



COVID-19 rules eased Santa Clara County moves to orange tier, expanding indoor dining and retail – **SEE PAGE 16**

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More than 2,500 attend San Jose #StopAsianHate community rally SEE PAGE 5



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Second Story Duo of Almaden releases new music single: 'A Crack In The Wall'

By William Bellou Publisher Primarily known for writing songs about healing, grief and hope through their own personal experiences, Second Story Duo of Almaden Valley shares their newest single "A Crack In The Wall."

Lynn Case, who is a long-time resident of Almaden Valley along with her partner Doug Bloomquist, produced the new song in their Almaden home recording studio as an introspective ballad that dives into celebrating the beautiful moments in relationships and the expression of how they end in ways we don't always imagine.

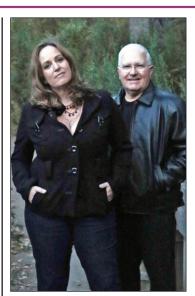
Album explores the journey of finding joy

While most people will remember 2020 for the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, Lynn Case and Doug Bloomquist, however, will remember it for crafting their debut album 'What I Wish For Us.' The 10-track album soothingly explores the journey of finding joy, healing, and love, reminding even the most cynical romantic that some things in life are worth waiting for.

Lynn has a way of revealing the



Lynn Case (right), who is a long-time resident of Almaden Valley along with her partner **Doug Bloomquist**, produced the new song in their Almaden home recording studio.



Second Story Duo: Lynn Case and Doug Bloomguist.

truth with emotional vulnerability in her song writing, as she and Doug took us into their world in their first album that beautifully explored the intimate nature of healing, as the duo became a creative family unit after Doug's late wife died by suicide.

Lynn's voice weaves through the truthful lyrics of how "trust and fear collide," depicting the return of Doug finding himself and happiness, as well as learning to lean on one another.

"Now that my children are grown (graduating from Castillero Middle School and Pioneer High School) and on their own, my focus changed," Case said. "Doug and I have been writing and performing together locally as *Second*

Story Duo for the past few years."

Now back with their first single of 2021, "A Crack In The Wall" sings of the darker side of love as they sweetly combine classical and folk elements, not straying too far from the distinctive ballad roots of country music. It's a lyrically driven, heartfelt story of two people growing out of one another. Lynn tenderly sings "two hearts that were connected; now the seams are getting blurred."

See DUO, page 21



2021 Leland Science Fair goes virtual

By Leland Science Club Team Special to the Times

any things have adapted amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Leland Science Fair is no exception.

The event, held on March 5 at Leland High School in Almaden, was 100 percent virtual this year and a success with many local students participating.

The Leland Science Club President Nethra Srinivasan said, "In a year where distance learning has challenged many students, the science fair provided an opportunity for students to cultivate an interest in science, to be creative in their explorations as well as showcase their artistic abilities in their completed projects. We really wanted students to connect with science, despite the pandemic."

Students from elementary, middle, and high schools across Almaden Valley participated in the fair. Volunteer judges helped with grading the projects and provided valuable feedback to the participants. The science fair allowed for students to get involved in their passions for science through going further than their classrooms.

"I enjoyed working on this project where technology aids medical science," stated Abhay Dharnidharka from Leland High School.



Oliver Wang poses with his 1st place ribbon in the high school category on his project: Predicting Likelihood of Severe Wildfires Using Satellite Imagery and Machine Learning.

Yug Jain is a first grade student of Los Alamitos Elementary. This was his first science fair and he enjoyed participating in it tremendously and explaining how rockets fly.

Oliver Wang from Leland High School shared, "I am so grateful to be able to share my science project with the local community. Thank you Leland Science Club, the judges, and everyone who attended for helping to make this a success."

Emilia Pollifrone, a second grader from Los Alamitos Elementary added, "Leland Science Fair was my first time entering in a science fair. I had lots of fun participating and hope to do it next year."

Leland Science Club officer Tanaya Mahindrakar is extremely proud for being part of the effort.

"I remember I saw this boy, who must have been 6 years old, teach us how rockets fly," Mahindrakar said. "The Leland Science fair is probably the only place where you can see elementary school kids talk rocket science. It was so cool to be someone who sets up stuff behind the scenes for all these brilliant *See SCIENCE FAIR, page 20*





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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.

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Valley Currents

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

District 10 Councilmember Matt Mahan looks to turn complaints about gas leaf blowers into policy

By Lorraine Gabbert Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

G as-powered leaf blowers were driving San Jose resident Marty Stuczynski crazy. He had reached out to San Jose City Hall for years without success. While attending a video call with freshman District 10 Councilmember Matt Mahan, he mentioned the problem again. To his surprise, he was invited to start a working group with four or more residents to explore restrictions on the blowers.

Stuczynski, now chairman of the leaf blowers working group, said he's grateful Mahan's office took his concerns seriously. "These gas leaf blowers are used by a lot of lawn services," Stuczynski said. "They come into our lives every day. They're extremely air polluting for one thing and are extremely noise polluting for another."

Mahan empowers residents to enact change in their communities This method of discovering solu-

This method of discovering solutions to neighborhood problems is part of a first-of-its-kind program developed by Mahan to empower San Jose residents to enact change in their communities. From beau-



tification projects to weighing in on residential rezoning issues and drafting city ordinances, residents with shared concerns are working together to impact their neighborhoods and shape local policy.

More than 75 residents have connected through seven working groups so far. Other issues include clean creeks, mental health services, street racing and San Jose Water Company rates. "I think it's a very exciting opportunity," said Matthew Quevedo, chief of staff for Mahan. "It's really exciting to see these folks coming together. It brings residents into the policy-making process." A different response

Rather than sending a prepared statement to the 100+ complaints his office receives daily, Mahan decided to connect like-minded people with shared goals and gave them the tools and resources to



One working group hopes to have the city approve an ordinance banning gaspowered leaf blowers. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

organize and build political power. "If we wall ourselves off as an office of six people in the ivory tower of City Hall and just send residents a canned response to every concern, we're missing a huge opportunity to tap into the energy and resources of our community," Mahan said. His office welcomes residents from other districts to start or join District 10 working groups. Mahan said he also hopes to see other districts start similar programs to learn from each other.

To enact a policy change, the councilmember and staff help the residents write a policy proposal, which goes through the formal legislative process, including sub-See BLOWERS, next page



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More than 2,500 attend San Jose **#StopAsianHate community rally**

Largest AAPI protest in the U.S. he #StopAsianHate Community Rally at San Jose City Hall saw more than 2,500 community members unite and protest against discrimination and racism in the Asian-American Pacific Islander Com-

munities. This grassroots effort began after a Bay Area lawyer, Adam S. Juratovac (@AdamJ TheLawyer), had lunch with his mother. His mother told him she was afraid of going grocery shopping after dark because of the rise in violent, racist attacks on Asian-American elders. Later that evening, Juratovac learned about the violent, racist, and sexist attacks in Atlanta, GA.

After learning about Atlanta, Juratovac took to the social media platform, TikTok, and created a six-part video series (See links to videos below) about his experiences with his mother. Juratovac foreshadowed a call-to-action to the AAPI community.

The #StopAsianHate Community Rally

speakers lineup included 17-year Veteran of the United States Congress, Rep. Mike Honda. Honda became aware of the community rally after one of Juratovac's Tik-Tok followers, and family friend to Honda viewed Juratovac's Wednesday (3/17/21)TikTok live stream calling for community action.

