



Valentine's Day notes, facts, and a heartfelt dessert recipe SEE PAGE 11

.

COVID-19 vaccination clinic brings hope to East San Jose SEE PAGE 4



FEB. 12 – FEB. 25, 2021 **VOL. 38, NO. 4**

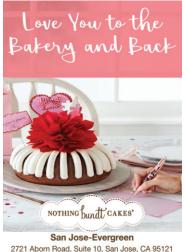
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ESUHSD school board votes for moratorium on 'F' grades during pandemic

hris Funk, Superintendent of the East Side Union High School District, sent a letter to the community explaining a moratorium on "F" grades during the current pandemic Feb. 4.

In the letter, Funk said, "The current pandemic has challenged us in many ways. Yet, we stand committed to our promise of preparing all students for college and career. We recognize that there are a number of factors that have impacted our students during the pandemic, and although everyone has worked and continues to work to meet the demands of distance learning, we know *See GRADES, page 3*



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San Jose halts search for a new police chief in order to recruit more external candidates

Currently five finalists vying to be San Jose's next police chief

> **By William Bellou** Publisher

I an effort to attract more outside candidates to be San Jose's new police chief, City Manager Dave Sykes has put a two-week pause on the selection process to replace Eddie Garcia who retired and took a job as Dallas, Texas' first Latino police chief.

Five finalists are currently vying for the San Jose Police Department's top job, police chief, down from six after Minneapolis Chief Medaria Arradondo withdrew his name for consideration. Sykes announced the shortlist of police chief candidates Jan. 25. The final-



The San Jose Police Station on West Mission Street and Guadalupe Parkway.

ists were selected from a pool of 18 candidates from across the country. The public forum to learn more about the police chief finalists originally scheduled for Jan. 29 was also cancelled.

Four contenders hail from San

ESUHSD Superintendent executive search in full swing; online survey completed

he Board of Trustees of the

East Side Union High School District is in the process of conducting an Executive Search for the purpose of hiring the District's next Superintendent.

Peggy Lynch, Ed.D., Juan Garza, and Eric Andrew of Leadership Associates, an executive search firm, are currently advising the Board in this important search process.

Consultants from Leadership Associates, an executive search firm, developed an online survey to collect input from all stakeholders about the desired characteristics of the next District superintendent. The final survey input was completed on Feb. 5. Frequently Asked Questions 1. How does the search process work?

The Board of Trustees is working with Leadership Associates to conduct a rigorous, nationwide search. The Board will seek, receive and consider input from the community, review applications, interview candidates and select the new superintendent.

2. When will the new Superintendent be hired?

The Board of Trustees will approve and publish a timeline, which will reflect these details. Please check back if the timeline is not yet posted. These dates are subject to change as the search *See SEARCH, page 5* Jose: Deputy Chief of Police Anthony Mata, Deputy Chief of Police Heather Randol, Police Captain Jason Ta and Acting Police Chief David Tindall. Piedmont's chief of police Jeremy Bowers is also in the running.

Having only one candidate from outside the city has a few local activists worried that internal candidates won't bring much-needed changes to the police department that's battled with excessive force complaints and some officers targeting and taunting peaceful protesters.

Out of 18 candidates who applied for the top cop position, it's unclear how many were external candidates. Bowers is considered an outsider, but not everyone, since he too once worked in the San Jose Police Department.

"We committed to bringing together a diverse candidate pool and a candidate pool with a mixture of internal and external perspectives," Sykes said. "Although we have a super strong internal candidate pool, we have fallen short on establishing an external perspective to be included in the community process. Therefore, we have decided to pause the process for two weeks to see if we can shore up the external candidate pool."

Here are short bios on the five current candidates:

Jeremy Bowers

Bowers has led Piedmont's police force since 2016. He was a *See CHIEF, page 3*

REMINDER St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen to sponsor Stanford Blood Drive: Feb. 13

St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen will sponsor a Stanford Blood Drive on Saturday, Feb. 13 starting at 8 a.m. at the St. Francis Community Center located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. in Evergreen.

The event is open to the public and any and all eligible donors are encouraged to stop by and become a blood donor. Be sure to wear a mask.

Due to the large number of companies shut down, there is a

big shortage of blood types, so it is important for the community to make a positive impact by making the event a success.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up in advance in order to minimize wait times.

The event will conclude at 2 p.m.

To register, call Tom at (408) 476-6104 or visit: bcdonor. org/donor/schedules/drive_sc hedule/9054 to learn more.

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County Health Office **Dr. Sara Cody** at a press conference Feb. 4 announces the new "no wrong door" policy for vaccinations in Santa Clara County.

New policy allows seniors to get COVID-19 vaccinations anywhere in Santa Clara County

By Madelyn Reese Article courtesy of San José Spotlight anta Clara County's public health officials now say anyone 65 and older can get their vaccine from anywhere in the county.

The county's new "no wrong door" policy, announced Thursday morning, makes it possible for seniors to get vaccinated regardless of who their normal medical provider is.

"A Kaiser patient can go to the county, a Stanford patient can go to Kaiser, a county patient can go to Stanford (to get vaccinated)," said County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody. "It doesn't matter where you go, we want you to get vaccinated."

County officials said that the change would become effective immediately within the county hospital system, while it might take a few days for all of the South Bay's vaccine providers to make the transition. The announcement comes a day after health officials from eight Bay Area counties recommended all health care systems begin vaccinating residents 65 and up.

"Our effort to get more and more folks vaccinated requires both simplicity and clarity and we've had too little of both, quite frankly, until today," said County Supervisor Joe Simitian. "If we say we're all in this together, we have to mean it.

Simitian said access to the vaccine should not be dependent on what medical provider a person has, or how many vaccines it has within a given week.

This week, Kaiser also announced it had canceled more than 5,000 appointments for patients 65 and up, because the hospital "did not receive the vaccine supplies anticipated" when the appointments were made. The move caused frustration and fear among many Kaiser patients who were excited to get the coveted vaccine.

"Over the last three weeks it's become clear, from looking at the numbers and talking to other health systems, that the (other hospitals) did not get sufficient doses to take care of their patients," County Executive Jeff Smith said. "Kaiser was shorted significantly, considering they represent about 40% of the population that's insured (in California)." Smith said the recent cancellations "were a factor" in this latest policy change.

"When we saw Kaiser was forced to cancel... We had to ask ourselves how can we fix that and how can we intervene in the best way possible," Smith said.

More than 80% of COVID-19 deaths in Santa Clara County have been in residents 65 and older. "We must, and we can, prevent as many of these deaths as we are collectively able,"

Cody said. About 37% of residents over 75 years of age have been vaccinated so far, while about 28% of the over 65 population has been vaccinated, according to the county executive. "The state's complex vaccine distribution and allocation system, combined with vaccine supply shortages, has led to an uneven vaccine rollout across the county depending on where people get their medical care," Smith said. "The 'no wrong door' approach we are implementing is designed to get available vaccines into arms as quickly and equitably as possible in order to save lives."

At the same time, South Bay officials have called for the state to speed up distribution of vaccines, and increase the allotment to Santa Clara County as it faces a slowdown in shipments.About 180,000 county residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine, while just more than 48,000 have received both doses necessary to offer full protection from the disease.

As of Thursday, Santa Clara County reported more than 103,000 cumulative cases of COVID-19, and 1,473 deaths from the disease. For the latest information on vaccine eligibility, visit www.sccfreevax.org. This week, the county also began operating a telephone line for residents without internet access or those who need additional assistance making appointments.

The Valley Connection Call Center can be reached at 408-970-2000. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 4:30pm. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages.

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

Chief

Continued from page 1

police captain for two years before and got his start in law enforcement in 1996 working at the San Jose Police Department as a lieutenant for nearly three years and a sergeant for four.

Anthony Mata

Mata comes to the candidate field with 30 years of policing experience. He serves as SJPD's executive officer and has been a deputy chief for more than four years. Mata is fluent in both Spanish and English.

