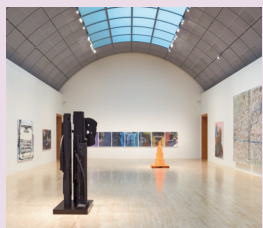


San Jose Museum of Art opens with first hour reserved for seniors
SEE PAGE 5



A juggling act
Lacking childcare: Santa Clara County's employees would turn down promotions – **SEE PAGE 9**

One-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Santa Clara County
SEE PAGE 6



MARCH 19 – APRIL 1, 2021 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 6

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Tackling homelessness will take funding and community goodwill

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

As the number of unhoused in San Jose and Santa Clara County continues to rise, both funding and community support are needed for solving this crisis.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the homeless population in Santa Clara County increased from 7,394 in 2017 to 9,706 in 2019, with the majority living in San Jose. The Jan. 2019 San Jose Homeless Census and Survey found 6,097 people living on the streets in the city; a 40% increase from 2017.

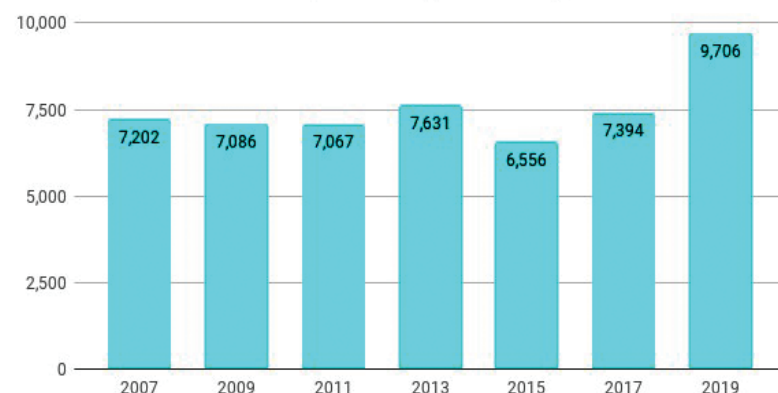
At an Almaden Valley Community Association meeting on March 8, State Senator Dave Cortese said early in his first term as county supervisor (2008), he was concerned about the growing number of people without homes.

"You could see what was coming," he said. "The homeless population was increasing. It was beyond anything we had locally in terms of shelter. What we were hearing from the



SANTA CLARA COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS

SOURCE: HUD & Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing



State senator Dave Cortese said as a community, everyone wants the homeless sheltered rather than living by creeks and in underpasses.

federal government was, rather than use your HUD money for shelter...use HUD money for permanent supportive housing."

As a result, Cortese convened a task force which led to putting Bond Measure A on the ballot. In Nov. 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved the \$950 million affordable housing bond.

Cortese said with the bond's funding, 27 permanent shelter projects are currently in the pipeline and twice that many will be built in the future with additional investment from the city, county and non-profit developers. Unfortunately, funding from the bond measure is not able to be used for short term shelters, he said.

"The right way, eventually, to eradicate homelessness is with permanent housing," Cortese said, "but as you build housing projects for five, six, seven, eight, ten years, in order to invest a billion dollar bond, the question remains, what are you doing to shelter people...right now?"

On Jan. 8, 2020, Gov. Gavin Newsom pushed for \$1.4 billion to tackle homelessness. Cortese said although this wasn't nearly enough to deal with the state's massive unhoused

population, it was a start. In addition, the governor said he would increase that amount annually.

Then, in March 2020, the pandemic hit. In May 2020, legislative analysts predicted a \$54 billion deficit. But as this did not materialize, Cortese said he expects increased investment in supportive housing, including a statewide housing bond on the ballot and bills providing short-term housing.

"We're already seeing early action items coming from the governor to help offset some of the impact and trauma of COVID on the homeless," he said. "Those investments are coming."

Cortese said permanently housing people without homes provides enormous savings. He supports the state's Project Roomkey and Project Homekey efforts to offer shelter and permanent housing. Project Roomkey was created to safeguard the

homeless during the coronavirus pandemic, providing shelter for individuals who had been exposed to COVID-19, or were recovering from it. Project Homekey is a grant program for agencies to acquire hotels to provide permanent

See HOMELESSNESS, page 21

San Jose Unified School District keeps reopening date: April 21

By William Bellou
Publisher

Although Gov. Gavin Newsom has given the go-ahead to give school districts financial incentives to start reopening now, San Jose's Unified School District (SJUSD) is sticking with its April 21 target date to open classrooms for all grade levels.

The target date hinges on the school staff getting fully vaccinated, and the district announced it has now secured the vaccine for the entire workforce.

"We made a commitment to our community that we would offer in-person learning when the county was in the orange tier or when our teachers have the opportunity to complete the vaccine process," SJUSD Superintendent Nancy Albarrán said in a statement. "We also committed to provide as much advance notice as possible so our families and employees would have time to make childcare and other arrangements needed to return in person."

SJUSD is capping classes at 50 percent of the standard capacity in elementary and middle school. As a result, elementary and middle school classes won't have more than 15 students and high school classes won't have more than 16.

San Jose Public Library Express Pickup Service hours now back to normal

With Santa Clara County returning to the Red Tier, the San José Public Library (SJPL) has resumed its original Express Pickup hours.

The hours of operation will be Mon-

day to Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Library customers will now also be able to place up to 30 holds per account.

SJPL Express Pickup offers an easy, contactless, and convenient way to

access the Library's physical collection, while the interior of the library remains closed.

For more information, visit: sjpl.org/ExpressPickup.

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Valley Currents

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When it comes to the vaccine, facts matter

Dear Editor,

After nearly a year in a pandemic, the end of 2020 saw the long-awaited introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine – a safe way to protect our communities from the virus and work our way back towards a new normal. But as of January 2021, only half of all American adults said that they wanted to receive the COVID vaccine when it became available to them. Meanwhile, caregivers like me are continuing to go into work with our most vulnerable populations every single day.

We cannot continue to leave our essential workers and their recipients vulnerable. It's on all of us to make sure that the public knows

the facts about the vaccine, so that every person can make the right decision about when they should receive the vaccine. As a caregiver, I'm working with my union, SEIU 2015, to help communities get all the facts about the vaccine and asking them to take the pledge to protect their communities.

Each one of us plays an integral role in protecting the most vulnerable among us from the virus. When we stay inside or wear a mask, we're doing it for our loved ones. Now, when we receive the vaccine, we'll do it for the same reasons. It's time for all of us to take the pledge and get the vaccine!

Carole Schmitt
Almaden Valley



Assessor Larry Stone participates in Zoom webinar to discuss Proposition 19

Due to the overwhelming interest in how the Assessor's Office is implementing Proposition 19, Assessor **Larry Stone** (inset) is participating in property tax workshops on the new laws.

The Webinars are designed to help educate real estate professionals, realtors, title representatives and others, including homeowners, about the significant changes to the state constitution. There is no charge to attend.

