward. Often found rocking out in the front row of The Who.

Sandra dabbled in concert promotion and journalism, inter-



viewing the likes of The Police and Oingo Boingo. She was active behind the scenes and a Board member of San Jose Stage Company, and an avid fan of Opera San Jose.

A lifelong animal lover, she became a devout vegetarian in her teens. Sandra loved reading, movies and science fiction (especially the original Star Trek). Most of all, her greatest loves were her six nieces and nephews: Lillian, Savannah, Gabriella, Gavin, Billy and Stella.

Additionally, she leaves behind her parents, Charles and Anita, her brother Bill and sister-in-law Lila, both of Orlando, Florida, and her sister Stephanie, as well as many life-long and devoted friends.

Sandra was an incredibly loving, deeply spiritual person, devoted to the environment and her kindness to all living creatures was unwavering.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in her honor should make it to the Humane Society of Silicon Valley or their favorite charity.

Willow Glen Times

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Times Community News



Which states had highest number of people eating out at restaurants before and during COVID?

Americans love to dine out, it's part of our culture, but the COVID-19 pandemic has put a serious crimp in our style.

According to the restaurant data guru Zenreach — the leader in walk-through marketing — restaurant visits across the nation are down significantly, particularly in some tried and true restaurant types like

American food (down 277,000 visits between Jan. 2020 and Dec. 2020) and pizza places (down 113,000 visits during the same time frame).

Before the pandemic, California was the state most likely to dine out with 437,000 restaurant visits in the month of January. By December, that number was just 71,000. Good enough to retain the second spot on the list but less than half of Florida's December numbers of 149,000 restaurant visits.

Arizona and Texas moved up one spot each between January and December, supplanting New York as the third and fourth

most popular state for restaurant goers. New York slipped to 5th place in December with an almost 150,000 diner drop off between the two months.

Make no mistake, none of these states have numbers that remotely compare with their pre-COVID levels, but it is interesting that all five top states are COVID hot spots in the U.S.

Valley Medical Center Foundation set to receive generous PPE donation

In the midst of working to ensure swift vaccination roll outs to all Santa Clara County residents, Supervisor Otto Lee acknowledged and celebrated a generous donation of Personal Protective Equipment to the Valley Medical Center (VMC) Foundation from the Bridge Road International (BRI) Foundation.

"I did not want to let the opportunity pass to recognize the kind and helpful gift from BRI which will go a long way to protect our nurses and front-

line workers," Supervisor Lee said.

The donation, which includes 1,000 personal protective disposable hooded coveralls, was presented to the VMC Foundation on Jan. 21 at the VMC office.

"We are delighted," VMC Foundation CEO Chris Wilder said. "This donation adds to the Foundation's county-wide donation effort to fight COVID-19. Together, we will prevail."

"Together we will see the end of this pandemic," Lee said. "Please continue to maintain social distance, wear a mask whenever you leave your home, and stay home except for essential activities. I thank the community for your strength and collective action to protect your neighbors and yourselves."



Photo: <https://vmcfoundation.org/>

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Order lifted

Continued from page 4
to require workers to do their jobs from home whenever possible. Workers can go into work only to complete the job duties they can't complete from home.

• **Social Distancing Protocol** requirements: All businesses must complete and submit a Revised Social Distancing Protocol for each of their facilities on the County's website at COVID19Prepared.org. Social Distancing Protocols submitted prior to October 11, 2020 are no longer valid. The Revised Social Distancing Protocols must be filled out using an updated template for the Social Distancing Protocol at COVID19Prepared.org.

• **Positive case reporting:** All businesses (and governmental entities) are legally required to report to the Public Health Department within 4 hours if they learn that any of their workers are confirmed to be positive for COVID-19. They must also ensure workers alert them if they test positive.

• **Capacity Limitation and Metering:** All businesses must comply with applicable capacity limitations. All businesses (except for acute care hospitals) with indoor facilities open to the public must establish a "metering system" to ensure that the applicable capacity limits are not exceeded by, for example, posting an employee at the facility entrance to track the number of people entering and exiting.

• **Indoor Breakroom Closure:** All businesses (except acute care hospitals) must limit employees' access to indoor workplace breakrooms as described in section 3 of the Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations.

For more updates and information, the public may visit the county's website. Information regarding COVID-19 testing is available at www.sccfreetest.org, and information about vaccine eligibility and distribution is available at www.sccfreevax.org.