Heather Randol

Randol has spent three years of her 23-year law-enforcement career with the San Jose Police Department leading the Bureau of Field Operations. She was the captain of the Western Division for a year and a half.

Jason Ta

Ta has been with SJPD for 20 years, leading the Foothill Division in the Bureau of Field Operations. Before that, he served in various units for a nine year period as a police lieutenant and was a sergeant for five years in the Robbery and Performance Analysis Detail.

David Tindall

Tindall has spent the past six months serving as acting assistant chief and was recently selected to be acting police chief after working for SJPD for 20 years. Prior to becoming acting assistant chief, he was deputy chief of the Bureau of Field Operations and led the Bureau of Investigations as a captain.

To help the public learn more about the police chief finalists, San Jose is hosting a police chief candidate forum Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. To participate, visit: www.youtube .com/c/CityOfSanJoseCalifornia

Grades

Continued from page 1 there are areas where more support is needed. Thus, in an effort to support students, the ESUHSD Board of Trustees has passed a resolution where any F grade received by students for the first semester of this school year will be changed to a No Pass (NP) grade. The NP grade will not impact a student's grade point average (GPA). Students will still need to recover the course that was failed, but their transcript will not carry the negative impact that an F grade normally does. Our intent is to support students during these challenging times as we recognize the added pressures brought upon by the pandemic."

VTA working to provide safe, clean and reliable service Fares halted until further notice

Alley Transportation Authority (VTA) has halted fares for riders and is continuing to evaluate and adjust protocols to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

With Santa Clara County returning to the Purple Tier, VTA says it will implement the fol-

lowing additional measures to further reduce behaviors that may be contributing to the rise in positive cases among our VTA frontline workers.

A federal mandatory mask mandate was issued on Feb. 1 which states that riders while on or waiting for transit need to follow this local mandate and it remains a top requirement for transportation to operate safely. Customers will not be able to board or remain on transit if not properly wearing a face covering. Masks are being made available onboard all vehicles along with hand sanitizers.

Starting this week, VTA will increase frequency on seven bus routes to reduce the number of passenger pass-ups and still maintain the social distance requirement as the economy begins to open up. In addition, VTA will test rear-door boarding and pause the fare collection to further reduce customer-operator interactions.

VTA officials will closely monitor how this impacts the positive

rate of infection of VTA employees while also monitoring compliance with existing safety polices and rules by deploying compliance officers at VTA divisions and in the

Free ride to Levi Stadium

field.

VTA is reminding the public that customers can currently ride free on buses and light rail trains. VTA's light rail Orange and Green lines provide free front-door service to Levi's Stadium and the 55, 57 & 59 bus routes also serve the site. Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara is now open as a mass vaccination site.



Marissa Favet of Evergreen named to University of Iowa Dean's List

Marissa Favet of Evergreen Valley has been named to the University of Iowa Dean's List for the 2020 fall semester.

Favet is a student in the Iowa's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is majoring in Global Health Studies.

The University of Iowa is one of the nation's premier public research universities, dedicated to academic excellence, groundbreaking discoveries and creations, commitment to Iowa and the world, and a culture that prizes community, diversity, and opportunity.

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49ers team up with **Santa Clara County to**

launch mass COVID-19

he San Francisco 49ers and

Santa Clara County health

officials announced plans

Friday for a large mass COVID-19

vaccination site at Levi's Stadium.

this week the initial capacity to

vaccinate 5,000 people per day

with plans to increase capacity up

to more than 15,000 people as

The site will be staffed and oper-

"We recognize the urgent need

ated by Santa Clara County health

for an effective and equitable vac-

cination effort for our community

and are proud to partner with the

County of Santa Clara to bring this

vaccination site online as quickly

and efficiently as possible," said

49ers President Al Guido of the

Levi's site. "We have brought

every resource at our disposal to

bear on this challenge to ensure

members of the community we

live in each and every day can be

Anyone who is 65 and older can

receive the vaccination; it doesn't

matter where you go to get your

medical care, you can register and

get vaccinated. A Kaiser patient

can come to the county, a Stanford

patient can go to Kaiser, a county

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vaccinated safely and quickly."

vaccine supplies increase.

officials.

Officials said the site is opening

vaccination site at

Levi's Stadium

Valley Currents

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

COVID-19 vaccination clinic brings hope to East San Jose

By Lorraine Gabbert Article courtesy of San José Spotlight he recent arrival of the COVID-19 vac-

cine at Mexican Heritage Plaza signaled the dawn of a new day in East San Jose, an area hit harder than any other in Santa Clara County by the pandemic.

San Jose Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco said it's critical to have a vaccination site "smack in the middle" of a district with the county's most COVID-19 cases and related deaths.

"They're flocking to this center because it's a trusted center. It's an accessible center," Carrasco said. "This may be what saves the community.'

As people lined up for shots Tuesday, Jessica Paz-Cedillos, executive director of the School of Arts and Culture, which is based at the plaza, said she could see peoples' smiles through their masks and in their eyes. "They were crying because they were so emotional," she said.

The mood was in sharp contrast to the anxiety people typically have on Wednesdays when COVID-19 testing is done at the site. Paz-Cedillos said people tell her they're positive and can't show up for work unless they show a negative test.

Arturo and Teresa Alvarez joined one of five lines of residents eager to receive the vaccine.

Arturo Alvarez said he was a little nervous but didn't flinch when he received the shot. "It didn't hurt," he said smiling triumphantly. "It makes me feel saved."

His eyes welling up, Arturo Alvarez said he lost family members to the virus, and his brother and cousin are hospitalized. He said he misses seeing his children, including a 10month-old grandson he and his wife have never held in their arms.

"The vaccine means life and family," said



Hundreds of people line up to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at Mexican Heritage Plaza on Feb. 2. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

Teresa Alvarez, who had a kidney transplant two years ago. "It means being able to live and to be with loved ones."

Provided by Gardner Health Services in partnership with Santa Clara County Public Health Department and the School of Arts & Culture, the walk-up clinic offers shots Tuesdays and Thursdays to about 500 people each day. The first vaccinations were administered Ian. 21.

COVID-19 vaccines are available for people aged 65 and older, as well as health care workers. People must show proof of age or work before receiving a vaccine; distribution starts at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays until they run out.

After receiving their shots, residents wait for 15 to 30 minutes under nurses' observation to make sure they don't suffer reactions.

As people return for their second shots in the next two weeks, the site will ramp up to serving 1,000 people both days. About 1,400 people were vaccinated during the site's first three days of operation.

Although the city and county provide some financial assistance for testing and vaccina-



Arturo Alvarez receives his COVID-19 vaccine at Mexican Heritage Plaza on Thursday. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

tion costs, Gardner Family Health Network Chief Executive Officer Reymundo Espinoza said he took a leap and provided staffing before funding for the site was secured.

"Let's do it. We'll find the money later," he recalled saying.

The nonprofit, he said, received help from the county to provide testing, and nursing students from Gurnick Academy volunteered their time.

Still, it costs \$15,000 to \$21,000 a week for labor alone, including security guards, janitors and Gardner nurses to run the clinic, according to Paz-Cedillos. Equipment is additional, such as \$27,000 for a tent during last week's rainstorm.

Funding sources include county and city grants as well as donations from foundations. The county provides the vaccines and also gave the Si Se Puede Collective a grant for community outreach and testing at people's homes, Paz-Cedillos said. Organizers say they would like to add additional days but it depends on the availability of vaccinations and staff.

Carrasco, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and Assemblymember Ash Karla held a news conference to ask Gov. Gavin Newsom to give vaccine priority to communities impacted the most by the coronavirus pandemic.

Paz-Cedillos said in Santa Clara County that is the Latino immigrant community. According to Santa Clara County Public Health, the 95116 ZIP code, where Mexican Heritage Plaza is located, has 10,827 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents, which is about double the county average.

"The percent of folks who had COVID-19 and the percent who died from it are concentrated in five East San Jose ZIP codes," said Paz-Cedillos. "They make up 31% of the cases in the county."