The planned workshops will focus on the entire initiative. Topics will include how parents can transfer their home's assessed



value to their children and how homeowners, who are 55 or older, can move to a new home while retaining some or all of their low property taxes.

In addition to a formal Power-Point presentation led by Assessor Stone and assessment professionals, a significant portion of the Webinar will be set aside for a live question and answer session.

The Assessor will also discuss the status of implementation efforts by California Assessors, actions by the State Board of Equalization, and the implementing statutes and rules.

The last scheduled Assessor's Office Webinar was held Tuesday, March 16 between 4 - 5:30 p.m. Here is the link: <https://rb.gy/cuya9f>

Airport bond refinancing authorized by San Jose City Council

The San Jose City Council authorized issuance of up to \$521 million in refunding bonds to take advantage of historically low interest rates which are less than 3% for the new bonds vs. 6.24% for the 2011 bonds that will be refinanced.

This refinancing will save the air-



port approximate \$136 million (in today's dollars) over the life of the bond and significantly improves its financial status as the city manages with COVID-related revenue losses.

Almaden Times

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Times **Community News**

South East North West: New Works from the Collection features artworks by 30 artists from 11 countries.

San Jose Museum of Art opens with first hour reserved for seniors

Free admission offered for essential and frontline workers

San Jose Museum of Art (SJMA) has now reopened dedicating the first hour reserved for seniors, those who are pregnant, and those with underlying health concerns.

SJMA also announced that it is now offering free admission for essential and frontline workers with a current work ID or pay stub. This includes those that work in grocery stores, custodial staff, and transit workers.

People can reserve their tickets, visit rb.gy/c8n2fe and enter code word TU*ESSENTIALW during their online check-out to apply ticket discount. Please show current work ID or pay stub at front desk upon check-in. This offer is available through April 9, 2021. SJMA hours are Friday–Sunday, 11a.m.–5 p.m.

Exhibitions

Barring Freedom, co-organized by the UC

Santa Cruz Institute of the Arts and Sciences, brings together contemporary artists confronting the historical and structural racism embedded in the criminal justice and mass incarceration systems. This exhibit closes on April 25.

South East North West: New Works from the Collection features artworks by 30 artists from 11 countries, from internationally renowned figures to those working in California and the Bay Area as well as emerging practitioners. The exhibition highlights a dynamic array of paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper, and new media acquired by SJMA in the last five years, on view through September 19, 2021.

Pae White's Noisy Blushes (2020) is a meditation on movement and time, light and color, material presence and the elusiveness of form. Commissioned by SJMA, the sculpture soars within the Museum's thirty-foot high atrium and transforms its entrance into an experiential passageway, delivering a sublime experience for visitors.



Pae White's Noisy Blushes (2020) is a meditation on movement and time, light and color, material presence and the elusiveness of form.

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Times **Feature**


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The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine has arrived in Santa Clara County. Photo courtesy of Johnson & Johnson.

One-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Santa Clara County

*Additional doses are expected
to arrive March 23*

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After weeks of waiting, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine just arrived in Santa Clara County last week.

The county received 7,500 doses of the new COVID-19 vaccine, according to public health officials. Additional doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are expected to arrive in Santa Clara County on March 23.

The highly-anticipated Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine only requires one dose, rather than the two doses required by Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines. It has been anxiously awaited by local health officials hoping to boost vaccination rates across the county, especially in hardest hit areas, although it's not immediately clear where the vaccine doses are headed. County officials said there is not "a designated location" for the vaccine at this time.

More than 230,000 Santa Clara County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine while 161,000 received both. The county's goal is to vaccinate 85% of its residents by August.

Due to a low allocation of COVID-19 vaccines from the state last week, new appointments could not be made through the county health system for the week of March 7 through March 13 while the county tried to vaccinate those with appointments scheduled. The arrival of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, could help boost those numbers.

Johnson & Johnson was issued an emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Feb. 27 for individuals age 18 and older. Johnson & Johnson has committed to delivering more than 20 million doses in March and 100 million in the first half of 2021.

This one-shot vaccine was proven to be 66% effective against moderate to severe COVID-19 infection and 85% effective in protecting against severe cases. Moderna's vaccine is 94.1% effective and Pfizer's 95%.

The Moderna vaccine is for individuals age 18 and older and Pfizer's vaccine is for people 16 and older.

President Joe Biden pledged to have vaccines available for every American, age 16 and older by the end of May 2021. Santa Clara

County is vaccinating up to 12,000 people a day at its drop-in sites in East San Jose, Gilroy and other areas hard-hit by the pandemic as well as health centers and mobile clinics for agricultural workers.

On Wednesday, a clinic opened at Aloha Roller Rink at Eastridge Mall in East San Jose. The site will be open seven days a week and offer evening appointments. It hopes to ramp up to 2,000 vaccinations a day, as supplies allow.

"We're working hard to get the vaccine to those who need it most," County Executive Jeff Smith said in a statement. "Vaccines are the county's number one priority right now; vaccines will save lives. But our primary challenge continues to be getting the vaccine supply we need to protect those at greatest risk."

Supervisor Lee Accepts 7,000 PPE mask donation from the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce

The Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco Bay Area delivered 7,000 PPE surgical masks to Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee on Friday, March 12 in an effort to help provide access to free PPE supplies for the community.

This donation is a continuation of efforts by Supervisor Lee and community partners to help the community as we continue to face a major public health crisis.

"Our community partners continue to step up and help us keep our families safe," noted Supervisor Lee. "This is our third major donation in recent weeks, and we are in conversation with other groups to bring in more supplies. While moving into the Red Tier and with vaccination rates increasing, we still have to be mindful, be smart and stay safe. These masks will help us end this pandemic, and I am grateful to the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco Bay Area for their donation."

The Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco Bay Area delivered the masks to the County Government Building at 70 W. Hedding Street in San Jose in accordance with safety guidelines.

Times **Community News**

Geese at Vasona County Park

County parks reinstate vehicle entry fees

Santa Clara County Parks has returned to the collection of vehicle entry fees.

The six-dollar (\$6) collection fee is now in effect at the following parks in Santa Clara County: Anderson, Calero, Coyote Lake, Ed Levin, Hellyer, Joseph Grant, Lexington, Los Gatos Creek, Martial Cottle, Metcalf Motorcycle, Mt. Madonna, Sanborn, Santa Teresa, Stevens Creek, Uvas Canyon and Vasona. Other entrances have and will remain free to visitors.

County officials waived entry fees just two days after the pandemic shelter-in-place order, which began on March 17, 2020, to encourage spending time in the outdoors during the midst of challenging and significant circumstances of COVID-19.

Recreating responsibly has allowed County Parks to keep the trails and restroom facilities open throughout the pandemic. The vehicle entrance fee is one source of revenue that helps to defray park maintenance and other operating costs.

County Parks reminds people to continue to follow protocols in place and consider visiting a park during the week when visitation is lower.

Follow social distancing of 6ft. or more from another person outside of your household and mask-wearing when you cannot maintain 6-ft.