Juratovac's TikTok follower connected Honda and Juratovac. At Sunday's Community Rally, Juratovac introduced Rep. Mike Honda as "The OG of the AAPI community in the Bay Area." The acronym OG means, Original Gangster.

After the event, Honda told Juratovac, "No one has generated more of a crowd than you and your team."

Juratovac told the community, "There will be another event. Watch out for the next signal." By signal, Juratovac means to wait for the next Hype Video. Juratovac is planning one event in April 2021, and one event in May 2021.

Blowers

Continued from previous page

committees, before heading to the City Council for a vote. For working groups focused on beautification or service projects, Mahan asks residents to identify projects and locations, recruit volunteers and provide resources. "With a highly organized community, we could have a service project every weekend," he said. "Without more capacity, we're limited."

Leaf blowers working groups Chairman Marty Stuczynski said the two-cycle motors are extremely air and noise polluting. Stuczynski's working group wants the city to ban gas-powered leaf blowers in favor of electric models.

Mahan said he favors phasing in regulation over a few years, using revenue from San Jose Clean Energy to do a buy-back program to help landscaping companies make the transition. Mahan said for small landscaping businesses with a few employees, upgrading expensive equipment is a financial hardship.

The group is looking at ordinances from other cities which have banned gas-pow-

ered leaf blowers, including Los Gatos, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale. Mahan said they would have to meet with officials from the Environmental Services Department, San Jose Clean Energy and local landscaping companies.

Any group of residents who want to organize to influence local issues can form a working group, the lawmaker said. They must identify a chair, come up with a one-page charter and meet regularly. Staff provides support by attending meetings, providing input, channeling questions to appropriate departments, promoting events and assisting in drafting ordinances.

For the leaf blowers group, the goal is to create a memo to city councilmembers and an outline for an ordinance by the end of the year. Previous attempts by the city to ban gas leaf blowers and fund a buyback program went nowhere.

Stuczynski said he's excited to finally be making headway in his endeavor.

"In San Jose, we pay a lot of lip service to being sustainable and green and high tech," he said. "It's been extremely frustrating to see the City Council not get on board with an initiative like this. So, to have Matt's office get on board...is very energizing."



Holiday treat goodness: Easter Dip

Easter is about coming together with loved ones, enjoying beautiful spring weather and eating your family's favorite foods.

The kids will be playing, adults will be chatting and all will be patiently waiting for the table to be set.

If you're visiting and making memories with family and friends you haven't seen in a while, there are few things better than diving into a marvelous Easter spread.

While eyeing the table, you notice all the colors popping off the dishes. Fruits and veggies make the feast come to life, but a warm Easter dip paired with rolls for dipping is a perfect way to start the festivities.

These Easter Bunny Rolls with Spinach Dip are as eye-catching as they are delicious. Not only will the kids love its shape, but the layers of taste will wow your Easter crowd.

To make this recipe, start by combining a 16-ounce package of frozen spinach, cream cheese and garlic in a skillet. Once heated, add mayonnaise, salt, onion powder, chili powder and Italian seasoning.

Add in Parmesan and mozzarella cheeses then stir until combined.

Next, roll out crescent rolls. Stretch the dough then cut into 24 rolls.

Form the bunny shape and scoop your spinach dip mixture into the center of the bunny and its ears. Sprinkle the spinach dip with mozzarella cheese before baking at 375 F for 18 minutes.

This dish is made for a crowd, served warm and full of cheesy goodness. You can watch as your family dips into the spinach and one-by-one, before you know it, the rolls will have disappeared and the dip will be devoured.

Find more Easter recipes at Culinary.net

Easter Bunny Rolls with Spinach Dip

- Serves: 24
- 16 ounces frozen spinach, thawed 8 ounces cream cheese 2 cloves garlic, minced 1/2 cup mayonnaise 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 2 crescent roll tubes (8 ounces each)

Heat oven to 375 F.

In skillet, over medium heat, cook spinach, cream cheese and garlic 3-4 minutes until cream cheese is melted. Stir in mayonnaise, salt, onion powder, chili powder, pepper and Italian seasoning. Stir in Parmesan cheese and 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese. Cook until cheese is melted. Keep skillet on burner over low heat.

Remove dough from tubes. Leaving dough intact, roll and stretch into 18-inch ropes. Cut each rope into 12 pieces for 24 total.

On baking sheet with parchment paper, form bunny head by placing one piece of dough in middle then surrounding it with six more pieces. Use 13 pieces to form round body. Use remaining pieces to form ears on top of head.

Scoop hot spinach dip into center. Spoon small portions on each ear. Sprinkle ears and belly with remaining mozzarella cheese.

Bake 18 minutes, or until crescent dough is golden brown and thoroughly cooked.



Help make public transit more accessible for everyone!

The Valley Transportation Authority is assessing its facilities and website, with the goal of eliminating barriers to access for people with disabilities. Whether that's bus stops, light rail platforms, or offices, everything will be under review.

rail platforms, or offices, everything will be under review. We can't make these improvements without your help! Take our short survey, enter your email address, and you will be entered for a

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Times Feature

Spring brings road paving

By Matt Mahan Special to the Times

Spring has arrived and with it so has the 2021 road paving season!

For years we've invested too little in our

infrastructure, especially local roads. In addition to being inconvenient and unsafe, poor roads shift costs to individual residents in the form of vehicle wear-and-tear and lower fuel efficiency. In fact, a study conducted by TRIP in 2016 found that poor road conditions cost California drivers an additional \$18.3 billion per year in vehicle operating costs and \$28 billion in congestion-related expenses (equivalent to over \$1000/year per household).

Thanks to voters' support for local measures T (San Jose) and B (countywide), and recent

increases in the state gas tax, we are finally beginning to catch up on our decade-plus deferred maintenance backlog. This year, the County will repave Almaden Expressway from Blossom Hill Rd. to Harry Rd., which is one of the top priorities you've shared with our office. The section of Meridian Ave., running south from Blossom Hill Rd. is another top priority that will be paved this year, along with McAbee Rd., Camden Ave., and a number of local roads in the Crossgate and Country Club neighborhoods.

You can see the full list of roads that the San Jose Department of Transportation (DOT) will pave this year and in the following two years by visiting bit.ly/SJPavingMap To see the full plan, be sure to click on the third tab on the page entitled "Pavement Maintenance 2014-2023." Our team will continue to check in with DOT to ensure that our roads are paved on schedule, on budget and with high quality materials and practices. If you notice any problems with recently paved roads

Hannah Mao of Almaden named to Dean's List at Simpson University

annah Mao of Almaden Valley been named to the Dean's List at Simpson University.

Mao, a graduate of Leland High School, is majoring in Pre-Nursing.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have a semester grade-point average of 3.50 or higher.

Simpson University was founded in 1921 and is celebrating its centennial. In addition to offering more than 20 majors in its traditional undergraduate program, the university has graduated more than 4,000 North State adults from its degree-completion program, and nearly 3,000 from its School of Education. It has a No. 7-ranked School of Nursing, a seminary, and master's programs in education, counseling psychology and organizational leadership.

please bring those to our attention immediately (district10@sanjoseca.gov) and we will follow up on them.