Report: 66% of nursing homes say they won't make it another year

Key findings of a recent survey from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/ NCAL) of nursing home providers across the U.S. include:

• Two-thirds (66%) of nursing homes say they won't make it another year given current operating pace due to increased COVID costs.

• 90% of nursing homes are currently operating at a profit margin of 3% or less. (65% of nursing homes are currently operating at a loss).

• Staffing has been the top cost in response to COVID with nine out of 10 nursing homes hiring additional staff and/or paying staff overtime.

• 58% of nursing homes said additional staff pay and hiring new staff were their top cost incurred due to COVID.

• 70% of nursing homes have hired additional staff and nine out of 10 have asked current staff to

work overtime and provided hero pay.

In a statement from Mark Parkinson, President and CEO, AHCA/NCAL on the survey he said, "Our nursing home providers are facing the worst financial crisis in the history of the industry due to increased costs related to COVID (testing, personal protective equipment, staffing) and chronic Medicaid underfunding. Without adequate resources, the U.S. will repeat the same mistakes made during the initial outbreak last spring. We need Congress to prioritize our vulnerable seniors and their caregivers in long term care facilities, by passing another COVID relief package right away."

Drinking

Continued from page 4
worried about becoming too dependent on alcohol.

More will drink if lockdowned

The survey also revealed a concerning statistic: more than 80% of respondents say in the event of further lockdowns in 2021, they would drink the same or more alcohol than they did in the first wave.

The study also found that nearly 2 in 3 (63%) respondents say they would be more concerned about a loved one struggling with alcohol dependency, than COVID-19, during the pandemic.

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Tech Jargon of the Week

Predictive Analytics

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:

Predictive Analytics

No one today has the ability to capture and analyze data from the future. However, there is a way to predict the future using data from the past. It is called predictive analytics. Today it is used in insurance, banking, marketing, financial services, telecommunications, retail, travel, healthcare, and other industries.

Predictive analytics is the branch of the advanced analytics which is used to make predictions about unknown future events. It uses techniques like data mining, statistics, modeling, machine learning, and artificial intelligence to analyze current data to make predictions about future. Now this requires a high level of expertise with statistical methods and the ability to build predictive data models. As a result, it’s typically the domain of data scientists, statisticians and other skills data analysts. They’re supported by data engineers, who help to gather relevant data and prepare it for analysis, and by software developers and business analysts, who help with data visualization dashboards and reports.

Data scientists use predictive models to look for correlations between different data elements in website clickstream data, patient health records and other types of datasets. Once the data collection has occurred, a statistical model is formulated, trained and modified as needed to produce accurate results. The model is then run against the selected data to generate predictions.

Predictive analytics allows organizations to become proactive, forward looking, anticipating outcomes and behaviors based upon the data and not on a hunch or assumptions. It goes further and suggests actions to benefit the predictions and also provide decision options to benefit from the predictions and its implications.

It’s pretty amazing that we can use analytics to predict the future. All we have to do is gather the right data, do the right type of statistical model, and be careful of assumptions. Accurate predictive models can help organizations make intelligent decisions.

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.

California makes several legislative changes for businesses in 2021

California has made some legislative changes for businesses in 2021. Here are the following new labor law changes for employers that may require immediate action.

- SB 1383 – Expanded employee access to CFRA (California Family Rights Act) to companies with just 5 employees or more.
- AB 685 – Requires employers to provide written notices to employees within one business day after receiving notice of potential COVID-19 exposure.

• AB 1963 – Requires employers with 5 or more employees to provide Mandated Reporter training to HR professionals and supervisors who manage minors.

• AB 2017 – revised the law to clarify that the employee has the right to designate sick leave as kin care.

• AB 2992 – expanded the prohibition on discrimination and retaliation against employees who are victims of crime or abuse.

• AB 1947 – extends the time an individ-

ual can file a complaint of discrimination or retaliation with the DLSE (Division of Labor Standards Enforcement i.e.: Labor Commissioner).

• SB 1384 – Expands the Labor Commissioner’s ability to represent claimants under certain circumstances.

• SB 973 – Requires businesses with 100 or more employees to file an annual Employer Information Report (EEO-1) to California’s Department of Fair Employment and Housing by March 31, 2021.

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Times **Community News**

Santa Clara County gives green light for previously paused Moderna vaccine

By Madelyn Reese

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

County health officials are now instructing local hospitals to begin administering a lot of Moderna vaccines paused earlier this week due to a potential increased risk of allergic reactions.