Energy Efficiency Pilot Program approved by Clean Energy

The San Jose City Council has approved San Jose Clean Energy's application to the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for \$5.1 million in grant money over 3 years.

The grant will implement energy efficiency upgrades in a few hundred local homes, businesses and schools reducing Green House Gasses (GHG) which are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.

This pilot program will help inform future investments in GHG reduction programs in San José.

Red Tier now in effect in Santa Clara County

On March 3, we entered the Red Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

What does this mean for our neighbors and local businesses?

Indoor dining at maximum 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer; Retail stores at maximum 50% capacity; Gyms and fitness centers at maximum 10% capacity;

Movie theaters at maximum 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer; and

Zoos, museums, and aquariums at 25% maximum indoor capacity.

Although more activities are allowed under the Red Tier, the County Health Officer urges everyone to remember that indoor activities are much higher risk than outdoor activities and to take every step to reduce your risk as much as possible. To keep yourself, your family, your friends and neighbors, and our broader community safe, follow these core principles:

- Stay masked
- Maintain at least 6-foot distance from others
- Avoid crowds
- Get vaccinated
- Outside activities safer than being indoor

If you need a COVID-19 test, don't wait! A high rate of testing helps identify and stop the spread of COVID-19 cases, and is one of the factors that is helping our county reopen under State regulations. For a full list of COVID-19 testing sites in Santa Clara County, go to www.sccfreetest.org or call 2-1-1.

The County offers support options for people who test positive or have been in contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive. If you need help with food, bills, or a place to stay while you isolate or quarantine, please call 408-808-7770 to learn about support services from the County of Santa Clara.



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Times Feature

OP-ED

Homeownership is Equity

By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

My family immigrated to the United States in 1976 seeking the American Dream.

Like many families before and after us, a major component of that dream was to become a homeowner. My parents worked hard and slowly built up their savings—my Mom worked as the Avon Lady and as a hair stylist at Regis and my Dad worked as the Culigan man. Finally in 1982 they put a downpayment on a fixer upper in Blossom Valley. This was their American Dream realized.

Homeownership is still widely considered the dream for many people today. It builds equity both literally and figuratively. According to the Federal Reserve, homeowners have an average net worth that is 40 times greater than renters. They build equity in their homes and can take advantage of tax incentives such as deducting mortgage interest and property taxes, all of which help build financial security.

Owners are also usually able to secure a fixed monthly mortgage payment. They don't have to worry about the uncertainty of rising rents outpacing their earnings. For many families, paying their mortgage is like forced savings. Each payment and every home improvement goes towards increasing equity in their home. Additionally, home owners tend to put down roots in the community and take pride in it. Their children thrive in a more stable housing situation.

It has always been difficult to afford a house in the Bay Area and the dream of owning is getting harder and harder to achieve. This is especially true for our hard-working teachers, nurses, and service industry workers. The current median price in Santa Clara County for a Single Family Residence is \$1.49 million and a Condo/Townhouse is \$850,000.

There are many reasons for the sharp rise in the cost of housing, including the cost of labor, materials, and the often-abused state consumer protection and environmental laws. The most important factor, however, is that we are simply not producing enough housing supply. Further exacerbating the problem is the fact that what is being produced is often rental units.

To that end, we must look for ways to make homeownership more attainable. Thankfully there is legislation being proposed at the state level that could help increase the supply of for-sale housing units. In addition to supporting this proposed legislation, we must also change current laws that make it more expensive to build for-sale units. Onerous consumer protection laws have inadvertently caused insurance rates for builders to go up astronomically. These same laws, while well intended, have made the financing of for-sale units production increasingly more difficult.

We also need more naturally affordable ownership opportunities in suburban neighborhoods for families that don't want to live in a downtown core. While mid-rise and high-rise for-sale developments are definitely needed, they are not the only type of naturally affordable ownership housing that can be built. Townhome communities can look and feel similar to a single-family home community and they are much cheaper. Low-rise to mid-rise condos also create oppor-

tunities for families to own properties in more suburban neighborhoods. Finally, lot splits can create a pathway for smaller, more affordable single-family homes. These additional ownership opportunities also take far less time than a high-rise development.

Taking these steps will help increase the housing supply and make the dream of homeowners more attainable for many. The Santa Clara County Association of Realtors

(SCCAOR) is always looking for avenues to help bring the American Dream of ownership to Bay Area residents.

These are just a few of the ideas that SCCAOR will champion in the coming year. If you are interested in learning more or would like to stay up-to-date on upcoming housing legislation, please visit www.sccaor.com/stayinformed



Registration opens for Covid-modified sports and leisure activities

Spring registration is now open for a variety of sports and leisure programs for all ages through the City of San José's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department.

The spring season is scheduled to start Monday, March 22 and participants can

now begin viewing and registering for activities online.

Each participant may only register and attend one in-person activity at a time and timelines for activities may not overlap. Each in-person registration must have a minimum of three weeks between each enrollment.

Scholarships are available for those who qualify; awarded as funding is available.

For scholarship registration, contact your local community center to verify scholarship registration hours. For questions regarding programs, scholarships, or safety guidelines, please contact sjregistration@sanjoseca.gov.

SPRING Outdoor CAMP

Location: Almaden Neighborhood Church

Address: 19550 McKean Rd, San Jose-95120

Date: April 12th - April 16th

Morning Camp: 9AM - 12PM

Afternoon Camp: 1PM - 4PM

Snapology

Anthony Mata selected as San Jose's new Police Chief

After a national search, city officials selected Anthony Mata as the city's next "Top Cop" on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Mata, who was confirmed as Chief by the San Jose City Council, was one of four finalists for the position following former Chief Eddie Garcia's announcement last summer that he was retiring. He begins his new position effective Monday, March 22.

Mata joined the San Jose Police Department as an officer in 1996 and rose through the ranks, serving as a deputy chief for more than four years before Tuesday's announcement.

"Chief Mata's extensive experience, genuine passion for public service, and his dedication to SJPD will serve him and our city well in his new leadership role," Mayor Sam Liccardo said in a statement.

"The greatest honor of my professional career," Mata said. "I

enthusiastically approach the challenge of guiding and supporting our dedicated workforce while also advocating for our community as we re-imagine community safety together."



Anthony Mata, San Jose's new Police Chief.

Times Feature

Lacking childcare: Santa Clara County's employees would turn down promotions

By Madelyn Reese

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Most two-thirds of Santa Clara County employees say juggling work and childcare has made it impossible to achieve their career goals—even saying they'd turn down promotions.

"It's horrible because you feel like a bad worker and a bad parent at the same time and you're basically just trying to keep your child alive," an employee said in an anonymous study.

According to the study, about 60 percent of county employees have at least one child in their household, and only 43 percent of employees with children feel they successfully balance work and childcare all or most of the time.

Supervisors are considering a host of solutions to address their employee's concerns about childcare, but one might seem obvious: Providing onsite, affordable childcare in a convenient location for employees who need it. County officials presented options that consider renovating county spaces at both 70 West Hedding Street and the Silver Creek Campus in southeast San Jose.