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Embarrassing: San Jose councilmembers' Amazon stocks ownership not disclosed before a meeting

By William Bellou Publisher

People recuse themselves when there is a conflict of interest, especially law makers when voting on important issues.

The lack of recusing became embarrassing at last week's San Jose City Council meeting when two lawmakers' investments in Amazon were revealed just before a vote on a policy to pay grocery workers higher wages.

Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and Councilmember Pam Foley abruptly left the council meeting when they realized they own stock in Amazon, which owns Whole Foods, a grocer subject to the vote on some new rules.

The fact that the revelation about their conflicts of interest came up mid-meeting — after the lawmakers debated the issue and even made a motion, was "awkward," according to District 8 Councilmember Sylvia Arenas.

"The conflict should have been detected long before the pair began discussing the policy — not in the middle of a live City Council meeting. The process was so damaged that I think we should have called it quits at that time." Arenas said during the meeting.

\$3 an hour debate

As elected leaders Tuesday debated a \$3 pay boost for grocery store workers at risk of contracting COVID-19, the potential conflicts came up after Foley pondered whether she owned stock in any grocery companies and had to check with her husband on the phone who reported they did not personally hold Amazon stock, but they own a mortgage company and a "small percentage" of Amazon stock plays a role in the business' employee benefits plan.

Foley's revelation set up alarm bells for Jones, who disclosed during the meeting that he too owns one share of Amazon stock — which he would rather give up than lose the opportunity to vote.

"I'm conferring with the city attorney right now in terms of selling that stock to be able to vote at the next meeting," Jones said. "But I need to get some clarification on that."

Frimann explained that under state law, public officials may not use their official position to influence government decisions involving a financial interest. A lawmaker has a financial interest if the decision will have "material financial effect" on a business entity.

Evergreen residents earn faculty honors at Georgia Tech

momputer Science majors Rahul Bhethanabotla and

Pranav Raja of Evergreen Valley have earned honors at Georgia Tech for the Fall 2020 Semester.

The honor designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology is in the business of Creating the Next: the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds wellequipped to imagine and engineer our future.

Pictured at left: Top - **Rahul Bhethanabotla**; bottom - **Pranav Raja**.

Search

Continued from page 1 process continues.

3. How and when do parents and other stakeholders weigh-in?

The Board of Trustees will be soliciting input on the characteristics, experience, and skills desired in the next superintendent via online surveys and stakeholder conference sessions.

4. When will the District share the collected input with the public?

The information gathered will be

presented to the Board of Trustees and then compiled, summarized, and incorporated into the Superintendent Position Profile / Description, which will be posted on the District's website following Board review.

5. Who will make the final selection? By law, the Board of Trustees is solely responsible for hiring the new superintendent. The Board will seek, receive, and consider input from the community, review applications, interview candidates, and select the new superintendent.

6. How can the public follow this process?

Information regarding the superintendent search process, including updates, will be posted on this website. The Board of Trustees will also provide updates regarding the superintendent search at its regularly scheduled Board meetings and in press releases.

7. Can we find out who is applying? All application materials, including the names of applicants and any other personally identifiable information are confidential under law.





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Times Community News

Affordable housing champion Katherine Harasz is ready for the next chapter

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight The outlook on the availability of affordable housing in San Jose was grim even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Still, Katherine Harasz of the Santa Clara County Housing Authority found a way to get as many people as she could housed.

"Just seeing people enjoy a new park or seeing people have an apartment or just basic housing — it is an incredibly rewarding experience," Harasz said.

Harasz, who led the housing authority for nine years, retired late last month. The nonprofit is the largest provider of affordable housing assistance in the county. It serves 19,000 low- to middle-income households countywide.

Harasz helped to oversee a team that introduced an online portal for renters to track rents and available housing before the pandemic and a streamlined application processes for prospective tenants, making it easier for applicants to track their applications.

More user-centered measures like these, Harasz said, reduced red tape for applicants to get housing vouchers and made keeping track of housing applications easier for both prospective tenants and staff. "I often would say, 'If people who want a tax deduction had to do what people had to do to access a safety net program, no one would want a tax deduction," Harasz speculated with a laugh.

The county has also whittled down its decade-plus affordable housing waitlist by ramping up efforts to enroll applicants in the Section 8 program — something SCCHA has been working on since 2006. Part of that work included one of Harasz's proudest accomplishments: Saving 117 units at Palo Alto's Buena Vista Mobile Home Park. In 2017, the SCCHA engineered a \$40.4 million buyout of the park, more than four years after the park's owners announced it would sell the park to a luxury home developer. The move would have displaced nearly 400 residents who were mostly seniors, low income and people of color.

The agreement capped a long legal battle between the owners and the Buena Vista residents, which avoided Palo Alto's largest displacement since Japanese American residents were forced to leave during the internment of World War II, according to



Katherine Harasz, the former executive director of the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, retired on Jan. 20. *Photo courtesy the Santa Clara County Housing Authority/Orly Greenwood.*

news reports.

"I remember well the day we sat around the table in my office and we talked. After 45 minutes, I think we had pretty well concluded there was just no way in hell to make this work," said Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian. "And then we had a 'what-about-this' moment. Slowly but steadily by virtue of her determination and a great many others, we got to a place that allowed us to preserve intact an important neighborhood and an important community."

The housing authority has since worked to bring the units up to housing code, bringing in new property managers, after-school programs and more dumpsters.

Harasz's advocacy has been decades in

the making.

Before becoming executive director, Harasz worked for 22 years providing legal advice to local governments, with five of those years spent in Florida. She moved to Silicon Valley in 1999 and worked for the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, and then the county counsel's office, specializing in public works and real estate cases.

She went to the SCCHA in 2012. There, she learned about the Section 8 program, one of the federal government's oldest housing assistance voucher initiatives. "I'm somebody who likes to be challenged and stimulated at work, and I'm not someone who likes doing the same thing over and over again," Harasz said. "The housing *See HOUSING, next page*

Alumni

"Evergreen Valley College's nursing program made me a better person and I get to give back every day."

> OMAR BARRIGA Class of 2012 Progressive Care Unit Clilnical Nurse Army Veteran



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How effective is your mask? How to protect against contagious variant

ffective use and the type of masks used are increasingly recognized as a critical tool in slowing the pandemic, especially with reports of a very contagious new variant on the rise.

With the absence of no filtration standards or labeling requirements by manufacturers, how does the public choose?

Masks range from hospital-capable N95s (95% effective), to silky Bat Man and American flag, which may not be effective.

A growing body of research is teaching us more about masks. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions.

Q: What constitutes a good mask?

A: The N95 mask — 95% effective — is the gold standard, but it's in short supply.

The KF94 mask, the Korean version of an N95 mask, offers high-level protection. These masks are rigorously screened. But you need to do your homework to be sure that it's a mask that has been vetted and verified. Blue surgical masks are about 70% effective. A cloth mask may be 20% to 70% effective, depending on its construction and the fabric that is used.

Q: What about "double-masking"?

A: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not addressed layering masks. You might consider layering your face coverings if you are spending time indoors in crowded spaces or in areas where transmission rates are high. People who are medically vulnerable could also consider doubling up.

Q: What mask is best if I'm just out on a hike or sitting outside?

A: Choose your mask based on the level of

Housing

Continued from previous page

authority really built on the skill sets I developed in a different mission that is a very righteous mission."

SCCHA is in charge of administering the county's Section 8 program. The program has more than 17,000 household participants in the region, with more than 80% of households being extremely low-income families, seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities and the formerly unhoused. SC-CHA is also in charge of other locally-run programs that include housing opportunities for those groups and first-time homeowners.

Harasz has now moved to Santa Cruz County, where she plans to spend her retirement "wearing out my sandals on the beach" with her family and their dog. SC-CHA appointed Preston Prince as Harasz's successor on Feb. 4. Prince will start his new appointment in May.