I also wanted to share an update on homeless encampment management: last Tuesday, City Council voted to move forward a set of recommendations that includes testing the encampment "setbacks" ordinance that I put forth during our priority setting process. While setbacks are not a silver bullet, I believe they are a better approach than reactive

abatements that simply shuffle people back and forth between the same neighborhoods at great expense. Council expressed willingness to test a setback enforcement strategy initially focused on schools for purposes of learning.

In parallel, we've directed city staff to evaluate increasing spending on encampment cleanups, hygienic services, and social services outreach. I'll be able to share more about the City's exact plans on this front as we move closer to finalizing our 2021-2022 fiscal year budget (typically voted on in June).

Finally, I'm sure you've heard the good news that vaccination eligibility will be greatly expanded next month: Californians over 50 years of age will be eligible starting April 1 and everyone over the age of 16 will be eligible April 15. We expect that providers will continue to experience delays in scheduling appointments. Your best starting place for vaccination information is www.sccfreevax.com, which will direct you to your provider's scheduling website.

We recommend checking the website frequently. Unfortunately, it may take multiple weeks to secure an appointment given the high demand, but hang in there—we have a very good chance of eliminating community spread of COVID-19 by summertime if we remain vigilant and get our vaccines.

Stay safe and enjoy the spring sunshine and smoother roads ahead!

Editor's note: To contact District 10 Councilmember Mat Mahan, email: matt.mahan@ sanjoseca.gov or call the District 10 office at: 408-535-4910.





District 10 Report Matt Mahan Councilmember, District 10

OP ED Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act: My personal story

By Corrina Reyes Special to the Times Alzheimer's changed my family forever.

The matriarch, my great-grandmother, lost the ability to care for herself prior to her passing in 2016.

Witnessing firsthand the slow progression of the disease was heartbreaking and confusing. Having raised eight children on her own, she was a strong Latinx woman that I admired deeply. In her final two years of life, her symptoms included disorientation, inability to write, and difficulty speaking.

I was seventeen years old when she received her diagnosis for Alzheimer's. Looking back, I now realize there were earlier signs of the disease, but we didn't recognize them. On birthdays she would be the first to call and express how much we meant to her; she began to forget our birthdays. She loved to cook and would tell stories while multitasking in the kitchen; she forgot how to prepare simple meals.

My grandma took on the role of caregiver for her mother, but had no prior knowledge of the disease and didn't know what questions to ask when communicating with doctors. She comes from the generation of Latinx who don't see



Blind jazz guitarist **Raul Midón** will stream live April 16 as part of a virtual extension of Hammer Theatre Center's acclaimed "Black Cab Jazz" series, a showcase of today's hottest jazz artists curated by San Jose Jazz. *Photo credit: Samuel Prather*

Grammy-nominated guitarist Raul Midón to stream live as part of 'Black Cab Jazz' Series

Hammer Theatre Center presents a vibrant live stream from Grammy-nominated jazz musician Raul Midón as part of the virtual extension of its popular "Black Cab Jazz" series 7 p.m., Friday, April 16.

The theatre features exclusive performances from today's hottest jazz artists curated in partnership with internationally renowned arts organization San Jose Jazz.

Visually impaired since birth, Midón has been dubbed "an eclectic adventurist" by People magazine, collaborating with icons such as Herbie Hancock, Stevie Wonder, and Bill Withers, as well as contributing to recordings by Queen Latifah, Snoop Dogg, and the soundtrack of Spike Lee's film, "She Hate Me."

Midón was asked to join NPR for one of its first-ever "Tiny Desk (Home) Concerts" introduced shortly after the pandemic began, which earned him rave reviews for his jazzinfluenced vocal phrasing backed only by his acoustic guitar as accompaniment. Felix Contreras, host of NPR's "Alt.Latino" music program, called Midón "one of the bright spots on our musical landscape and even more so at this moment."

For tickets (pay-what-you-can) or more information, visit: www.hammertheatre.com.

the doctor unless it's an emergency; I can't even think of a time when any woman in my family has gone to the doctor. Unaware of the Alzheimer's Association and other local support services, she struggled to care for her mother. She told me repeatedly none of her efforts felt as if she was doing enough. The stress of caregiving made her depressed, which isn't something we discuss in Latin culture.

Latinx disparities in healthcare greatly affect our access to timely dementia diagnosis and quality care. According to the Alzheimer's Association, one-third of Hispanics report experiencing discrimination when seeking health care services. Policymakers need to do more to support Latinx dementia caregivers like my grandmother.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act (S.56/ H.R.1474) would help, by providing grants to expand support services for unpaid caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Through this bill, community organizations that are already known and trusted in the Latinx community, such as community health centers, could get funding to provide desperately needed support services to Latinx caregivers.

Please join me in asking Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Senators Padilla and Feinstein to co-sponsor the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act.



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Children's Discovery Museum phased reopening: April 2

fter a 13-month closure of the museum's inside, Chil-Adren's Discovery Museum of San Jose will joyfully open the iconic 52,000 square foot purple building Friday, April 2.

After successfully operating the outdoor space, Bill's Backyard, for several months in 2020 and 2021, Children's Discovery Museum will open the interior with exhibit and space modifications and two play sessions per day every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

This latest phase of reopening is in accordance with the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

#PURPLEPLAYDAYS

All visitors are encouraged to celebrate the reopening and 30 years of Purple Play by wearing purple to the museum during the month of April. The museum asks the community to support the importance of play to children's healthy development by wearing and sharing purple. The Circle of Palms, Post Street and the San Jose Civic in downtown San Jose will be lit up



in purple, courtesy of San Jose Downtown Association and Team San Jose. All purple-inspired photos and videos should tag #purpleplaydays on social media to celebrate this grand reopening.

"We've been waiting and preparing for this incredible moment," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "It is gratifying that as a county we have made tremendous progress and are now at a point in the pandemic where we can safely reopen the inside. So many families have expressed tremendous appreciation for our ability to successfully reopen Bill's Backyard and they are eagerly awaiting to visit their favorite spaces inside. But there are some exhibits we just can't open yet; however, we've worked hard to figure out how to safely open many of the favorites like Waterways, the Rainbow Market, and Bubbles, which we moved outside," added Jennings.

To prioritize visitor and staff safety, protocols have been put in place that meet and often exceed the county's mandates. The museum will initially open with 25% capacity and will grow to 50% over time and in

The project had its champion in

learning from home but didn't have adequate tools," explained, who enlisted the County Office of Education (SCCOE) to scope out the project.

Mohammed Shakouri, who directs Joint Venture's broadband efforts, installed the fixed wireless system along with CUSD staff and corporate partners supporting the pilot project. The pilot program now serves 100 students.

Though the County and the SCCOE had a portion of the required funds, the shortfall was generously provided by Lucile Packard Children's Health who came spontaaccordance with the county guidelines. Other protocols include online reservations for contactless ticketing, plexiglass shields at admissions for staff and visitors, a mask-requirement for anyone age two or older, and additional hand sanitizers.

\$2 admission for those who qualify

During the phased reopening, the museum remains committed to equity and inclusion with the continuation of the Museums for All program. This national initiative provides all families the opportunity to visit regardless of ability to pay. Admission is only \$2 per person (regular ticket price is \$15) with the presentation of an electronic benefit card or other specific documentation.

TICKET INFORMATION: Reservations are required for the two play sessions per day: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:00 p.m., with an hour cleaning break between sessions. Ticket prices for the museum are \$15 per child or adult and seniors are \$14. Museum members are free.