Santa Clara County received about 21,800 doses of the Moderna Lot 41L20A distributed at the beginning of January, and more than 330,000 of these doses were distributed across the state. Health officials paused administration of the lot after several individuals experienced allergic reactions at a San Diego vaccination site last week.

Local hospitals earlier this week said they had either not administered

any vaccines from the lot or had administered some before the pause, but had not recorded any allergic reactions.

"These findings confirm that the systems put in place to ensure vaccine safety are working just as they should," said Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody. "This latest rigorous, scientific review of possible allergic reactions once again confirmed that the vaccine is safe."

See *VACCINE*, next page

Local hospitals earlier this week said they had either not administered any vaccines from the lot or had administered some before the pause, but had not recorded any allergic reactions.

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Chief Executive Officer **Ahmad Thomas** (left) and **Angelica Cortez**, vice president of racial justice and equity (right).



Silicon Valley Leadership Group launches new racial diversity program

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) is launching a major push to urge Bay Area companies to institute racial diversity in their executive ranks.

Under the direction of new Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Thomas, the new racial diversity initiative, named 25x25, will help ensure that more members of under-represented groups become executives at Silicon Valley companies.

"We want to do something that will catalyze change with a measurable impact on corporate diversity in Silicon Valley and also generate revenue for our companies."

Thomas said. "Our goal is to fill 25% of executive positions with hires from under-represented groups by 2025."

SVLG is encouraging companies that have already reached the 25% to increase the number of people from under-repre-

sented groups from their current levels.

The organization, which includes more than 350 company members, has appointed Angelica Cortez as vice president of racial justice and equity. She said the leadership group is planning to unveil its 25x25 initiative at the organization's Diversity Summit on Feb. 19.

Cortez said, "25x25 is a chance to act now to create lasting change that reaches every part of our industries by starting at the top."

The leadership group was the only prominent business organization to back legislation that required public companies with executive offices in California to appoint board members from under-represented communities, according to Jed York, chairman of the group's board and CEO of the San Francisco 49ers.

Times **Community News**

A 'vaccines only' sign is displayed outside the room where health care workers are receiving the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, Calif. (San José Spotlight / Vicente Vera, Pool)

Vaccine

Continued from previous page

People in Santa Clara County can feel confident that vaccinating our community against COVID-19 will save lives and serve as our path out of the pandemic."

California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan said the decision to resume vaccinations from the lot was made after convening a scientific safety review group, along with additional allergy and immunology specialists across the state.

"These findings should continue to

give Californians confidence that vaccines are safe and effective, and that the systems put in place to ensure vaccine safety are rigorous and science-based," Pan said. "Members of my family who have qualified to receive the vaccine as health care workers or because of their age have already received the COVID-19 vaccine, and I encourage every Californian to get the vaccine when it's their turn."

As of Jan. 21, the county has reported 94,905 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 1,129 deaths.



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Times **Feature**

Youth Poet Laureate speaks at inauguration of Joe Biden

Amanda Gorman, 22, is the nation's first youth poet laureate. She delivered this poem, "The Hills We Climb," Wednesday, January 20 at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. (Photo: Facebook)

California poet
Amanda Gorman's
"The Hills We Climb"



When day comes we ask ourselves,
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry,
a sea we must wade
We've braved the belly of the beast
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace
And the norms and notions
of what just is
Isn't always justice
And yet the dawn is ours
before we knew it
Somehow we do it
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
but simply unfinished
We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny Black girl
descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
can dream of becoming president
only to find herself reciting for one
And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose
To compose a country committed to all cultures,
colors, characters and
conditions of man
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands
between us but what stands before us
We close the divide because we know, to put our
future first,
we must first put our differences aside
We lay down our arms
so we can reach out our arms
to one another
We seek harm to none and harmony for all
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew
That even as we hurt, we hoped
That even as we tired, we tried
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious
Not because we will never again know defeat
but because we will never again sow division
Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and
fig tree
And no one shall make them afraid
If we're to live up to our own time
Then victory won't lie in the blade
But in all the bridges we've made
That is the promise to glade
The hill we climb
If only we dare
It's because being American is more than a pride
we inherit,