Despite moving away from the community she advocated for, Harasz vowed to keep pushing for affordable housing however she can.

"I have some stuff I want to tend to on the home front here (in Santa Cruz County) and I hope to be here volunteering and doing my thing soon enough," Harasz said.

Contact Lloyd Alaban at lloyd.b.alaban @gmail.com or follow @lloydalaban on Twitter. risk for that activity. If you're out for a jog with no one around or on a walk outside with a friend, a simple two- or three-layer cloth mask is fine.If you're conversing, the power of masking doubles if both people are wearing them. Research is showing that two masks are 70% efficient combine to reduce more than 90% of particles. Two N95s result in greater than a 99% reduction in exposure.

Q: How do I test a mask's fit? A: The mask needs to go over the bridge of your nose, down around your chin and flush against your cheeks. Every time you put on a mask, do a user seal check. Put your hands over the mask to block the air moving through it, and exhale gently. You shouldn't feel air coming out the side or up toward your eyes. Then, test to make sure it stays in place by moving your head side to side and all around. Try reading out loud and see if it slides around when you talk.

Q: How often should I wash my mask? A: If you have a cloth mask, you should

wash it daily! Hang it up after you're done using it, because the virus decays or inactivates over time. Depending on the room's temperature and humidity where it's stored — at least a day.

Q: If I'm vaccinated, do I still need to wear a mask?

A: Yes. Although the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are nearly 95% effective in fending off symptomatic COVID-19, asymptomatic infection could not be ruled out in either trial among vaccine recipients.



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IN MEMORY Zelda King Nov 3, 1915 - Jan 26, 2021

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Zelda was very proud of her teaching career from the time she graduated college until she decided to start

a family and she never met a school funding opportunity that she didn't like.



She spent much of her teaching career working with migrant farm workers; challenging because their migrant lifestyle meant that they seldom completed a grade in one school year. She always had great compassion for those whose life circumstances are not so easy.

> In 1947, she married Larry King who she met as a customer of his auto service station. They had two children, Wayne and Jan, and they were together for 57 years until Larry's death in 2004. She lived through two global

pandemics and 19 presidents, including the first black president and the first female vice president. She saw Lindberg cross The Atlantic, humans walk on the moon and computers, cell phones and the internet become part of normal life. She is survived by her son and daughterin-law, three grandchildren, Heather, Heidi and Katie and 8 great grandchildren.

Posting about your vaccine? Do it safely

Got your COVID-19 vaccine? Great job; but don't share a photo of your vaccination card on social media. The selfidentifying information on it makes you vulnerable to identity theft and can help scammers create phony versions.

What to watch out for:

You got your COVID-19 inoculation, and you are excited to share the good news and

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3519 San Felipe Rd. San Jose, CA 95135 www.sosautorepair.com encourage others to do the same. You take a selfie holding your vaccination card and post it to Facebook, Instagram, or another social media platform.

Unfortunately, your card has your full name and birthday on it, as well as information about where you got your vaccine. If your social media privacy settings aren't set high, you may be giving valuable information away for anyone to use.

Sharing your personal information isn't the only issue. Scammers in Great Britain were caught selling fake vaccination cards on eBay and TikTok. It's only a matter of time before similar cons come to the United States and Canada. Posting photos of your card can help provide scammers with information they can use to create and sell phony ones.

Share safely on social media:

• Share your vaccine sticker or use a profile frame instead. If you want to post about your vaccine, there are safer ways to do it. You can share a photo of your vaccine sticker or set a frame around your profile picture.

• Review your security settings. Check your security settings on all social media platforms to see what you are sharing and with whom. If you only want friends and family to see your posts, be sure that's how your privacy settings are configured.

• Be wary of answering popular social media prompts. Sharing your vaccine photo is just the latest social trend. Think twice before participating in other viral personal posts, such as listing all the cars you've owned (including makes/model years), favorite songs, and top 10 TV shows. Some of these "favorite things" are commonly used passwords or security questions.

For more information about privacy concerns on social media, see BBB's Scam Alert on Facebook quizzes and like farming. Find more information about scams and how to avoid them at BBB.org/AvoidScams.

San Jose casino measure faces lawsuit

73% of voters supported the ballot initiative raising card room taxes

A ballot measure passed by voters Nov. 3, which was designed to raise taxes on the city's two card rooms and increase the number of table games at each establishment, may be invalid, according to a new lawsuit.

Casino M8trix - one of San Jose's two card rooms - filed a lawsuit against the city of San Jose recently which seeks to have a court invalidate the measure in its entirety and rule that it is unenforceable.

The California Bureau of Gambling Control has allegedly concluded the city's plan to expand the number of card tables across the city violated state law, the lawsuit states.

Casino M8trix wants the increase in the cardroom tax be voided if the commission sides with the bureau and deems the card room's additional tables illegal.

M8trix believes it is only fair that the increased tax that was only one part of Meas-

ure H be deferred until the additional gaming tables, which give us the ability to pay that new tax, are approved," said **Robert Lindo** (inset), vice president and director of Casino M8atrix.



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Valentines Day report for the City of San Jose

ith Valentine's Day just around the corner and America's sweethearts planning to spend \$21.8 billion on the holiday even with COVID-19 limiting celebrations, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released information including facts about the city of San Jose. **Celebrating the Day of Hearts**

in San Jose (1=Best, 50=Avg.): • 8th - Cost of Three-Course Meal

for Two* • 27th - Chocolate Shops per

Capita • 9th – Average COVID-19 Cases

in the Past Week per Capita • 41st – Jewelry Stores per Capita

• 17th – Florists per Capita

• 6th – Avg. Beverage Price*

• 39th – Greeting-Card Stores & Gift Shops per Capita

• 5th - Weather Forecast for Valentine's Day

*Cost data adjusted for the median household income of the city. Valentine's Day Spending Sur-

vey - Key U.S.A. Stats

• Some People Want Love More Than Health. 50% of people would rather get shot by Cupid's arrow than the COVID-19 vaccine.

• More Men Say V-Day Debt is

Worth it: Men are nearly two times more likely than women to think a Valentine's Day gift is worth going into credit card debt.

• Bad Credit Might Keep You Single. 47% of people wouldn't marry someone with bad credit.

• Reckless Spending Ends Relationships: 47% of people would break up with their significant other if he or she spent irresponsibly.

• Financial Irresponsibility Isn't Attractive: 44% of people say irresponsible spending is a bigger turnoff than bad breath.

 Love is Blooming for Some People. 48% of people say they got richer in love since last Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day Facts

• \$21.8 Billion: Total Valentine's Day spending projected for 2021 (\$164.76 per person celebrating).

• \$231 vs. \$101: Men will spend more than twice as much as women, on average, for Valentine's Day 2021.

• \$8.1 Billion: Amount Americans will spend on jewelry (\$4.1B), flow-

ers (\$2B) and candy (\$2B). • 1 in 6: Marriages begin online.

• 33%: Overall online dating activity increase across the US between February 1 and February 14. Valentine's Day Messages from the readers of the Evergreen Times Karen, Happy Valentine's Day Mom! Love you tons. Hope you have a great day! Jesenia and Lluvia

Message: I love you, silly goose! My parents love you too, so you aren't allowed to leave, okay? • Mindy

Sharon.

Zheng

The best mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and wife anyone could ask for! Many blessings. Frank

Naomi Happy Valentine's Day Mom! Evelyn 🕈

Joe Wishing you great V-Day! Many more years! Can't wait for movie night! .Johana

Preeti It feels great to be the husband of the most beautiful woman in the world! Happy Valentine's Dav! - Larry

Don I feel lucky every day because you're in my life. Wishing you a happy valentine! - Liz

Bunny. Happy Valentine's Day to my beautiful wife! I love you forever! - Bill

Paul. I love you, but please stay 6 ft. away...LOL! Happy Valentine's Day! - Linda

Lori, A wife like you is a blessing! I am thankful to God for having vou! - Martin

You are the only one I will ever love, my sweet Valentine! Happy Valentine's Day, beautiful! I feel so heavy inside because my heart is full of love! - Rajdeep

Kristie, You bring a smile to my face and peace to my heart. Happy Valentine's Day! - Rich

Bobby, Despite the Pandemic, I'm still not sick of you yet! - Nancy

Editor's note: A special thanks to Nothing Bundt Cakes for their assistance in working with the community to facilitate the gathering of messages.