"As we've all seen, the pandemic has laid bare the need for quality childcare options in order to support our essential workers," said Supervisor Susan Ellenberg. "I would like for us to become the standard-bearer for supporting our workforce (with childcare) on an ongoing basis."

Still, neither idea is an immediate solution. The projects, if approved by supervisors, are estimated to take up to two years from approval to opening and cost about \$10 million each.

Multiple county employees contributed their voices to the report presented to supervisors.

"To have a second child is a luxury," said an employee. "Some people had to have the discussion whether or not to quit their job, I had the discussion that we could not afford a second child for that particular reason. That's how serious the financial struggle is for people...in this county."

Employees said they paid, on average, \$372 per week in childcare fees, totaling up to an annual cost of more than \$19,000 a year. Paying for childcare and finding the time to drop a child off and pick them up from daycare are stressful for the majority of parents, respondents said.

Requesting support

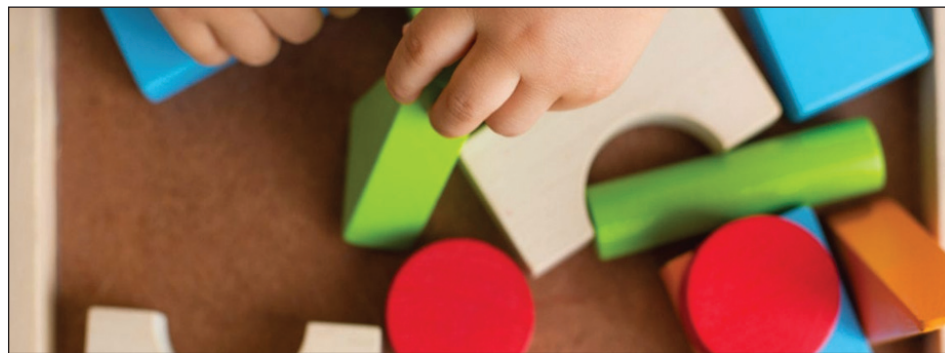
Only about half of county employees with children felt their employer is aware of their needs. The majority of employees with children asked for the basics, namely flexibility and support. The top request from employees was to be able to use paid sick time to take care of their sick children.

"There's no magic answer here. Especially given how our country views childcare, especially early childcare," an employee said. "I think we have never really prioritized it, so the county can't fix every structural issue tied to childcare. But what I think the county can do is provide the best available access to information, resources, supports around whatever kind of flexibility is needed and becoming more employee-centric."

County officials will take up the issue again at the county's Children, Seniors and Families Committee meeting on March 25.

"We should be acting with urgency," Ellenberg said. "When our employees are absent from work due to breakdowns in childcare arrangements, we cannot provide optimal service to tens of thousands of clients that rely on county services every day."

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



A child plays with blocks. Finding care during the pandemic has been a struggle for many working parents. Image courtesy of Shutterstock.



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California Proposition 19: Creates new options for Property Tax Transfers and Exemptions

Many residents are asking, "How does Proposition 19 change the rules on tax basis portability (the ability to be easily carried or moved)?"

Prop 19 allows a homeowner who is 55 years of age or older, severely disabled or whose home has been substantially damaged by wildfire or natural disaster to transfer the taxable value of their primary residence to: a) a replacement primary residence anywhere in the state, b) regardless of the value of the replacement primary residence (but with adjustments if

replacement has a greater value), c) within two years of the sale and d) up to three times (or as often as needed for those whose houses were destroyed by fire).

The prior rule limited this exemption to a one-time transfer within the same county (Prop 60) or between certain counties (Prop 90) and only if the replacement property was of "equal or lesser value."

When does the tax basis portability portion of Prop 19 take effect?
April 1, 2021.

Can you take advantage of the tax portability benefits before April 1?

There is no definitive answer in the law, although the tax benefits under Prop 19 will apply to transactions where either the sale or purchase of a primary residence takes place before April 1, 2021, as long as the subsequent sale or purchase takes place within two years and occurs on or after April 1.

If the replacement property is of equal or lesser value, does the tax basis of the replacement property change?

No. The taxable value of the original property may be transferred and becomes the taxable value of the new one.

If the replacement property is of greater value, how is the new taxable value calculated?

The new taxable value is calculated by adding the difference between the full cash value of the replacement property and the original property to the original taxable value. For example, if a seller of an original property has a \$300,000 taxable value and a full cash value of \$1M and then buys a replacement property for \$1.5M, the taxable value of the replacement property would be \$800,000.

Can a replacement property be purchased prior to the original primary residence being sold?

Yes. This is how the current rule under Prop 60 works and Prop 19 uses nearly identical language.

How does Prop 19 affect the rules on intergenerational transfers to children or grandchildren?

It limits the exemption to those properties where the primary residence continues to be used as a family home by the child or grandchild transferee. If so, the taxable value will remain the same, subject to some upward adjustments if the property value, at the time of transfer, is more than \$1M over the original tax basis.

If the property is more than \$1M over the original tax basis, what is the new taxable basis?

The new taxable basis will be the assessed value of the property at time of transfer minus \$1M.

When do these new rules on intergenerational transfers apply?

In effect now.

Where may a claim to transfer a tax basis be made?

Claims may be made with forms provided by the local county assessor's office.

Source: California Association of REALTORS®.

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Almaden residents named to Deans List at Biola University

Five Almaden Valley residents have been named to the Biola University Dean's List in fall 2020 which include: Camille Agers, Ministry; Laura Denis, Music; Rebekah Hiatt, Accounting; Grace Lea, Illustration & Design; and Emily Starke, Intercultural Studies.

Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while



From left: **Camille Agers**, Ministry; **Laura Denis**, Music; **Rebekah Hiatt**, Accounting; **Grace Lea**, Illustration & Design; and **Emily Starke**, Intercultural Studies.

enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

"Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement, and investment in scholarship," said Tamara

Anderson, Associate Provost of Academic Effectiveness and Administration. "These attributes are the building blocks of continued success, not only in the classroom, but in the workplace and in the student's personal lives. We celebrate these students and their achievement, looking forward to their future accomplishments."

Biola University is a nationally ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. It was recently recognized as one of America's best colleges, earning a spot in the top tier of the "best national universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges 2021 rankings.

AlmadenTimes Real Estate

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Times **Community News**

San José Unified School District secures Covid-19 vaccine opportunities for its entire workforce

All 4,000 education workers in San José Unified provided vaccination opportunity

As soon as education industry workers became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, San José Unified began securing appointment opportunities for its entire workforce.

Through its own health professionals and by collaborating with the state and with the county, San José Unified has been able to provide 100% of its 4,000 education workers a vaccine appointment opportunity. The timing of this comprehensive vaccination effort will help ensure that classrooms are staffed when students in grades TK through 12 return in person on April 21.