For ticket reservations or to make a donation, visit: www.cdm.org

Leland High School Girls Field Hockey Team sets fundraising goal: \$8000

Leland High School's Girls Field Hockey Team has recently set a fundraising goal of \$8000.

Funds raised will ensure that Leland student athletes will have everything they need to make the

most of the season. Funds raised will aid in purchasing new safety equipment, training equipment and other pertinent expenses.

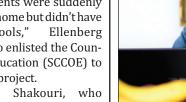
COVID-19 has impacted the team in various ways. Fundraising now. more than ever, is extremely vital for the success of the Girls Field Hockey Team's program.

To donate, visit: fundraiser/ a7bdxk6mnr4dxuum

Joint Venture, Santa Clara County, bridge digital divide

Joint Venture's Community Broadband Initiative has built a fixed wireless system using Citizen's Broadband Radio Service (CBRS), to connect students in Campbell Union School District (CUSD) to remote learning.





neously forward when the project was presented at a Joint Venture board meeting.

"This project matches genuine need with technology and resources," Ellenberg said. "And that is one of Joint Venture's strengths."

Location: Almaden Neighborhood Church Address: 19550 McKean Rd, San Jose-95120 Date: April 12th - April 16th Morning Camp: 9AM - 12PM Afternoon Camp: 1PM - 4PM To register, visit https://bit.ly/3r0j6Xc or visit www.snapology.com/location/losgatos

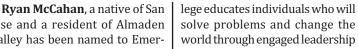
Ryan McCahan of Almaden Valley named to Emerson College Dean's List for Fall 2020

Jose and a resident of Almaden Valley has been named to Emerson College's Dean's

List for the Fall 2020 semester McCahan is major-

ing in Communication Studies and is a member of the Class of 2021. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Based in Boston, Emerson Col- | launching this fall in Paris.



in communication and the arts. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Glob-

al Portals, with the first program



Study shows readers have high confidence in local media during pandemic

By Cindy Long Special to the Times he COVID-19 Societal Impact Project," a study conducted by The Whitman Insight Strategies Initiative and Creative Circle Media Solutions, examined how the global pandemic has affected the feelings and emotions of local

media consumers. Respondents conveyed they have a higher trust in local news for information about COVID-19 compared to national cable news and social media channels.

"People are starved for content and connections," said Bernard Whitman, president and founder of Whitman Insight Strategies, a strategic consulting firm that conducts polls and market research to advise corporations, political leaders and issue-advocacy organizations. "That's why community media have so much to gain. You are already part of the community and people feel like they know you or they should know you."

Additional findings show readers are fearful, leading them to crave credible, local information to stay connected with their communities.

"The good news about our research is that local and community media are trusted at a much higher level than national media," said Bill Ostendorf, president and founder of Creative Circle Media Solutions. "We keep seeing polls that give media a low ranking. In this survey, 'the media' got a 52% trust rating but local media earned a trust rating of 82%.

The study shows 63% of respondents feel afraid. In some cases, they are afraid for the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones. Others are worried about their careers and job security. These reasons, and more, are why consumers seek reliable information from local media.

To fill voids for local publishers, Family Features offered a vast amount of content on its editors' site. A special section for COVID-19 content was added early in the pandemic with topics including wearing masks, working from home, going back to school safely and more. Editors also sought

Additional findings show readers are fearful, leading them to crave credible, local information to stay connected with their communities. our eye-catching food and recipe content to give their readers tips for cooking at home. As the pandemic progressed over time, travel articles have started to come back showing readers how to travel safely or simply enjoy staycations. Even pets have been addressed with content showing how to adopt or live with your pet during a pandemic.

"We have an opportunity to provide new

kinds of content," Ostendorf said. "Better content. If we create more engaging content now, we can change the way they view newspapers and how they value us."

Editor's note: Cindy Long is Family Features' Media Relations Manager. She works with a network of more than 10,000 editors to help fill the food, lifestyle and home and garden sections of their newspapers, magazines and websites.





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homeownership By Neil Collins CEO, Santa Clara County Association of Realtors

benefits of

Unlocking the

n my past articles, I have focused on the state of the real estate market in the South Bay with topics such as future trends, economic impacts and housing inventory. It is no secret that the

This begs the question: What is driving this continued demand in one of the most expensive markets in the country?

home ownership market is red hot

right now, due to low inventory and incredibly high demand. Median

home prices in Santa Clara County

oftentimes homes are selling for well

above asking price. This is due to

several reasons, most notably the

fact that home inventory levels are

so low — Santa Clara County cur-

rently only has 677 single-family

When homes are priced well, they are receiving multiple offers, and

are at an all-time high.

homes on the market.

It all comes down to the benefits of being a homeowner.

As Johnny Khamis touched on in his recent op-ed, homeownership allows you to build equity through your home mortgage, creating financial stability and freedom. It sounds backwards at first, given that you will be paying off a mortgage for several decades, but homeownership is one of the safest ways to achieve long-term financial security and independence.

Home equity is built over time as your property appreciates in value and the life of your mortgage decreases. Looking at data from the last several decades, we've seen annual appreciation at roughly 3-4% nationwide and a much higher number when we drill down at Silicon Valley. As you pay down your mortgage principal every month, you are actually consolidating debt and creating a more stable financial future for yourself. As your earning potential increases annually, your mortgage typically stays fixed.

This is not the case if you are renting property. There is a very high likelihood that rent increases could outpace your wage increases. You simply have no control over it.

The median duration of ownership on a primary residence in the San Jose metropolitan area is 14 years, higher than the national average of 13 years. Compare that to the national average of renting, which is 3 years for a single-family home and only 2.5 years for an apartment. Homeownership creates a stronger neighborhood connection and an interactive community. It is only human nature for people to have a stronger tie and sense of pride to something owned as opposed to rented or borrowed.

Housing stability and quality have been proven to directly correlate to the health of people, especially children, along with better educational opportunities and results for them. Poor housing quality and instability can lead to increased stress, depression, anxiety and aggression. Long-term housing and subsequent school stability leads to a better learning environment, higher attendance rates, better grades and a greater likelihood to participate in extracurricular activities.

Homeownership will also help See REAL ESTATE, page 13

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Times **News**

Adopt-A-Bench Public Art Project unveiled by Youth Commission

Valley Water has announced the completion of the pilot Adopt-A-Bench project.

Two decades ago, Valley Water installed nearly 200 interpretive benches throughout Santa Clara County. Recently, the Valley Water Youth Commission worked alongside Paul J. Gonzalez, a San Jose artist and muralist, to repurpose and revitalize seven of these benches as part of a pilot program.

The revitalized benches have artwork that depict scenes of environmental stewardship, highlighting the importance of protecting plants and wildlife. These seven revitalized public art benches are along Uvas Creek in Gilroy, Saratoga Creek in



Santa Clara, Berryessa Creek in Milpitas, Los Alamitos Creek and Penitencia Creek in San Jose, Stevens Creek in Cupertino, and Permanente Creek in Los Altos.

"It is important for Valley Water to fulfill our role as a good neighbor to take responsible care of our creeks and waterways and create a better, more sustainable community," said Board of Directors Chair Tony Estremera.

Youth Commissioner Elise Mullen added, "I think this project did a fantastic job of combining art and interesting information about the local flora and fauna surrounding each of these benches."

A live-stream virtual event will be held to celebrate the completion of the seven public art benches in Santa Clara County.