Celebrating big with Berry Punch

olidays, gatherings and celebrations can be the best time to try new, easy, stress-free recipes. Drink and punch recipes are especially easy to throw together (even last-minute) right before the festivities begin. This way, the drinks are chilled, and the food is hot and ready.

No matter if it's a big crowd or a night alone with a special someone, this Cranberry Raspberry Vanilla Punch is sure to be the star of the celebration with its powerful berry flavor.

The end result is tangy, tart, sweet and absolutely delicious all mixed up in one large bowl. With only five ingredients, it's simple to make and even better to enjoy.

Pairing perfectly with sweets or chocolates, this punch packs the flavor for nearly any event, gathering or small family dinner.

Start with 8 cups of cranberry-raspberry juice then add cranberry ginger ale to the mix. Next, add just a dash of vanilla for a bit of extra flavor. Stir and scoop raspberry sorbet on top for a hint of smooth sweetness.

The frozen sweetness of the sorbet combined with the bubbly ginger ale and the natural flavors of the berries give you a taste that is truly unique and special.

Add some frozen cranberries on top for garnish and another pop of that deep, red color.

Set your punch bowl on the table next to a gorgeous bouquet of flowers and it's guar-



anteed the punch bowl will not be full for long.

Throughout the night, while conversations are happening, sip a few drops of your beverage. You're reminded instantly why you're celebrating. You gather, no matter the celebration, for good times with lots of laughs and even better food and drink.

Find more recipes perfect for celebrating any occasion at Culinary.net.

Cranberry Raspberry Vanilla Punch Servings: 6-12

cups cranberry-raspberry juice 8 8 1/2 cups cranberry ginger ale

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

pint raspberry sorbet 1 frozen cranberries, for garnish

In large punch bowl, add juice, ginger ale

and vanilla extract. Stir until combined. Add frozen cranberries and scoops of frozen sorbet.

Stir slightly then serve immediately.

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Evergreen School District

From strong roots grow bright futures

Evergreen Senior Citizen Property Owners Are Eligible for Measure EE Parcel Tax Exemption

Evergreen property owners age 65 by June 30, 2022 or older are eligible to file for exemption from the annual \$125 Evergreen School District parcel tax for parcels they occupy as their principal residence.

For joint owners of a principal residence, only one owner needs to be age 65.

More information regarding the parcel tax exemption, including a form to request exemption, can be found on our District website at www.eesd.org/page.cfm?p=2896.

To complete the exemption, the form and supporting documents may be brought into the District Office located at 3188 Quimby Road, San Jose. Call Santha Pinedo or Patty Maciel at (408) 270-6863 to make an appointment.

Residents must file for the exemption in person with documents to prove their home ownership, residency, and age eligibility.

Those who have previously been granted an exemption from the Measure EE Parcel Tax, their exemption will continue to be automatically renewed each year as long as you remain eligible for the exemption.

Resident unable to submit the application in person or for additional information, contact Santha Pinedo or Patty Maciel at (408) 270-6863.

Op Ed Pandemic aggravates homeless situation in Evergreen Valley

By Kevin Larsen

Contributing writer he pandemic seems to aggravate the homeless situation in Evergreen Valley.

Recently I spotted a homeless person lying down in front of CVS pharmacy in the Lucky shopping center (corner of Aborn and White Road).

I approached the man and offered him some money to help him out. I was told, "You need it more than me."

I was surprised to see him sleeping on cardboard with a thin blanket for several days. I also noticed people began to set food and beverages around the sleeping area. I wondered how he could endure the cold cement, especially in the early mornings.

With the rains last week, I was glad not to see him on the cold ground. I wondered where he had moved. But wait, I looked around and saw he had only moved 30 feet away to a ledge and I began to wonder why a person would sleep in full sight of all.

What lesson do we all teach children when a person decides to sleep on the cement in front of a store? What do the children think of it all?



Should the city of San Jose have some kind of immediate assistance to those who wish to set up bedrooms in such places?

Also, it is seen now that on Capitol Expressway tents are being set. In one residential area near Seven Trees Library off of Capital Expressway near Monterey Highway, several tents are set up on residential property; along the Expressway 20 more tents.

In giving out sleeping bags donated by non-profits, they remind you that there are also females that are also out in the cold at night. Some recently mentioned on social media of a wandering lady who cusses others walking near the Evergreen Village Square Library area and another lady sleeping outside the Villages Shopping Center just outside the gates at the Villages Golf and Country Club.

Let's hope the non-profits pay attention to the plight of the homeless in Evergreen-East San Jose. If a person decides to refuse to find a warm shelter, they can at least be presented a warm sleeping bag.

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World-renowned mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** appears as famed actress "Madeline Mitchell" in Opera San José's fully staged production of Jake Heggie's chamber opera "Three Decembers." Available via online streaming anytime, on a pay-what-you-can basis. Tickets and info at www.operasj.org. Photo Credit: Mark Leialoha

Opera San José extends access to virtual performance of 'Three Decembers'

Available via online streaming anytime

I n keeping with Opera San José's mission to expand accessibility to its work, the company has announced that through the support of generous donors it is able to extend access to its hit virtual production of Jake Heggie's chamber opera, Three Decembers.

The production featuring worldrenowned mezzo soprano Susan Graham, is now available on a pay-what-you-can basis for streaming on demand. The chamber opera is being offered with subtitles in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, furthering its accessibility to the Spanish and Vietnamese speaking members of the San Jose community.

Featuring Graham in the central role, alongside celebrated Opera San José Resident Artists soprano Maya Kherani and baritone Efraín Solís, this world-class digital production has been met with widespread critical acclaim.

Based on an unpublished play by Tony Award winning playwright Terrance Mc-Nally, Three Decembers follows the riveting story of a famous stage actress and her two adult children, struggling to connect over three decades, as long-held secrets come to light. With a brilliant, witty libretto by Gene Scheer and a soaring musical score by Jake Heggie, Three Decembers offers a 90-minute fullhearted American opera about family - the ones we are born into and those we create. Tickets for the modern work, which was recorded last Fall in the company's Heiman Digital Media Studio, are pay-what-you-can beginning at \$15 per household, which includes on-demand streaming for 30 days after date of "The arts have never been more essential, and this final extension will allow for opera and music lovers everywhere to view this criticallyacclaimed production." - Opera San José General

Director Khori Dastoor

purchase. Three Decembers is available via online streaming anytime. For more information or to purchase tickets, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm).

Said Opera San José General Director Khori Dastoor, "We are greatful for the generosity of our long-time donors who have made it possible for us to extend Three Decembers at an accessible 'paywhat-you-can' price. Opera San José is committed to broadening access to its programming, bringing world-class musical experiences for everyone in our community to enjoy. The arts have never been more essential, and this final extension will allow for opera and music lovers everywhere to view this critically-acclaimed production."

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

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Take the #PixInParks Challenge

Challenge ends Dec. 15, 2021; earn a t-shirt or bandana

Start the year off on the right foot by getting out of your daily routine.

Seven magnificent hiking adventures have been handpicked by County Parks staff to get you and your family outside and experiencing new terrain and spectacular vistas right here in Santa Clara County and expore the wonderful 28-regional park system.

You can tackle this year's #PixIn-Parks Challenge by hiking all seven trails in the parks listed below and take a photo at each designated spot:

Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Joseph D. Grant Rancho San Antonio Mount Madonna Lexington Reservoir Hellyer Calero

To entice you to hike the Magnificent 7, a commemorative t-shirt or bandana (while supply lasts) awaits to those who complete the #PixInParks challenge!