"Within the first four days of education workers being eligible to receive a vaccination, we were able to secure appointments for all employees that wanted the vaccine," said San José Unified Superintendent Nancy Albarrán. "Reaching this milestone in such a short amount of time is evidence of what is possible when state and local agencies work together towards a common goal. We are grateful for the support from the State of California and the County of Santa Clara in prioritizing vaccine access to education workers."

San José Unified has long invested in the health of its students, staff, and community and has 50 licensed nurses on staff. Over two-thirds of these nurses are volunteering with the Santa Clara County Public Health Depart-

ment to assist with COVID-19 vaccinations.

"We are proud to be a part of the effort to vaccinate the most vulnerable people in our community," said Katie Rodriguez, RN and San José Unified's Manager of Health Programs. "We have utilized every resource in our efforts to ensure all employees have the opportunity to receive the vaccine, including those that needed support scheduling an appointment online."

The reopening date of April 21, 2021 was strategically set so that employees will be fully vaccinated when San José Unified's TK-12 students return to campus. With time for the first dose, the second dose, and the additional two weeks after vaccination to build immunity against the virus, employees will not be required to quarantine per the state and the CDC.

The limited quarantine exemption for those that are vaccinated will allow employees to continue working in person even if a student or other staff member tests positive for COVID-19, solving one of the biggest challenges in returning students to in-person learning: absences due to quarantine.

"We work year-round to fully staff our classrooms. Covering COVID-19 related absences has been a significant challenge for in-person services," said Jacqueline Murphy, San José Unified's Director of Human Resources. "The combination of employees being fully vaccinated and the limited quarantine exemption strengthens our ability to provide uninterrupted classroom instruction for the remainder of this school year."

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Times **Opinion**

Op-Ed

'A clarion call to action'

Let Almaden Valley residents determine the fate of their own neighborhood

By **Pierluigi Oliverio**
Special to the Times

An extreme proposal is headed to the San Jose City Council in June that would allow a single-family house on your block to be demolished, without a community meeting or public hearing, and replaced with up to six housing units.

Proponents would have you think that eliminating your choice to live in a single-family homes neighborhood is sweeping the nation. This is just not true. In reality, this type of policy has only moved forward in two places: Oregon (2019) and Minneapolis (2020).

Portland's *Willamette Week* succinctly summed up the opinion of Oregon homeowners by printing a graphic of a large anvil — with this new state law inscribed on its side — falling from the sky about to demolish a house. This Wizard of Oz inspired graphic has motivated Oregon cities such as Lake Oswego to implement sizable demolition fees to dissuade speculative profit-seeking buyers before the law takes effect in June 2022.

In Minneapolis, this policy has achieved nothing but litigation. The Minnesota State Supreme Court ruled against the City of Minneapolis on 02/10/21 in a lawsuit brought forward by the Audubon Society and Minneapolis residents challenging the controversial policy. In Oregon and Minneapolis, it is simply impossible to know the consequences of this extreme policy and its impact on families who have sacrificed and saved to own their piece of the American Dream.

We learned that most of our fellow neighbors across San Jose are unaware of this proposal and have formed a grassroots organization called Families and Homes San Jose (www.FamiliesHomesSJ.org). We strongly support the current general plan with its smart-growth strategy to add significant housing to accommodate population growth from 1.1 million to 1.4 million by 2040. This plan simultaneously preserves single-family house neighborhoods. Smart growth has proven to be the best for home affordability.

"We sincerely hope this will serve as a clarion call to action for residents previously unaware of this pending change. The time to act is now, before we reach the point of no return and our neighborhoods are irreversibly altered."



Oliverio

ity, environmental stewardship, and multi-modal transportation.

We support backyard ADU's that allow for additional housing without changing the street-view aesthetic of the neighborhood. We support completing Urban Village plans to expedite mixed-use development of underutilized/vacant shopping centers. We support construction of housing in wealthy under-housed cities that have historically resisted pulling their fair share of the weight exacerbating our region's housing needs.

If City Council fails to act then "It should be placed on the ballot"

We also believe in transparency and demand this proposal be placed on the City Council agenda as a stand-alone item, not bundled together with other initiatives. We stand firm in our belief that the City Council should reject such a proposal to avoid costly Minneapolis-style litigation, the irreversible destruction of neighborhood integrity, and a clear deviation from our city's General Plan. If the decision is made to move forward with this proposal despite the numerous pitfalls, then we feel strongly that it should be placed on the ballot. Let the outcome be determined by a majority of voting residents.

Alternatively, we might consider a hyper-local zoning option where residents could vote for specific zoning for their individual block. This would be similar to a block requesting permit parking or establishing a business improvement district. City blocks have clear boundaries and do not impact the larger neighborhood. This is the most democratic option for residents who want greater density on their specific block. If they can convince a majority of their neighbors on the merits of this approach, then they would be permitted to go forward.

The time to act is now

We sincerely hope this will serve as a clarion call to action for residents previously unaware of this pending change. The time to act is now, before we reach the point of no return and our neighborhoods are irreversibly altered.

Editor's note: Pierluigi Oliverio is a member of the San Jose Planning Commission and a former San Jose City Councilman.



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Times **Community News**

FILM REVIEW

Minari

Score: 9.5/10

By Joshua Kim

Special to the Times

About a year and a half ago, I reviewed the movie *The Farewell*, which I called one of the best movies of 2019 and praised it for its smart and nuanced take on immigrant values and themes. *Minari* follows in its footsteps and delivers a deeply personal and engaging immigrant drama, albeit with its own refreshing take on the subject matter.

While previous Asian American films such as *The Farewell* primarily focused on exploring the differences between Eastern and Western values, *Minari* focuses on highlighting the similarities between them. While cultural differences and racial insensitivity are definitely not shied away from in this film, these issues seem to take a backseat to the elevation of universal themes such as family, faith, and hard work in pursuit of the American Dream.

Minari is the semi-autobiographical story of Korean American director Lee Issac Chung's childhood. The film takes place in rural Arkansas during the 1980's, where Jacob Yi (Steven Yeun) and his family have moved for better prospects, much to the behest of Jacob's wife Monica (Han Ye-ri). While Jacob and wife work as menial chicken sorters by day, after work Jacob pursues his dream of building a big garden, which he hopes can bring his family self sufficiency by growing and selling Korean vegetables.

While cultural differences and racial insensitivity are definitely not shied away from in this film, these issues seem to take a backseat to the elevation of universal themes such as family, faith, and hard work in pursuit of the American Dream.

In addition to the two Yi children, David and Anne, the cast of characters also includes the quirky but diligent Paul (Will Patton), who Jacob hires to help manage his garden, and Monica's mother (Youn Yuh-jung), who arrives from South Korea to help take care of the children. The film does not focus on any one member of the Yi family, but juggles between the different interfamilial relationships between them. Examples include the humorous relationship between David and his grandmother, who David resents for not fitting the mold of a "normal" American grandmother and the many times contentious relationship between Monica and Jacob, who Monica accused of putting the dream of his garden over their family's well-being. This exploration of the family builds a deep feeling of connection between the viewer and the Yi family, and invests viewers in the fortunes and misfortunes that they face in pursuit of the American Dream. As a Korean American myself, I also appreciated the highly accurate use of language and attitudes portrayed in the film that might be seen in a typical Korean American family. This for me built a heightened sense of realism and will give viewers an accurate window into Korean American life.