Real Estate

Continued from page 10 build generational wealth and a brighter financial future for all including low-income families. Nationwide the average homeowner's net worth is over 40 times greater than renters. A home purchase is an investment in your future and a catalyst to greater financial stability and freedom.

As I have said before, the most effective way to tackle the equity imbalances that we face today is through the

expansion of homeownership opportunities. Some argue that homeownership is unattainable. They say that it is not the solution, but the cause of the problem. I am here to dispel this misconception. On average rent prices increase 4% annually nationwide and even more in metropolitan areas like San Jose. Over time, monthly mortgage payments can often end up being cheaper than monthly rent payments.

Expensive down payments are often the largest hurdle to homeownership, but several programs exist to offer support. The Federal Housing Administration and the California Housing Finance Agency offer mortgages that require minimal down payments. Locally, the Empower Homebuyers SCC Program administered by Housing Trust Silicon Valley allows first-time homebuyers to purchase a house with only a 3% down payment.

Lastly, there are affordable homes in our area. MLSListings currently has 109 active listings of single-family homes, condos or town-



the equity imbalances that we Photo courtesy of Santa Clara County Association of Realtors.

homes in Santa Clara County that are under \$600,000. Paired with down-payment assistance, the goal of homeownership is very attainable.

Homeownership is an important tool for driving equity that lifts up our entire community. The National Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors and the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors are committed to increasing homeownership rates to decrease the growing wealth gaps in our communities. Property ownership is an important tool to build generational wealth and create a more equitable society.

Neil Collins is CEO of the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, a trade association representing more than 6,000 real estate professionals in Santa Clara County and surrounding areas. His column appears every fourth Thursday of the month in the Times Community Newspapers and Article courtesy of San José Spotlight. Contact Neil at neil@sccaor.com or follow @neilvcollins on Twitter.

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Black/African American History comes alive at Evergreen Valley College

Oral History offers "Whole New Concept" of learning By Lessie James, Director of J.E.W.L. and Kevin Larsen, Editor

J.E.W.L. (Joe, Emily, Wilson and Leona) is a non-profit organization. The non-profit's extensive collection provides monthly Black/ African American history events, and recently, the organization has incorporated ZOOM.

Oral Histories provide first-hand knowledge, and Leslie James, Director of J.E.W.L and others wanted to bring past events alive by using a "Whole New Concept," of presenting history with speakers.

J.E.W.L first started holding important historical oral history events at Evergreen Valley College in 2009, with the most recent presentation held February 17, 2021. Let me tell you about our nonprofit organization and what we do to promote Black/African American History in our world. Evergreen Valley College helps keep Black/African American History alive

The non-profit J.E.W.L pays homage to Black/African American History in collaboration with Evergreen Valley College. The objective of the organization is to provide an exploration to help keep Black/American History alive; helping all students to truly understand the truths that lie in their heritage.

J.E.W.L currently operates separately and is housed at Evergreen Valley College, and has established collaborative efforts with the San José-Evergreen Community College District and acknowledges the college's innovative working relationship with J.E.W.L to expand the understanding of Black/African American History throughout the world. Special thanks to President of Evergreen Valley College, Tamneil Gilkerson, Technology Advisor Sean Dickerson and Intern Gene Daniels.

Black/African American Museum

The Oral History Learning Institute/Museum is the result of research conducted by history, psychology, and sociology experts, as well as lay concerned citizens, who take seriously the issue of Black/African Americans' social progress in the U.S. As this progress largely involves understanding past social practices, the research performed revealed not only a need, but also desperation to avoid a total disconnect between the Black/African American and his unique social history. Likewise at issue in presenting these materials is not only the bare root African past, but its legacy of struggles, accomplishment, pride, and an essential everlasting social contribution to American society. The Institute/ Museum collects as well as preserves past and present histories, provides access to that information by way of teleconferences, SKYPE, events, free admission to and viewing of the Institute/Museum, tours, and Internships, which will also provide employment skills; excellent for research. A whole new concept

A nonprofit organization, J.E.W.L., and a community college operating separately yet collaboratively says to the world; Together we stand in an effort to promote education, social justice, equity, awareness, economic improvement, pride, empowerment and humanity.

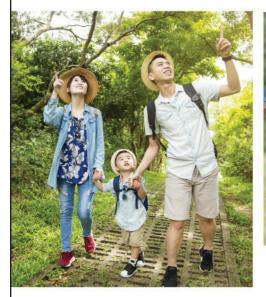
J.E.W.L.'s objective

J.E.W.L's endeavor is to encourage the research, study, and preservation of the rich and extensive Black/ African American history and its place in World History. A major goal is to make visible hidden and/or forgotten histories regarding Black/African Americans.

J.E.W.L also provides information on "The First of Anyone" with focus on Black/African Americans who were, even under oppression/slavery and Jim Crow laws, the first of anyone to discover, develop, create, perform in most Fields of STEM and STREAMM long before the words

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* All proceeds are donated back to the community as grants to non-profit organizations, local schools, and as merit-based scholarships for local students.



became popular. (The second M is for Medicine).

Recap of the current annual 'Oral History' event

The J.E.W.L event began with the music and song 'Mama Africa' by Peter Tosh. This song represents the fact that Africa is truly the "Mother Country" of the world. This musical group set the tone and enlightened all of the importance of African music and its profound influence in America and around the world. If you have a chance, go to YouTube and listen. The beautiful songs have a message about the Black/African American culture woven in their lyrics and sound.

The general public is welcome free of charge to all of our events, so just send an email asking to be informed of upcoming events. Here are the presenters and the important information they contributed.

Learning no longer confined to the classroom

David Hendricks is a historian at Evergreen Valley College and fulltime faculty member. He earned his Ph.D. in American History at UC Davis in 1998 and worked with historians such as Clarence Walker. Ruth Rosen. Roland Marchand, and Michael Smith. Currently he teaches the American History, African American History and American Women's History courses. He states that the J.E.W.L. institute: "Does great work and had been an extraordinary resource for the campus and our students. "I had the privilege of being on the committee that recommended that IEWL be granted space on the EVC campus. It is very unusual for a community college to have an independent institute for research and social justice. Generally, such organizations partner with universities, so we are very privileged to host this partnership.

Hendricks continues, "JEWL provides a unique resource for our students. Ms. James works closely with many of our students to promote social justice. She also has been generous with allowing students to access the Institute's library resources, which include numerous rare titles. In addition, the Institute hosts events that bring to campus some extraordinary speakers, including members of the Black Panther Party, judges, academics, authors, and others. The events that JEWL hosts provide an opportunity for EVC students to engage with a diverse array of perspectives and expertise, which helps illustrate that learning is not confined to the classroom. The Institute also has a museum on campus, and Ms. James has been very generous with her time by acting as a guide to students who visit it. While I am typically an enthusiastic audience member for the Institute's events, on occasion Ms. James will ask me to highlight a particular historical topic. In recent meetings, she asked that I give See HISTORY, page 17

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High School sophomore boosts recycling efforts

25,000 Tennis balls recycled thus far equivalent to 150K plastic bottles!

By William Bellou Publisher

itali Jain, a sophomore, founded 'Evergreen Tennis' to increase community engagement on boosting the rate at which we recycle tennis balls.

'Evergreen Tennis', a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, collects and recycles an item whose recycling process is unbeknownst to a majority of citizens: tennis balls.