it's the past we step into and how
we repair it
We've seen a force that would
shatter our nation
rather than share it
Would destroy our country if it
meant delaying
democracy
And this effort very nearly
succeeded
But while democracy can be periodically delayed
it can never be permanently defeated
In this truth
in this faith we trust
For while we have our eyes on the future
history has its eyes on us
This is the era of just redemption
We feared at its inception
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
of such a terrifying hour
but within it we found the power
to author a new chapter
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves
So while once we asked, how could we possibly
prevail over catastrophe?
Now we assert
How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?
We will not march back to what was
but move to what shall be
A country that is bruised but whole,
benevolent but bold, fierce and free
We will not be turned around
or interrupted by intimidation
because we know our inaction and inertia
will be the inheritance of the next generation
Our blunders become their burdens
But one thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might,
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy
and change our children's birthright
So let us leave behind a country
better than the one we were left with
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,
we will raise this wounded world into a
wondrous one
We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the
West,
we will rise from the windswept Northeast
where our forefathers first realized revolution
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the
Midwestern states,
we will rise from the sunbaked South
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
and every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful
When day comes we step out of the shade,
afire and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it.

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Times **Community News**

Enjoy this seafood boil by Tammy Brown

Courtesy of [cookingwithtammy](https://cookingwithtammy.com)
[cookingwithtammy.recipes](https://cookingwithtammy.com)
 @tambrown2015

Put the fun back into cooking with quick, easy, delicious and healthy recipes from Tammy Brown. For more recipes, visit [cookingwithtammy.recipes](https://cookingwithtammy.com).



SEAFOOD BOIL OVEN RECIPE

Seafood Boil Oven Recipe: King Crab Legs, Snow Crab, Jumbo Shrimp, Sausage, Corn and Potatoes. This scrumptious boil is seasoned with over nine Creole seasonings in order to bring out the best flavors in any seafood boil. This Seafood Boil Foil Packet Recipe is universal. Place it in the oven or grill and enjoy!

Seafood Boil in the oven recipe

Ingredients

- lobster tails
- king crab legs
- snow crab legs
- jumbo shrimp
- sausage
- corn
- potatoes
- onion powder
- garlic powder
- paprika
- lemon pepper
- cedar plank salmon seasoning mix
- roasted herb and garlic seasoning
- creole seasoning



- ranch dip dry mix
- Sauce
- garlic minced
- butter melted
- parsley

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350F

1. Taking cleaned seafood, sausage, corn, and, potatoes, add onion powder, garlic powder, paprika, lemon pepper, salmon seasoning, roasted garlic & herb, creole seasoning, ranch seasoning and combine.

2. To the melted butter add minced garlic, parsley, and combine. Add seafood to a pan, drizzle melted butter garlic mixture on the seafood.

3. Cover with aluminum foil and place it in the oven.

4. Cooking time depends on the amount of seafood, but Cook it on 350F until the seafood changes color. Lobster tails meat turn white, the shells turn red and the shrimp turns pink. The king crabs and snow crabs should already be cooked. Also, partially cook the potatoes so they are not crunchy. Be sure to check on it periodically while it's in the oven.

5. Serve and Enjoy!

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Five ways to cut down on food waste

Food requires a lot of resources, including land, water and energy. It should come as no surprise then, that the food we waste accounts for a whopping six percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Fortunately, it's not hard to cut back on food waste. It can even be fun! Check out these five ideas for waste-preventing, emission-reducing inspiration.

1. Store food properly

How you store food makes a big difference in how long it lasts. Use this printable guide to learn how to properly store produce, and find out what parts of your fridge are best for storing different types of foods.

2. Freeze, dehydrate or pickle food that's about to go bad

If you have too much food sitting in your fridge, don't let it go to waste. Extra bananas can be peeled and frozen for future use in breads and smoothies. Other fruit like peaches and berries can be frozen and stored for smoothies, pies and other baked goods. Uncooked meat can be frozen for future meals, and cooked meals like soup can be frozen for an easy meal on a lazy day. To explore more food saving tips, tricks and recipes, visit www.lovefoodnotwaste.org.

If you have extra veggies like cabbage, carrots, cucumber or green beans, try pickling them to make them last. You don't have to learn canning, either — quick pickling works just as well.

3. Eat veggies without peeling

Not only will it save you a lot of work, it will cut down on food waste, increase your dish's flavor and give you more nutrients. The veggies you can stop peeling include beets, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, ginger, parsnips, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Worried about dirt? Soak your veggies in water for a few minutes to get most of it off, then use a vegetable brush to finish the job.