Overall, I highly recommend *Minari* for its unique and refreshing take on immigrant values and themes. Its exploration of universal values such as faith, family, and hard work makes this film highly engaging and relatable to any viewer. In addition, all the main leads give powerful, award worthy performances, which are supplemented by the film's stunning cinematography and score. It is my hope that *Minari* encourages the production of more films that address immigrant stories in new and interesting ways; *Minari* is currently out in limited release in theaters and also available on most streaming platforms for rental.



Minari focuses on highlighting the similarities between Eastern and Western values.

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Post-pandemic future of senior living begins at Atria Almaden

Seniors have a new choice for a safer and more fulfilling future at Atria Almaden, a brand new senior living community located moments away from Almaden Lake Park.

The four-story community offers senior living and assisted living as well as memory care and features purposefully designed amenities for a lifestyle resembling condominium living.

"We know what's most important for the well-being of older adults is a living environment that offers safety, support, social interaction and opportunities to stay healthier and happier longer," said Mike Mejia, Atria's Senior Vice President. "From modern, beautiful amenities to engaging social events and elevated culinary offerings, Atria Almaden is designed for older adults who wish to lead active and vibrant lives."

Floorplans are available for spacious studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, a full kitchen with quartz countertops, full height backsplash and soft close cabinets, stainless steel appliances, a washer and dryer and walk-in showers with solid quartz slab surrounds.

The community offers amenities including a fitness center, yoga studio, golf simulator, art studio, technology center, salon and spa, movie theater, billiards room and underground parking garage with electric vehicle charging stations. Outdoor features include a pool, hot tub, walking path adjacent to the Guadalupe River, bocce ball court, kitchen and fire pits. Chef-prepared meals are served at three dining venues: the full-service Vestal's restaurant, The Summit lounge and The Willows bistro.

Amenities also include discreet care, concierge service, chauffeured town car service, a calendar of curated events and housekeeping service. Through Atria's Engage Life® events program, residents enjoy meaningful daily experiences for continual learning, fitness, connection, personal growth and

fulfillment, and programs have been adapted for safety.

Atria Almaden, located at 4610 Almaden Expressway, features 200 apartments: 170 for modern senior living and 30 in a dedicated memory care neighborhood with specialized services for individuals living with the challenges of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout at Atria Almaden is nearing completion with more than 90% of residents and staff now vaccinated. The senior living community conducted its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic for residents and staff on January 11 and a third clinic on February 22 through its national pharmacy partner CVS Health.

Alice Babcock, who is 74 years old and an Atria Almaden resident, said, "When we dine at our restaurant, go to the movies, or participate in happy hour, yoga, and exercise class, we are doing so safely in a community that has been largely inoculated. I am most excited to share everything chocolate with my family and my amazing husband, Ray, without a worry in the world."

Atria, a leading senior living operator in the U.S. and Canada, opened Atria Almaden at the beginning of 2021 with aggressive infectious disease control measures under this health and safety initiative. The company vaccinated its first residents and staff on December 21st in Louisville, Ky, and has now vaccinated more than 30,000 residents and staff across the U.S.

"We warmly invite San Jose area seniors and their families to contact us about life at Atria Almaden. Here, you can enjoy a heightened living experience with the confidence of protection that Atria is famous for," Mejia said.

Atria operates more than 200 communities across the U.S. and Canada, with 43 California communities that serve nearly 5,000 residents. Atria operates 18 other communities in Northern California, including Atria at Foster Square in Foster City; Atria Valley View and Atria Walnut Creek in Walnut Creek; Atria Sunnyvale, Atria Evergreen Valley and Atria Willow Glen in San Jose.

For more information, contact Executive Director Paul Shepodd at (669) 200-1475 or visit AtriaAlmaden.com. You can also follow the company on Facebook or Twitter. For career opportunities and more information about working for Atria, visit AtriaCareers.com.

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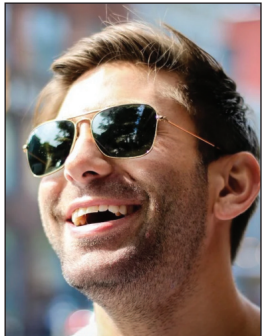
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Times **Feature**

Report: 2021's Happiest Cities in America listed

With March 20 being International Day of Happiness and the average American's stress level rising significantly for the first time since 2007 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's *Happiest Cities in America*.



In order to determine where people in America are most content with their lives, WalletHub compared more than 180 of the largest U.S. cities across 31 key indicators of happiness. The data set ranges from depression rate to income-growth rate to average leisure time spent per day.

Happiness in San Jose (1=Happiest, 91=Avg.):

- 18th – Depression Rate
- 23rd – Adequate-Sleep Rate
- 13th – Suicide Rate
- 31st – Sports-Participation Rate
- 50th – Unemployment Rate
- 5th – Separation & Divorce Rate
- 65th – Hours Worked per Week
- 7th – Income Growth Rate

For the full report listing all states, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/happiest-places-to-live/32619>

Top 9 Happiest Cities in the U.S.

Overall Rank	City	Total Score	Emotional & Physical Well-Being	Income & Employment	Community & Environment
1	Fremont, CA	73.66	1	46	5
2	Bismarck, ND	71.59	5	5	23
3	Fargo, ND	70.94	9	3	17
4	Madison, WI	70.14	13	6	14
5	San Jose, CA	69.47	2	21	75
6	South Burlington, VT	68.73	8	11	61
7	Lincoln, NE	68.35	14	10	20
8	Columbia, MD	67.73	4	95	102
9	Cedar Rapids, IA	67.64	11	74	19

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Coping with Stress During COVID-19

✓ TAKE BREAKS

✓ FOCUS ON YOUR HOBBIES

✓ EXERCISE REGULARLY

✓ CALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY

✓ GET PLENTY OF SLEEP

✓ CHOOSE HEALTHY FOODS

Feeling Anxious? Lonely? Scared? There's help.

24/7 Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Call Center: (800) 704-0900
24/7 Suicide and Crisis Hotline: (855) 278-4204
Crisis Text Line: Text RENEW to 741741

Limit the Spread of Germs

that could make you & others sick.

WASH YOUR HANDS:

- After you cough, sneeze or use the bathroom.
- Before you touch your eyes, nose & mouth.
- After you touch dirty tissues or dirty surfaces.
- Before you prepare food and before you eat.

Wash your hands **with soap & warm water** -OR- clean your hands **with alcohol-based hand cleaner.**

Santa Clara County
PUBLIC HEALTH

Times **Feature**

Report: 2021’s best & worst states for women

With March being Women’s History Month and women experiencing 55 percent of the net job losses since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021’s Best & Worst States for Women.



To identify the most women-friendly states, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 26 key metrics. The data set ranges from median earnings for female workers to women’s preventive health care to the female homicide rate.