"When most people think about recycling, paper and plastics come to mind," said Jain. "However, many common items that traditionally end up in landfills are recyclable in unconventional ways."

Jain, who has been playing tennis for more than six years, said she's concerned about the countless number of balls that are thrown away.

'Players frequently purchase tennis balls in bulk because the ball quality deteriorates after only a few sessions of play," said Jain. "With the growing popularity of tennis in our local area, I knew I could not stand by as vast amounts of balls polluted our landfills, hurting our environment."

Throughout her research, Jain said she was astonished by the magnitude of the recycling issue. More than 125 million tennis balls are thrown away each year in the U.S. alone, and more than 350 million worldwide.

Each tennis ball takes more than 400 years to decompose, nearly the same as plastic water bottles. In terms of weight, the amount of tennis balls thrown away annually equates to approximately 750 million plastic water bottles.

"It's crazy how this problem is so massive, yet naturally overlooked due to the obscurity and lack of emphasis," explained Jain.

25,000 tennis balls recycled

'Evergreen Tennis' was founded to raise awareness regarding recycling by implementing an accessible and effortless option

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for players to recycle their tennis balls. The nonprofit provides bins at various courts free of cost to the community. The tennis balls are collected and sent for shipping where they can be recycled into material for building tennis courts. So far, Evergreen Tennis has recycled more than 25,000 tennis balls, which is equivalent to recycling 150,000 plastic bottles!

Challenges overcome

'Evergreen Tennis' faced its first challenge right from the beginning. While the organization was founded in January 2020 and set to launch its operations, it was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, as numerous Bay Area tennis facilities were closed. However, 'Evergreen Tennis' bounced back and is currently operating in several areas including Evergreen, Los Gatos, and Fremont. The Director of Club Partnering with Evergreen Tennis recently remarked, "This is a great initiative for the environment, and I'm so happy to support it."

Filling a need

The City of San Jose and other cities across the Bay Area currently do not provide this type of ball recycling and that's where 'Evergreen Tennis' fills in the institutional gap needed to mitigate the climate crisis. The ongoing climate fires and other disasters have especially been a call to action. Jain said she is hopeful that the initiative inspires communities to look to make a difference no matter how small it seems.

"All these instances of social entrepreneurship come together and really can make change," said Jain. "It ripples throughout our communities.'

Expansion is a very feasible and a primary goal for 'Evergreen Tennis,' as there are currently more than 350 courts in San Jose and thousands of courts across the Bay Area.

The nonprofit is looking for passionate youth volunteers who align with its mission of saving the environment. To help drive this environmental cause, those with the resources are encouraged to donate to 'Evergreen Tennis' at www.evergreentennis.org



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Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. **Sara Cody** urged people to stay vigilant. *File photo.*

Santa Clara County moves to orange tier, expanding indoor dining and retail

By Carly Wipf

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight anta Clara County has moved into the less-restrictive orange tier of the state's reopening plan, removing capacity limits for retailers and doubling capacity for indoor dining and other businesses.

The county has been in the red zone since March 2.

Local health officials say COVID-19 cases are steadily falling, which means restaurants, movie theaters, amusement parks, churches and gyms can expand their capacity — with limitations.

Under the new orange tier, indoor dining can now resume at a 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer, doubling capacity from the 25% cap previously allowed. Retail and malls can open to full capacity while maintaining social distancing rules.

Gyms and fitness centers can expand to 25% capacity with pools reopening, up from 10% in the red tier. Churches can hold service at 50% capacity indoors, which is double what was allowed in the previous tier.

Movie theaters can open at a max of 50% capacity or 200 people, also doubling in capacity.

Family entertainment centers, such as bowling alleys, can open indoors at 25% capacity with modifications for areas of increased risk of proximity. Zoos, museums and aquariums can also operate at a max of 50% indoor capacity, double what was allowed in the red tier.

All schools are able to open for in-person instruction in the red, orange or yellow tiers.

Both hair salons and nail salons can operate indoors with modifications in all tiers. There are no capacity limits. County health officials warn these activities are still risky. Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County's director of public health, urges residents to stay outdoors, remain six feet apart, wear a mask, work from home and get a COVID-19 vaccine when possible.

"Advancement to the Orange Tier reflects the patience and persistence of the whole community in Santa Clara County," Cody said. "We are close to a significant increase in vaccine supplies, but until those doses are in arms, we must protect each other against another surge."

Vaccine eligibility recently expanded across the state for individuals 16 and older with chronic health conditions. Other qualifying individuals include cancer patients, those with stage 4 or above chronic kidney disease, people with down syndrome, people who are pregnant, individuals with sickle cell disease, those with chronic pulmonary disease that are oxygen dependent, organ-transplant recipients and others.

Even as vaccines make their way into the arms of residents, Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, the county's vaccine officer, said the region is still short on supply and residents should remain cautious, given new-found variants of COVID-19.

"We face many challenges because of vaccine scarcity, but we will soon have much greater supply of vaccines coming our way," Fenstersheib said. "We are doing everything we can to ensure that our community has access to the vaccines as quickly and conveniently as possible, and we continue to invest in expansive outreach efforts in our hardest-hit communities."

Contact Carly Wipf at carly@sanjosespotlight.com or follow @CarlyChristineW on Twitter.

History

Continued from page 14 some historical perspective on California's experience with slavery. In recent years, a number of researchers have begun to highlight that while California was a free state, that its history with slavery was more complex. In fact, many early California politicians came from the south-

ern states and helped to influence California's sympathy for slave holders."

California and slavery in the 1880's

Hendricks states, "While my talk did not have a formal title, if it were to have one, it would be: "Sympathy for the Slave Owner: Slavery in California in the 1850s." I wanted to highlight how even though California entered the United States as a free state in which slavery was illegal, that the state openly tolerated slavery and supported the interests of slave holders during its early history as a State. While a 'free state' in name, it operated functionally as a slave state. In my talk, I highlighted the case of Carter Perkins, Robert Perkins, and Sandy Jones. They were brought as slaves to California during the Gold Rush in 1849. Their owner abandoned them and returned to Mississippi with the agreement that after 6 more months of work that they would be free as of November 1851. After that point, the three men operated a lucrative business selling mining supplies, living as free men. Once California became a state, it passed a Fugitive Slave Law in 1852 that allowed people who were brought to California prior to statehood as slaves to be claimed as property. Their former owner claimed the three men as property and a California court ordered the men to be detained and shipped to Mississippi. In this case, we see the California legislature and courts supporting slavery and the interests of slave owners, despite slavery's illegality in the State." Mr. Hendricks pres-



entation drew from documents."

Hendricks pointed out that the ACLU website has a number of stories and links to legal resources, including laws and court cases and decisions that influenced California's treatment of enslaved people. For instance, California enacted its own Fugitive Slave Law in 1852 that recognized the rights of slave owners in retrieving enslaved people from California. The way the law was written, it also endangered free African Americans who could illegally be claimed as slaves. While California was officially a free state, slavery was tolerated and legally sanctioned for a time in the state's early history. Even though slavery was technically illegal, there were announcements for slave sales and auctions in California newspapers.

Songs with a historical message

Presenter: Pastor Claudel Huey, retired, a member of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens and Organizations, which fights and deals with Social Justice Issues, a Veteran and singer, a supporter of J.E.W.L. He presented songs which enlightened and gave an uplifting message with regard to Black/African American history in the world around us. His songs presented a message of the struggle from Slavery all the way to the Civil Rights movement.