Follow these steps to complete the challenge

Step 1: Download a geoloca-tion map app, such as Avenza, or your choice of a similar app before you head to the park.

Step 2: Take a selfie or group photo at the destination point. Step 3: Share your photo on **social media** with the hashtag #PixInParks and the hashtag at the particular location where the photo was taken. (See photos at right where you can take your photo and what hashtags to use).

Step 4: After completing the #PixInParks Challenge, visit https:// rb.gy/vkmrnf to claim your t-shirt or bandana (while supplies last). If you don't use social media, email your photos to parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org after you have completed the challenge.

Plan ahead for your adventure! Some parks may be close and some may be far. Make it a day trip and explore other trails and activities as well. Some trails may be easy and some may be hard. Do the best you can or challenge yourself and explore another part of the park. Some trail lengths may be short and some may be long.

Finish the hike too soon, time for wildlife observations and discussions

When visiting other parts of the park, why not enjoy a picnic and bring a pair of binoculars for awesome wildlife observations. The parks are there for you to connect with nature.

Got a Dog? Some trails may not allow dogs (only Rancho San Antonio this year). Don't let this discourage you! Check out one on the list of Dog Parks at https:// rb.gy/lue9kq, and tag yourself at that park. You can also check another trail in that park that does allow dogs and that is also accepted.



#CoyoteLakeHarveyBear

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department works continuously to develop accessible and inclusive facilities, programs and services in compliance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). The Department will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities.

The Department will make reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy the programs, services and activities. If you need assistance with an ADA request, please contact the ADA Coordinator at ADACoordinator@



#JosephDGrant



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prk.sccgov.org.

The deadline to complete the PixInParks Challenge and claim your T-shirt or Bandana (while supplies last) is December 15, 2021. Follow #PixInParks on In-



#RanchoSanAntonio



#LexingtonReservoir



#Calero

stagram to view the awesome gallery.

Editor's Note: To find more information on Pics in the Park, visit: https://rb.gy/jh8utq.





Times Feature

GEMS IN STEM **Tessellations and** 'Harry's Tiles'

By Apoorva Panidapu Special to the Times

i everyone! As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn Labout 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.

However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end. Before we get

started. I need some

help. I keep hearing about Harry's Tiles everywhere I go, and I can't for the life of me figure out what people are talking about?! Let me give you some examples:

"Wow, did you see that Vogue featured Harry's Tiles?" I thought Vogue was about fashion, not interior design? "I'm such a big fan of that Harry's Tiles music!" So like, clinks? I don't get the appeal. "I think I'm in love with Harry's Tiles..." Wow, they must be really beautiful!

Naturally, I wanted to figure out what all the hype was about. I re-read all seven of the Harry Potter books, and didn't see anything about tiles. Then, I googled it-as one does when one is at a loss- but all I found was a blatantly fake tiling company. So, I decided to just look into tiles, and maybe I'd find some famous Harry associated with it. And, what do you know, tiles are actually really interesting!

So today we're going to talk about a sort of generalization of tiling: tessellations! Maybe along the way we'll solve the puzzle of who exactly Harry is and why his tiles are so famous.

An Introduction to Tessellations

What are tessellations? You can think of it like perfect patterns. More specifically, tessellations are created when shapes are copied over and over again, and aligned to cover a plane without any gaps or overlaps. Tiling is another word for it! Chances are you can walk over to a bathroom and just stare at the floor to see an example of a tessellation. But, because I'm nice and don't want people to look at you weirdly, here are some other examples (below):

You may have noticed that the third example (far right) is a little different from the other two-we'll talk about that later!

The word "tessellation" comes from the Latin word "tessellātus," meaning small square stones or cubes, also made from clay or glass. These were used to create tessellata, i.e. beautiful Roman mosaic floors/ tilings.



This Latin word comes from the "tessera," meaning four, as in how squares have four sides. The word's etymology suggests that the very first tilings were made from square shapes, which

makes sense as

squares are the

easiest shape to

tile with!

started!)

The first examples of such tessellations

can be traced back to Sumeria in around

4000 BCE, when they used clay tiles to

adorn their homes and temples. Since then,

tessellations have been found in several

civilizations, including the Egyptians,

Arabs, Romans, Greeks, Byzantines, Japan-

ese, Chinese, and Moors. (No mention of

Harry here, but it's okay, we've just gotten

Before we talk about the impact of tessel-

I think we can all agree that tessellations

are pretty satisfying to look at-everything

fits together so perfectly! You can see that

there are repeating motifs/patterns through-

out tessellations, and this plays into the

symmetry of most tessellations. Wait, what

is symmetry? Well, one example is reflec-

tional symmetry: if you hold an object in the

mirror and it looks exactly the same, it has

symmetry! Here's a quick puzzle that may

help: What do the letters A, W, T, Y, U, I, O, H, X,

V, M have in common with each other that the

Given what we were just talking about, it

is indeed symmetry! Each of the given let-

ters is symmetrical about the vertical line

that splits it in half, whereas a letter like P is not.

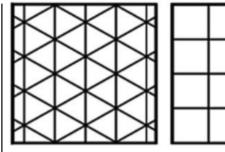
other English alphabet letters do not have?

lations on art and architecture, let's look at

the mathematics of tessellations!

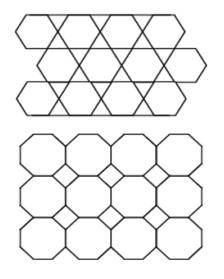
Types of Tessellations

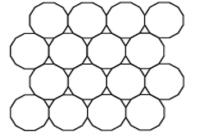
Gems in STEM By Apoorva nidapu

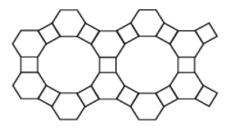


There are three main types of symmetry in a plane: translation, rotation, and glide reflection. If you don't know what these mean. don't worry! They aren't the focus of this article. Instead, let's talk about the general classifications of tessellations.

The first type is regular tessellations. No, they aren't the boring ones, but rather in mathematics, the word "regular" describes any shape that is equilateral, meaning all its sides have equal length, and that is equiangular, i.e. all its interior angles are equal. There are exactly three regular shapes that make up regular tessellations (ones that you are likely familiar with): equilateral triangles, squares, and regular hexagons. You can see these three regular tessellations in the picture above!





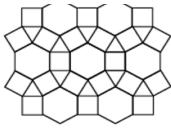


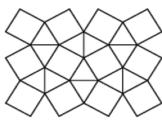
The next type is semiregular tessellations, also known as Archimedean tessellations (after the famous Greek mathematician Archimedes). In regular tessellations. there's only one type of shape being used. But for these tessellations, there is more than one kind of regular shape! However, there is the restriction/rule that the same shapes in the same order must surround each vertex (or corner) of the shapes.

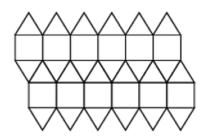
There are exactly 8 semiregular tessellations, shown below!

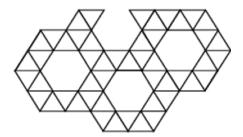
See PART TWO of Tessellations next issue.

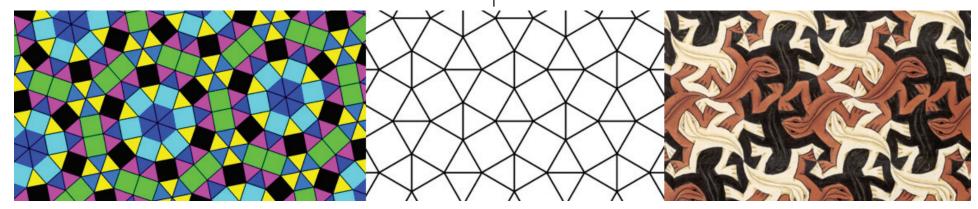
Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.











Greek word

SOS AUTO REPAIR

Remanufactured? Rebuilt? Used? What's the difference?

e get this question a lot. Although there are different parts that can be remanufactured, rebuilt, or used, this question usually comes up when an engine, transmission, or differential has finally given it's all. Below is a brief description of each option.