4. Find ways to eat the parts of your food you'd normally toss

If there's a part of some kind of food that you always toss, see if there's a way you could make it edible. Here are some of our ideas:

- Add carrot tops to pesto or chimichurri.

- Make broccoli rice out of broccoli stalks.

- Wilt beet greens and add them to your beet dish, like in beet salad.

5. Put your food scraps to work

Not all food scraps are destined for the bin. Try out some of these

See **FOOD WASTE**, page 15

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U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo

Rep. Eshoo re-elected Chairwoman of Health Subcommittee

U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18) has been re-elected as Chairwoman of the Health Subcommittee by members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

"As COVID-19 surges nationwide and continues to expose drastic problems in our health care system, expanding health care coverage and lowering costs is more important than ever," Eshoo said. "I'm grateful to my colleagues for trusting me to lead efforts in the House and I look forward to working with the incoming Biden-Harris Administration and the

Senate to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, reduce the price of prescription drugs, and continue to make critically important investments in our public health system to crush the COVID-19 pandemic."

Rep. Eshoo was elected to the Energy and Commerce Committee in 1995, and has served on the Health Subcommittee for 18 of her 26 years on the Committee. Of the more than 50 bills and provisions she has authored that have been signed into law by four presidents, more than half have been health related.

"As COVID-19 surges nationwide and continues to expose drastic problems in our health care system, expanding health care coverage and lowering costs is more important than ever." – Rep. Anna Eshoo

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San Jose's first all-inclusive play space reopens after 10 months of closure

A key asset of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, the Rotary PlayGarden, reopened on Saturday, January 23rd. The beloved play space closed for 10 months due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Located at the southern end of the Guadalupe Gardens and the Mineta San Jose International Airport, the PlayGarden was a centennial gift to the city by the Rotary Club of San Jose, opening to the public on May 23, 2015. Prior to the pandemic, the PlayGarden saw 150,000 visitors a year.

"The Rotary PlayGarden was born from the belief that children of all abilities should have a clean, safe, and welcoming place to play and socialize" says Leslee Hamilton, Executive Director of the Rotary Club of San Jose. "The excitement behind the reopening reinforces the importance of recreation and play, particularly during the current pandemic."

The PlayGarden is now open on

a limited basis between Fridays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Capacity of the PlayGarden is limited to 60 visitors at any given time, and in accordance with public health guidelines, visits are limited to 30 minutes maximum. Visitors are asked to sanitize their hands, maintain six-foot distance, and wear masks at all times.

"Our team is very excited to reopen the Rotary PlayGarden again and safely operate this community amenity to support play that transcends physical limitations," says Joe Salvato, Deputy Director of the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy.

Just prior to the closure, the PlayGarden celebrated its 750,000th visitor and the completion of a new shade structure at the end of 2019. Future plans include a \$2 million expansion, managed by the City of San Jose with funding from Santa Clara County. Construction is scheduled to begin at the end of 2021.



"We have seen tremendous support and appreciation for what the Rotary PlayGarden provides to the residents of Santa Clara County in the last five years," says Supervisor Cindy Chavez. "Our community is looking forward to its reopening and expansion in the near future."

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy actively manages the PlayGarden in partnership with the Rotary Club of San Jose, City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, Hope Services, and community volunteers and members to sup-

Images courtesy Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

port maintenance, programs, and staffing of the play space. Additional details around safety practices while visiting the PlayGarden and other information around the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens are at www.grpg.org.



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SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

Food waste

Continued from page 12
fun ideas to give your scraps a second life:

- Make a broth out of carrot, celery and onion scraps.
- Make an exfoliating coffee scrub out of used coffee grounds. Simply add a little oil of your choice (like coconut or jojoba) to freshly brewed grounds and exfoliate away! Use a drain catcher to keep the grounds from clogging up your plumbing.
- Make potpourri from dried orange and other citrus peels.
- Grow new plants out of food scraps.

While reducing food waste is always best, there are times when you must dispose of some food. Add your food scraps to a backyard compost pile or bin if you have one. Otherwise, all food scraps belong in your black garbage cart. They will be removed for composting.

If you have leftovers in a recyclable container, be sure to empty and scrape any food into the garbage before recycling the container. If it is too soiled with food or liquid, place the container in the garbage as well. Food-soiled containers can contaminate otherwise clean recyclables, making them unrecyclable.

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