Letter from MLK in Birmingham Jail Presenter: Professor Anthony Pino discussed "A Letter From A Birmingham Jail" written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., while he was in jail. See HISTORY, page 19

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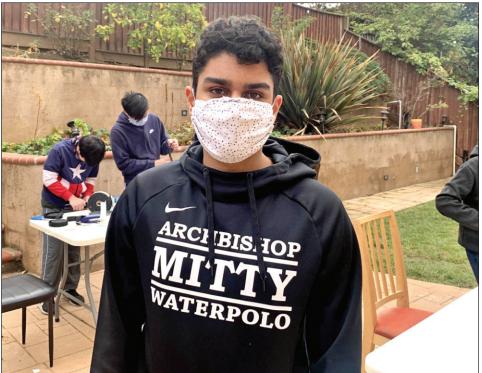




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Rahil Kapadia, an Evergreen Valley resident and Boy Scout with Troop 251, has built more than 750 face shields for his recent Eagle Scout project and related volunteering activities. He is currently a sophomore at Archbishop Mitty High School.

Local Scout builds face shields for medical facility, first responders

B oy Scout Rahil Kapadia with Troop 251 has built more than 750 face shields for his recent Eagle Scout project and related volunteering activities.

As the COVID pandemic spread last year, Rahil was inspired to take action. He found that there was a severe shortage of face shields at various medical facilities.

According to the CDC, face shields provide an extra layer of protection over and above a face mask. This extra protection is extremely valuable for those in the medical profession.

Using simple materials from the Home Depot, Office Depot, and Joann Fabrics, Rahil began building his first face shields. Soon, more than 500 face shields were built through an organization he started called Shields Against Corona. Rahil, who serves as president of the organization, said that 100% of donated funds are used exclusively to build face shields.

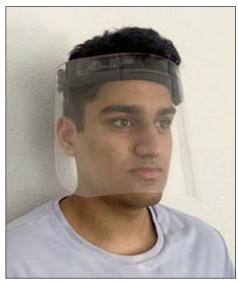
After the successful project undertaken by his organization, Rahil decided to build additional ones as part of his Eagle Scout project.

One of the organizations Rahil was working with, Momentum for Mental Health in San Jose, told Rahil that their frontline workers visit at-risk members of the community, including seniors, at their homes to provide a range of mental health and other services. A lack of face shields put both the workers and the patients at risk. Convinced that he needed to help, Rahil decided to rally his Boy Scout troop to take action. Members of the Troop agreed that Rahil could undertake this activity as part of his Eagle Project. After raising nearly \$1,000 through friends and family and a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, Rahil invited volunteer Scouts to a socially distanced face shield making event.

With the materials already purchased, Rahil kicked off the Boy Scouts volunteer event with training on how to make the face shields and a discussion about safety — both from the cutting equipment and also Covid. The event was a success. In just 2-3 hours, seven volunteers constructed more than 250 face shields. Rahil delivered the face shields to a grateful staff member at Momentum for Health.

While many first responders and senior citizens are getting vaccinated, the need for a continuous supply of face shields is vitally important, so Rahil has pledged to continue to devote his time to building more shields to protect people from getting infected during the pandemic.

Editor's note: If you would like to volunteer or donate to the Shields Against Corona, visit: rahilkapadia007.wixsite.com/shieldsagainstcorona





History

Continued from page 17

Professor Pino explained the content of, reason for, the letter and states that the letter is the most prolific piece of literature that exist today. This letter is important in the struggle but rarely discussed or taught. Usually the "Dream" speech is discussed. **New changes in Juvenile Justice law**

Presenter: Nisreen Baroudi Younis, J.D., is the Supervising Attorney of the Juvenile Division at the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office in San Jose, California. She's been with the Public Defender's Office since 2004. A first-generation immigrant from Damascus, Syria, Nisreen grew up in San Jose, California, attending Quimby Oak Jr. High and Silver Creek High School in Evergreen Valley. She received her BA from U.C. Davis, and her law degree from McGeorge School of Law. Nisreen works closely with other juvenile justice advocates, community members, and juvenile justice stakeholders on disproportionality in the juvenile system as well as ending the schoolto-prison pipeline.

Younis states, "I met Ms. James and other members of J.E.W.L. back in late 2015 when I became the Juvenile Supervisor for my office. Since that time, I've either attended or presented at their annual M.L.K. Ir. Breakfasts or presented at their request at various events involving legal updates. With respect to the recent presentation, I was asked to provide a new laws update covering mostly statutes that went into effect in January of this year. The presentation was well received, and I was able to cover a lot of material including the Racial Justice Act, the elimination of excessive fines and fees, the expansion of the juvenile Miranda law (SB203) to include 16 and 17 year olds, the pending closure of DJJ (youth state prison), changes in record sealing procedures, and other issues.'

The Enslaved from Africa to Virgina 1619

Presenter: Sociologist Benjamin Bowser, PhD., Two key topics were presented in "The Enslaved from Africa to Virginia 1619." The Standard set in Santa Clara County against the N-Word, Resolution/See book "Gangster Rap and its Social Costs." Also he presented insights on the damages done by slavery and the "N" word in harming Black/African Americans and society as a whole.

Athletes participation in the struggle Presenter: Millard Hampton, renowned legendary Track "N" Field Olympic gold medalist, Hall of Fame, business man, technology business owner, former African American newspaper founder/ editor, law enforcement, educator. Millard's experiences as a track star and as a Black/African American male were presented. Hampton presented how many athletes participated in the struggle for human rights and they did not just play ball, football, baseball, all of it. Athletes were rarely recognized as they stood up for equality and justice. He also presented his experiences. The participation of many athletes for change helped shape our understanding of equality.

The Good Brothers-Speed City

Presenter: Robert (Bobby) Poynter; Legendary Coach, Track N Field runner, World Renowned Track N Field runner spoke about the The Good Brothers-Speed City, and what they did for San Jose State University as Black/African American Athletes and what they did for Civil and Human Rights. In addition, he presented the enlightening history of the athletes in their participation and the struggle which helped put San Jose State University on the map. Coach Pointer also presented first-hand knowledge of the brother of Jackie Robinson, Mack Robinson, who greatly participated in the struggle.

Warren, Pete, Miller, PhD.

He presented on Emmett Till, a childhood friend and classmate.

Curt Floyd's struggle to win free agency Presenter: Walt Roberts,NFL, retired player presented how Curt Floyd led the struggle for all professional athletes to gain their right to be a free agent (see book, "A Well Paid Slave").

The meaning/difference between slave, spirituals, hymns and gospel songs

Presenter: Veronica Talton an Alum Rock Union Schools performing arts educator and arts education consultant provides training for students and organizations from a racial justice lens with an emphasis on social emotional learning. Having taught public school in rural and urban settings for over 25 years, Veronica specializes in developing creativity and promoting selfexpression in youth and adults. Her recent presentation to the J.E.W.L., Inc community was on the evolution of African American music. Topics explored were African slave's work songs, Negro spirituals and gospel music/hymns. The three part series of presentations trace the history of African music and sound to modern musical genres such as gospel, blues, jazz and rap showcasing visuals and audio samples. In addition, Veronica is a singer/songwriter and enjoys traveling, researching Black History and musical theater.