Rebuilt:

To rebuild is to recondition a part by cleaning, inspecting, and replacing only worn or broken parts. Serviceable parts are reused if they fit within the manufacturer's acceptable wear limits. The quality of rebuilt components varies from one rebuilder to another and many only come with a limited warranty.

Before rebuilding, all of the components within the unit are equally worn. After rebuilding, some of the components could be new, some could be from a different used unit, and some of the components could be original. The thing to remember is that the "used" components may still function properly and do not need replacing, but they are still worn to some degree.

There are other factors that can cause wear and not be visible to the human eye, such as heat stress and cracks. Consequently, this could cause other problems with the part, resulting in premature failure. There have been many instances where shops have installed many rebuilt engines on the same vehicle before getting one that actually worked correctly. This is even more common on rebuilt electrical parts.

Remanufactured:

To remanufacture means to make the part as close to new as possible. A remanufactured part is one that has been completely manufactured to the standard of a new part. If the part has wearable components, those are automatically replaced. All core material is closely inspected and checked against original equipment specifications for correct dimensional tolerances. Most replacement parts are new or inspected used parts. If new, the parts should be made in the same production processes as original equipment and testing should be performed to manufacturer specifications and original production standards. If used, the part should be cleaned and inspected for any wear, stress cracks, or and other defects before it is used.

For example, on a remanufactured engine the mechanical tolerances should be restored either by re-machining or by installing the necessary inserts to restore the unit to its original mechanical tolerances. Either way, the engine should meet the standard for OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) tolerances, durability, and quality.

New pistons, connecting rods, rings, bearings, camshafts, lifters, and oil pump should be installed. All related bearing surfaces are restored and the upper half of the enginesuch as the cylinder heads-should be rebuilt. Usually, the only component from the old engine that is used is the block. This part should only be reused if it is in rebuildable condition.

These same rules should apply to other remanufactured auto parts, whatever they may be. You will find that remanufactured auto parts usually carry a longer warranty than rebuilt parts. Used:

Used components are pulled directly from a vehicle, normally from a salvage yard unit. In some cases, the part has not been tested and the surface may not have been cleaned unless you count being rained on as a cleaning cycle (lol).

There is generally no quality control for salvage yard parts. There are no provisions for disassembly, internal cleaning, or inspection with a used part. You don't know what you are getting. Used or junkyard parts may have high mileage and the vehicle they came off of may or may not have a poor maintenance history. Some used or salvage yard parts come from a vehicle that was in-

ADT

volved in an accident and may have unseen damage.

There are some things you can do to try to ensure you are getting the best quality used part available. When selecting a salvage yard from which to purchase a used auto part, look the place over. Is the yard clean and well organized? What kind of cars does the salvage yard have in its inventory? Are the vehicles in the salvage yard totaled vehicles?

Some salvage yards run the vehicles if possible when they come into the yard and then remove parts that they do not want exposed to the elements and inventory them in an organized dry storage building on the premises, with everything neatly stacked and categorized.

There are many respected salvage yards that take pride in their businesses and in serving their customers. This kind of salvage yard is especially careful when buying certain used auto parts, specifically engines, transmissions, differentials, and, in particular, electrical parts.

Another thing to remember when selecting a salvage yard part is to ask about a warranty and return policy. Typically, a core that has external damage is not rebuildable and you could be required to pay the core charge.

Hopefully, this helped you understand the differences, and the next time (hopefully not too soon) you run into this issue you can make a wise decision.

Be safe and drive safe.

If you're concerned about your vehicle for whatever reason please stop by. We'll be happy to assist you.

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Recent rain brings some relief to Evergreen Valley

Jacqueline Bogard has issued a report from data obtained from her rain gauge located in the Silver Creek Valley Country Club.

The most recent rainfall on Tuesday, Feb. 2, measured 0.23". Combined with the rain event Tuesday, Jan. 26 through Friday, Jan. 29, which dumped 4.11" the year-to-date total is now 6.97".

"Last year we had a similar amount for rain by this time of the year," Bogard said. "However it was quite dry, so let's hope we keep going with more rainfall this year." Bogard reflected on the Sierra snow fall, "They got quite a bit of snow as well last week. Snowpack really helps fill our reservoirs later in the year as the snow melts which is encouraging."

California's annual rainy season now is starting nearly a month later than it did 60 years ago, a new study published recently revealed, an ominous trend that is making the wildfire season longer. Historically, November has been a wet month that usually ended the wildfire risk across the state.

Editor's note: Rain totals always begin each year on October 1.

New study suggests people who recovered from COVID-19 should receive only 1 dose of vaccine

A new study suggests that people who have already had COVID-19 should get only one shot of the Pfizer mRNA vaccine to avoid possible unnecessary adverse reactions and free up supplies for those who need it more.

The study evaluated vaccine reactions after receiving the first dose in 231 individuals— 83 with a past infection of the virus and 148 who had never had an infection. Researchers found that both groups equally reported experiencing pain, swelling, and redness at the injection site at the time of vaccination, which improved in a couple of days. However, people with a prior infection experienced more severe systemic reactions fever, headache, chills, muscle or joint pain, and fatigue—than those who had never been infected.

The CDC says people should be vaccinated whether or not they've had COVID-19, the disease caused by the CCP virus.

More studies are needed to further investigate the study's findings due to the small number of participants.



San Jose survey reignites contentious debate on planned closure of Reid-Hillview Airport

By Sonya Herrera Article courtesy of San José Spotlight new San Jose survey has revealed stark division among residents about the closure of Reid-Hillview Airport — just ahead of a forthcoming study on lead levels of residents who live beneath the flight path of airplanes.

"Everyone tries to make data-driven decisions when possible," said Juan Estrada, founder of the community organization District 5 United. "This is providing data that they can choose to make those decisions."

The survey, which was sponsored by District 5 United and has attracted 1,300 responses as of Wednesday, asked residents across the city about the closure of Reid-Hillview Airport, the COVID-19 vaccine and Opportunity Housing, an initiative that would increase the number of homes that could be built across San Jose.

The airport was the topic of passionate discussion at a community meeting Wednesday to present the initial survey results. Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, San Jose Planning Commission Vice

WINNER

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Santa Clara County lawmakers are pushing to close the Reid-Hillview Airport, saying the land in East San Jose could be used for affordable housing and other critical needs. Courtesy of Santa Clara County.

Chair Rolando Bonilla and San Jose Police Department Captain Todd Trayer each presented separate topics and answered questions during the meeting.

Scott Strickland, Chavez's chief of staff, revealed the county has commissioned a study by a "world-famous" epidemiologist to measure the blood lead levels of residents living near the airport to establish whether or not there's a causal connection. Strickland said the results will be published sometime in April.

Santa Clara County lawmakers are pushing to close the airport, saying the land in East San Jose could be used for affordable housing and other critical needs. Opponents of the closure say the airport is used for emergency operations and its removal would put a strain on San Jose's downtown airport.

"There really is no acceptable level of lead," Chavez said during the meeting.

Residents were asked whether or not Santa Clara County should close Reid-Hillview Airport, a question that garnered one of the highest number of responses. Out of 1,290 responses, 866 opposed the closure, 180 favored the closure and 244 said more information was needed.

But it's unclear how many responses came from which San Jose ZIP codes, and Estrada noted that responses from ZIP codes closest to Reid-Hillview Airport — 95116 and 95122 — had a much narrower majority. Responses from these ZIP codes showed 39.1% participants oppose the closure, 34.8% support the closure and 26.1% need more information.

Some residents said city and county leaders must prioritize residents' health, safety and quality of life over the interests of businesses operating at the airport. Andres Quintero, vice president of the Alum Rock Union School District school board, said he is worried the survey overrepresented people from outside East San Jose, and that airport interests could have organized to overwhelm survey results.