Woman-Friendliness of California (1=Best, 25=Avg.):

- 51st – Median Earnings for Female Workers (Adjusted for Cost of Living)
- 49th – Unemployment Rate for Women
- 29th – Share of Women in Poverty
- 12th – Share of Women-Owned Businesses
- 17th – High School Graduation Rate for Women
- 42nd – Share of Women Who Voted in 2016 Presidential Election
- 22nd – Female Uninsured Rate
- 2nd – Women’s Life Expectancy at Birth
- 11th – Quality of Women’s Hospitals
- 14th – Women’s Preventive Health Care

Overall Rank	State	Total Score	Women’s Economic & Social Well-Being	Women’s Health & Safety
1	Minnesota	77.68	1	2
2	Maine	72.51	2	5
3	Vermont	72.01	4	3
4	North Dakota	71.06	5	4
5	Dis. of Columbia	69.42	3	20
6	Iowa	68.43	6	12
7	Washington	67.71	7	10
8	Massachusetts	66.52	11	8
9	Wisconsin	65.78	9	16
10	South Dakota	64.74	10	21
11	Hawaii	64.72	31	1
12	New Hampshire	64.54	17	7
13	Maryland	64.51	12	15
14	Colorado	64.14	14	11
15	Connecticut	64.10	18	6
16	New York	63.24	16	14
17	Oregon	63.21	21	9
18	Rhode Island	61.86	22	17
19	New Jersey	60.72	24	18
20	Delaware	60.69	8	34
21	Montana	60.65	13	29
22	Virginia	60.55	15	30
23	Nebraska	60.40	25	19
24	Michigan	60.14	23	22
25	Illinois	57.26	36	13
26	Alaska	57.05	28	28
27	Missouri	56.14	30	31
28	Utah	55.91	32	24
29	Wyoming	54.96	37	23
30	Ohio	54.80	34	27
31	Indiana	54.75	20	39
32	Pennsylvania	54.05	35	32
33	Kentucky	53.89	19	43
34	California	53.30	39	25
35	North Carolina	51.35	33	35
36	Kansas	51.17	29	41
37	Arizona	50.96	27	45
38	Florida	50.49	40	33
39	Tennessee	49.33	26	50
40	Idaho	48.54	48	26
41	Georgia	48.42	38	38
42	New Mexico	48.15	42	37
43	West Virginia	47.43	41	40
44	Nevada	46.06	43	42
45	Texas	44.50	44	44
46	South Carolina	42.40	45	48
47	Oklahoma	41.60	46	49
48	Louisiana	41.37	50	36
49	Arkansas	40.75	47	51
50	Alabama	39.31	49	47
51	Mississippi	37.54	51	46

For the full report, please visit: wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-women/10728



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Times **Feature**

Chris Funk, superintendent for East Side Union High School District, said the coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Latino students. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

COVID-19 pushes Santa Clara County dropout rate up

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Distance learning has led to an increase in students dropping out of high school in Santa Clara County.

The 2021 Silicon Valley Index, released by nonprofit Joint Venture Silicon Valley's Institute for Regional Studies, showed this was especially true for homeless youth, English-language learners, Hispanic and low-income students.

Rachel Massaro, vice president and director of research at Joint Venture Silicon Valley, said students have struggled with distance learning, especially those facing inequities.

"The fact that the pandemic has increased dropout rates in Silicon Valley is highly troubling," Massaro said. "Not just because we don't ever want any students to drop out of high school, but also because of the disparities in how students were able to weather this crisis."

Filipino students saw the highest increase in dropout rates among high school students in Santa Clara County schools. In 2019-20, an additional 160 Filipino students left school without a degree compared with the previous school year, Massaro said. That increase, from 37 to 197 dropouts out of the nearly 1,000 Filipino high school students in the county, represented a jump in their dropout rate to nearly 20% from about 4%.

Over the 2019-20 school year, 2,946 of the 21,398 high school students in a Santa Clara County cohort dropped out, about a 14% dropout rate. That's up from 9%, or 1,925 dropouts out of 21,276 total students the previous year. Among the racial and ethnic groups in Santa Clara County who dropped out during the 2019-20 school year, 52% were Hispanic, 20% Asian, 14% Black and 13% white.

Language divide

Distance learning is especially difficult for people who learned English as a second language, said Cuauhtli Trinidad, vice president of program operations for ConXion to Community, a San Jose nonprofit providing education, workforce, behavioral health and social services.

Parents who struggle with English can't

provide homework help and access to teachers is more limited. In the 2018-19 school year, 156 English learners dropped out of high school. That number rose to 1,086 English learners in the 2019-20 school year.

"Some find it hard to concentrate," Trinidad said. "... and will only participate if they have their parents or someone to make sure they do."

Corina Herrera-Loera, president of Alum Rock Union School District Board, said East Side youth face additional challenges to their education. As many have parents who are essential workers, they are charged with looking after their younger siblings and don't have quiet places to do their schoolwork.

"When I think of the youth in our East Side community, a lot of them are caretakers," she said. "I can't imagine the daily stress for a high school student who is having to ... do their own work, oversee the younger children's needs and share the internet."

Herrera-Loera said this kind of stress along with connectivity challenges might lead teenagers to give up on school. They might decide that keeping their siblings safe, connected and fed while their parents need to work is the priority, she said.

Or students might feel compelled to join the workforce to make sure the family can pay their rent. Many also share a room with other family members, making it hard to concentrate.

The dropout rate for Latino students is more than four times the rate for other students in some of the district's schools, officials said.

Chris Funk, superintendent for East Side Union High School District, agreed the coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Latino students.

To reduce dropout rates, the district decided last spring that distance learning wouldn't negatively impact students' grades. This semester, it changed all Fs to no pass. Students still have to make up for failed classes, but it doesn't impact their GPAs.

"I think that will keep more kids in the game longer," Funk said.



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Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com





Report: States with the highest and lowest tax rates

With Tax Day looming and 74 percent of people disapproving of how the government has used tax dollars during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub has released its 2021 Taxpayer Survey and also its newest report: States with the Highest & Lowest Tax Rates to help people better understand this confusing time of year.

You can find highlights from both below, followed by the full list of WalletHub's 2021 taxpayer resources.