Black/African Americans first of anyone to create in the field of STEM to STREAMM

Presenter: Odila Peper graduated in Brazil. She spoke on the topic: "The First of Anyone to discover, create, develop, produce in the field of STEM to STREAMM," that happen to be African American. Even during Oppression/slaver and Jim Crow, African Americans are the First in most Fields of Medicine, Science, Technology and other. For example, Dr. Lewis Thompkins Wright, first to create in the field of medicine terramycin and aureomycin both used today. **Student Intern assists all in the J.E.W.L. organization**

Student Gene Daniels, (intern at J.E.W.L.) states, "I'm a History major and I have learned a lot there (J.E.W.L.) as well for example, Hanable's military campaign and l am a veteran (US ARMY) and l graduated from EVC and I am currently a student at SJSU working on my BA degree in History.

J.E.W.L. thanks everyone who makes our organization possible. This includes Evergreen Valley College, the District, Chancellor Byron Breland, and all speakers and volunteers.

If you would like to attend J.E.W.L. free events or get more information on Black/African American history, please send an email to: Lessie James, Director of J.E.W.L. at lessie.james@ evc.edu.



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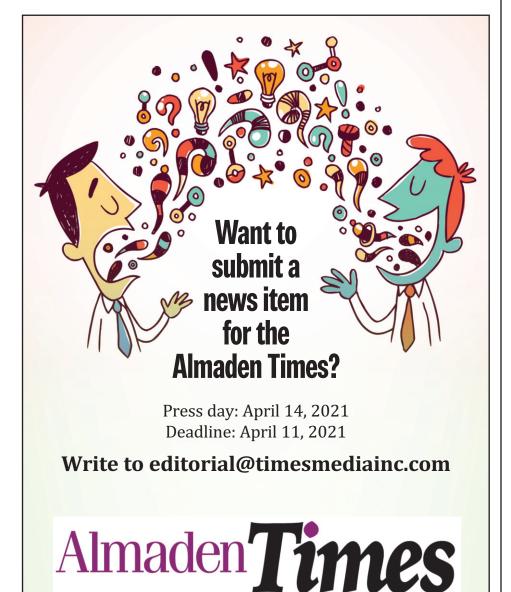
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Emilia Pollifrone proudly holds her third place ribbon in the elementary school category with the project: What causes erosion?

Science Fair

Continued from page 1 people to show all of their projects."

Nethra Srinivasan expresses gratitude to participants. "I want to thank all the students," Srinivasan said. "I know the school year has been so different with the pandemic and distance learning. For kids to accomplish a science project and enter it into the fair, I'm really proud of everyone that participated."

The Leland Science Club gratefully acknowledges the teachers, schools, and parents that support the students in their science fair explorations. Srinivasan added, "We are very grateful to the volunteers and judges for lending their time and expertise to students. The club's goal is to spread the love for STEM through the Leland Science Fair by reaching even more students in the years to follow."



Abhay Dharnidharka holds his third place ribbon in the high school division with the project: Machine Learning to Treat Pancreatic Cancer.



Yug Jain with his first place award in the elementary school category for his project: Jet on a straw.

Duo

Continued from page 1

"We thought we may have a cool story to share as we hit the one year mark of quarantine," Case said. "Doug and I found each other later in life and found that we have a similar passion in music. We both laughed at how funny it is that it only took a global pandemic to help us figure out what we wanted to do when we grew up LOL! Who knew!"

"Since Covid-19 has put a damper on public performances, we focused our time on recording, producing and releasing our first album 'What I Wish For Us' in November of last year and followed up with a single, 'A Christmas Moon,' in December," Doug said.

Inspired by Tzuke and Bofill

Lynn was raised on musicals and developed a thrilling and emotional connection to songs, purchasing her first 45' as a young girl. Inspired by female artists such as Judy Tzuke and Angela Bofill, Lynn had an early awareness of the lack of representation of female creators in the music industry stating, "It was hard to find women artists when I was younger, so they (Judy Tzuke, Angela Bofill) were on my player over and over." It wasn't until she was 40 that she decided to sing in public and at 50 write her first songs.





1957 Hit Record

Doug, an early Apple pioneer, grew up inspired by his father, who had a hit record in 1957 and owned a chain of music studios that Doug would later teach at with his mother. While incredibly proficient, music was more of an extracurricular activity for Doug. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he spent 18 years as a Naval Officer which led him to the doors of Apple, working with Steve Jobs. Later he accepted a position at Google and retired in 2013.

Lynn and Doug are creating a legacy, not afraid of dreaming big, and putting themselves out there while not trying to fit someone else's mold. As for the future, they would love to pen or co-

pen tracks for bigger artists. If anything is for certain, *Second Story Duo* can steer their empire in whatever direction they choose.

Second Story Duo is a perfect example of sharing wisdom through song, giving you the freedom to feel something.

To learn more about *Second Story Duo*, visit their website: www.secondstoryduo.rocks email: secondstoryduo@icloud.com

Editor's note: Doug Bloomquist's father's hit song in 1957 was called "Echo, Echo, Echo" selling more than 700,000 copies. His album the following year was called "Crazy Rhythm," all released under his professional name Don Lee.

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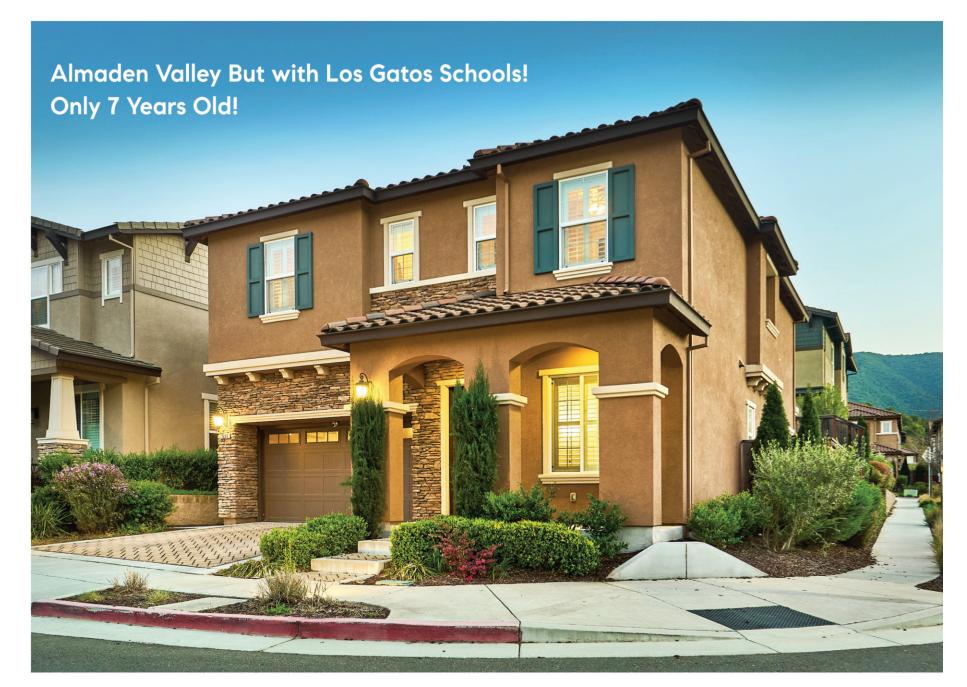
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ALMADEN TIMES APRIL 2 – APRIL 15, 2021 PAGE 23





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