Quintero said the Alum Rock Union School District board passed a formal resolution calling for the closure of the airport, and that people need more information about the health risks posed by lead-polluting aircraft to fully understand the stakes. "There's a lot of folks in the other side of the valley," Quintero said. "It's none of their concern."

Danny Garza, a District 5 resident, said the survey results likely don't reflect the East San Jose community, particularly since many residents in the area have trouble connecting to the internet.

Questions about COVID-19 outreach were also asked at meeting

Residents who attended the meeting also had questions about COVID-19 outreach, especially on the vaccine. Out of 1,290 responses, 1,019 said they have taken or would take the coronavirus vaccine, 123 said they would not and 148 said they were not sure.

In addition, 361 out of 1,279 respondents See AIRPORT, page 21

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Hammer Theatre Center to present singer Kat Edmonson streaming live Feb. 12

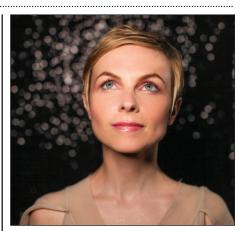
Dreamers Do album combines mid-20th century enchanting Disney songs

ammer Theatre Center presents critically acclaimed vintage popjazz singer/songwriter Kat Edmonson streaming live from Brooklyn, New York, as part of the virtual extension of its popular "Black Cab Jazz" series at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12.

Kat Edmonson brings the songs and sensibility of the Great American Songbook into the 21st century with her lighterthan-air voice and sly touch.

Hailed as "one of the greatest I've ever heard" by The Boston Globe, Edmonson has played major stages around the world, appeared in major motion pictures, performed on radio and television, and released five groundbreaking albums to date. This genre-defying artist memorably appeared in Woody Allen's 2016 period film Café Society as a 1930s jazz singer and is highlighted on the official soundtrack performing her rendition of "Mountain Greenery."

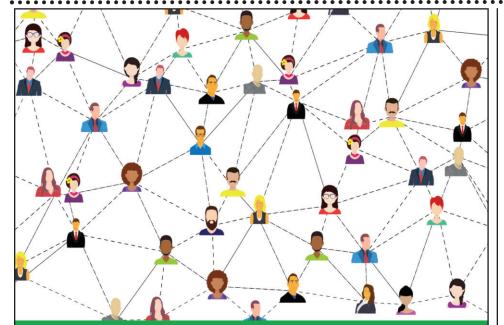
When the pandemic struck, Edmonson was on a 40-city tour promoting her fifth and latest album, Dreamers Do. She pivoted quickly, transforming her living room into a charming, homemade set where she



Kat Edmonson will stream live direct from Brooklyn, New York, as part of a virtual extension of Hammer Theatre Center's acclaimed "Black Cab Jazz" series on February 12, 2021. Photo credit: Glynis S.A. Carpenter.

could stream intimate performances live from home. Dreamers Do combines mid-20th century Disney songs (from Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella, Peter Pan, Mary *Poppins,* and more) with familiar classics ("What A Wonderful World"), and features two new, original songs ("Too Late to Dream" and "Someone's In The House.") The LP, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Jazz Chart, takes place in a single night, from bedtime till morning. 'It's about our concepts around dreaming—all of the wonderful things, the fearful things, and the things that keep us awake in the middle of the night," Edmonson explains.

For tickets (pay-what-you-can), the public may visit www.hammertheatre. com. The view from home – ticket holders are sent a link for viewing the performance (7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb 12.



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MKT-P0108

Tech Jargon of the week Big Data

By Shubhi Asthana Special to the Times ave 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 me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Big Data

Some concepts of technologies have an impact on everyone, whether we want them or not. Big Data is one such concept which is completely transforming the way we do business and is impacting most other parts of our lives.

So, what is Big Data?

Imagine a huge, giant box filled with tons of Lego bricks, blocks and your other favorite toys. Sounds exciting, right? You could build all sorts of structures like castles, forts, fire engines and play around all day. But with a box so big, and thousands of bricks all mixed up, it would be very difficult to find the right pieces.

Big Data is a lot like that giant toy box: A big jumble of numbers and words, which need to be sorted to make some sense out of it. There can be a lot of useful information in the toy box but analyzing it can be difficult.

In the world of technology, these bricks can be documents, photos, tweets, emails, audio, and GPS data - basically any kind of digital data that you are generating. The new technological advances in chip and sensor technology, the Internet, cloud computing and our ability to store and analyze data, help in the growth of Big Data.

As with any leap forward in innovation, the data too can be used for good or nefarious purposes. People are concerned about their privacy, as more and more details of our lives are being recorded and analyzed by businesses. These concerns are growing, and only sophisticated technologies, rules and regulations can help keep this data in check. On the other hand, the benefits of big data are remarkable. Using big data, retailers can predict what products will sell, telecom companies can predict if and when a customer might switch carriers. And car insurance companies understand how well their customers actually drive.

It's also used to optimize business processes. Retailers are able to optimize their stock levels based on what's trending on social media, what people are searching for on the web, or even weather forecasts. Supply chains can be optimized so that delivery drivers use less gas and reach customers faster.

Big data goes way beyond shopping and consumerism. Big data analytics enable us to find new cures and better understand and predict the spread of diseases. A number of cities are even using big data analytics with the aim of turning themselves into Smart Cities, where a bus would know to wait for a delayed train and where traffic signals can predict traffic volumes and operate to minimize jams.

Data is growing at an unprecedented rate today. If Big data is capable of all this today, imagine what it will be capable of tomorrow. Hence it will be critical for everyone to keep in check the digital data they are releasing.

About the Author:

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

Airport

Continued from page 19

said they'd like more information about how to obtain a COVID-19 test - a figure that Estrada says shows more outreach needs to be done to inform residents of available resources.

Resident Guadalupe Gonzalez asked whether the county would help seniors remain in their cars while getting vaccinated. Chavez said the county is working to offer drive-up vaccinations, in addition to walkup vaccinations.

Chavez said the county has about 120 workers canvassing the hardest-hit neighborhoods in San Jose and Gilroy to offer COVID-19 testing and information about vaccines. The workers are also equipped with tablets to help sign people up for testing appointments. The 95122 ZIP code in East San Jose has the highest rate of cases in the county.

The survey will remain open until Feb. 9. Participants were asked to list their names and ZIP codes. Estrada said duplicate responses were deleted, and that organizers made an effort to verify the residency of participants. The initial survey results and videos of Wednesday's meeting will be posted on the District 5 United Facebook page.

Estrada, who helped organize the survey, said including such a broad variety of topics enables city and county leaders to hear the concerns of people who aren't wedded to specific agendas.

"Because there's a variety of topics, people with different interests are responding," Estrada said. "That provides a broader perspective."

Contact Sonya Herrera at sonya.m.herrera@gmail.com or follow @SMHsoftware on Twitter.



Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez answers questions during a presentation of results from a citywide survey on Wednesday. Screenshot by Sonya Herrera, courtesy of District 5 United.





*The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 5229-H

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CENTER (EIC) http://www.eicsanjose.org 2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose, CA 95148. (408) 239-6668 "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

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means "disciple" or "stu-

dent." A Sikh is a practi-

in the 15th century by

tioner of the faith founded

Guru Nanak in Punjab of

old British India. A Guru

who is a "teacher" or "en-

lightener" completes the

relationship of teaching

and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses

the equality of all men and

women. Sikhs believe in

meditating on the name of

God (praying), earning a

living by honest means

and sharing the fruits of

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is the 5th largest religion

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an meals. We also en-

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three basic principles;

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word Sikh (see-kh)

dav. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

and 5:30 p.m. at the

weekend Masses are at

parish is located

nior's Group and many

other adult ministries as

people in need and

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

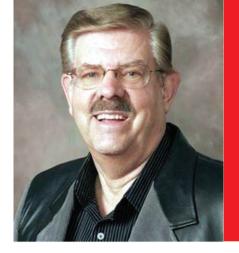
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5111 San Felipe Rd. San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving 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, Sunday11:00AM, 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) Sundav 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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