Tax Rates in California (1=Lowest; 25=Avg.):

- 11th – Overall Effective State & Local Tax Rate
- 13th – Income Tax
- 16th – Real-Estate Tax
- 27th – Vehicle Property Tax
- 33rd – Sales & Excise Taxes

Top 10 states with lowest taxes					
Overall Rank (1=Lowest)	State	Effective Total State & Local Tax Rates on Median U.S. Household*	Annual State & Local Taxes on Median U.S. Household*	% Difference Between State & U.S. Avg.**	Annual State & Local Taxes on Median State Household***
1	Alaska	5.84%	\$3,694	-45.90%	\$4,585
2	Delaware	6.25%	\$3,949	-42.17%	\$4,366
3	Montana	7.11%	\$4,494	-34.19%	\$4,301
4	Nevada	7.94%	\$5,017	-26.53%	\$5,180
5	Wyoming	8.05%	\$5,086	-25.51%	\$5,178
6	Florida	8.23%	\$5,204	-23.79%	\$4,820
7	Utah	8.34%	\$5,274	-22.76%	\$6,194
8	Idaho	8.43%	\$5,329	-21.96%	\$4,870
9	Colorado	8.54%	\$5,396	-20.98%	\$6,611
10	Tennessee	8.72%	\$5,513	-19.27%	\$4,551

Top 10 states with highest taxes					
1	New Jersey	12.84%	\$8,117	18.88%	\$11,906
2	Ohio	13.18%	\$8,329	21.98%	\$6,724
3	Iowa	13.18%	\$8,334	22.05%	\$7,053
4	Wisconsin	13.22%	\$8,357	22.39%	\$7,586
5	Nebraska	13.27%	\$8,386	22.82%	\$7,214
6	Kansas	13.43%	\$8,488	24.30%	\$7,294
7	Pennsylvania	13.97%	\$8,830	29.32%	\$8,138
8	New York	14.08%	\$8,900	30.34%	\$11,024
9	Connecticut	14.84%	\$9,379	37.36%	\$11,625
10	Illinois	15.01%	\$9,488	38.95%	\$9,200

2021 Taxpayer Survey

- 74% of people say the government has not handled their tax dollars wisely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 30% of people say making a math mistake is their biggest Tax Day fear, edging out not having enough money (29%) and identity theft (21%) at the top of the list.
- 38% of people would move to a different country for a tax-free future. 27% would get an "IRS" tattoo and 19% would stop talking for 6 months.
- 32% of people think charities would make the best use of their tax dollars, outnumbering by nearly 2.5 times people who trust the federal government the most with their taxes.
- 222 million Americans think the government does not spend taxes wisely.

WalletHub Q&A

Why do so many Americans feel the government does not spend their taxes wisely?

"There are plenty of reasons why around 222 million Americans believe the government

See TAXES, next page

Times **Community News****Taxes***Continued from previous page*

does not spend their tax dollars wisely, according to a new WalletHub survey, but some of the biggest factors are a general distrust of politicians, the truthful perception that the private sector invests more efficiently than the government, and a mismatch between the amount we pay and the benefits we get in return," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "It hurts to part with our hard-earned money, and that's especially true when every time an election rolls around we hear about billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse. When that's the message we hear over and over, it's easy to believe that the government isn't handling our taxes wisely."

Where would people prefer to divert their tax dollars?

"The largest share of people, at around 32%, would rather their tax dollars go to charities than any level of government. When it comes to paying taxes to the government, people have more faith in local levels," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "Americans would rather pay taxes to their local government than their state, and to their state rather than the federal government, which reflects people's distrust of the federal government and special interests."

What should taxpayers be worried**about on Tax Day?**

"The biggest things that Americans fear on Tax Day are making a math mistake and not having enough money, each of which gets close to 30% of the vote," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "What people should be most concerned about is having enough money to pay what they owe, as trying to find more money on short notice could be difficult for many people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Avoiding math errors is easier if you start completing your tax return early and take time to check it for errors. There are plenty of free tax-prep resources that can help make sure the math checks out, too."

What should people do if they can't pay their taxes?

"If you can't afford to pay your tax bill, the first thing you should do is still file a return, because that can help you avoid penalties while you figure out how you're going to pay. If your money issues are temporary, you may want to consider just waiting for a bill or asking for a 120-day extension," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "People who need a longer amount of time to pay have several other options, such as setting up an installment agreement with the IRS, paying with a credit card or getting a personal loan."

To review the report, visit: <http://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-to-be-a-taxpayer/2416>

Homelessness*Continued from page 1*

housing. By December 2020, Homekey utilized \$846 million to purchase 6,029 units.

"In a matter of months and in the midst of a pandemic, we did what many said was impossible – California created over 6,000 new units, on-time and under budget, helping thousands of homeless Californians move out of cars and tents and into permanent housing," said Governor Newsom in a statement.

A 2015 Destination Home study "Home Not Found: The Cost of Homelessness in Silicon Valley," found a group of 2,800 persistently homeless residents cost the county about \$83,000 per person per year.

If you leave the homeless unhoused, Cortese said, it costs the county about \$85,000 per year for each person for mental health programs, incarceration, drug and alcohol addiction programs, food banks and temporary shelters. But, if you put the unhoused into housing, he said, the cost to the county is about \$35,000 per year—a savings of about \$50,000 per year—which more than justifies the construction costs for housing.

However, community feelings of "not in my backyard" can make housing the homeless challenging.

"As a community, we all want folks sheltered," Cortese said. "We don't want them in the creeks, and we don't want them in the underpasses."

However, when the county received Project Roomkey funding to purchase a hotel in Milpitas, it encountered enormous opposition from the community, Cortese said, even

though according to the census, 97% of the people living on the street are from San Jose and Santa Clara County. Cortese said the next challenge will be finding locations residents will accept to acquire and develop sites to put homeless funding to work.

"Shouldn't we try to put...services at their door and a roof over their heads for the greater health of our community?" Cortese said. "It's better to shelter folks than having them wandering around the streets."

Councilmember Matt Mahan said the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated homelessness. He said housing individuals is necessary before unemployment and addiction can be addressed.

To improve lives for people without homes and limit impacts on creeks and trails, Mahan said, mental health care, addiction treatment and job training and placement needs to be in place.

"Our city and county need to come together to take a more...humane approach to the reality we see on the streets every day," Mahan said. "We must do more to address the conditions in which our homeless neighbors live, as well as the impacts of encampments on the broader community."

Editor's Note: San Jose has created outreach to help the homeless. The following is stated on the city website, "Per the county's shelter-in-place order, and guidance from the CDC, the City is trying to reduce the frequency and number of encampment abatements to reduce the risk of community spread by forcing unhoused people out of encampments. Homeless individuals seeking support may call the Homeless Helpline at 408-510-7600. It is staffed Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Messages will be returned the next business day."

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God is One
ਰਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.
San Jose, CA 95148
The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfranciscofassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs

organized and run by members of the Association;

- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

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

For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org

Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com



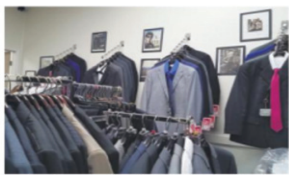
Notice

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

The Agape Schools admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

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1
1
9
5

Nikette Way



\$2,195,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 2700 Sq Ft | 10,066 Sq Ft Lot

Impressive Almaden Valley Country Club home on a large manicured homesite fenced for privacy with a natural boundary of trees and foliage. Updated kitchen and baths. Plenty of windows and transoms for natural light. 240v electric car charger, whole house fan, solar with 2 battery packs, and more! Williams Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High Schools. 3-car garage.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/Real-Trends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.
If you are thinking of selling your home in 2021, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

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



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