

Gift to students:
Sujana Mukund
moves from
engineer to educator
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Finding comfort
ESUHSD selects *Care Solace* to
expand access to community
mental health care – **SEE PAGE 11**

Happy Hollow turns
60, hosts birthday
party for the beloved
Danny the Dragon
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APRIL 9 – APRIL 22, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 8

EvergreenTimes

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Evergreen School District is reversing a decision to lay off 38 teachers and staff. Photos courtesy of Evergreen School District.

Evergreen School District avoids layoffs due to federal funding and retirement incentive

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Evergreen School District (ESD) determines every year in March, the number of teachers and tenured staff that receive layoff notices.

This year, 38 employees that were scheduled to receive their notices have been given a reprieve due to state and federal funding being sent to the district and a \$2,000 teacher retirement incentive.

With 20 teacher retirement notifications received so far and additional funding to address learning loss from state and federal governments, ESD will bring back all employees who received notices based on the needs of the ESD.

"I'm very happy that we are re-



scinding all layoff notices pending board approval," said Emy Flores, Superintendent, Evergreen School District. "Laying off teachers is always a difficult decision in any school district. Unfortunately, the school district is in declining enrollment and has been in declining enrollment for over five years, which has greatly impacted our budget and staffing needs."

On March 1, the district's school board voted unanimously to move forward with the layoffs in order to reduce spending amid a budget shortfall. Flores acknowledged that at the time the board made its layoff decision, it was not made aware of how much funding to expect from the state and federal governments.

"The board also had a legal obligation to notify teachers by March 15 if there wasn't a position available for the next year due to steeply declining enrollment, which forced the school board's hand due to the pending deadline," Flores said.

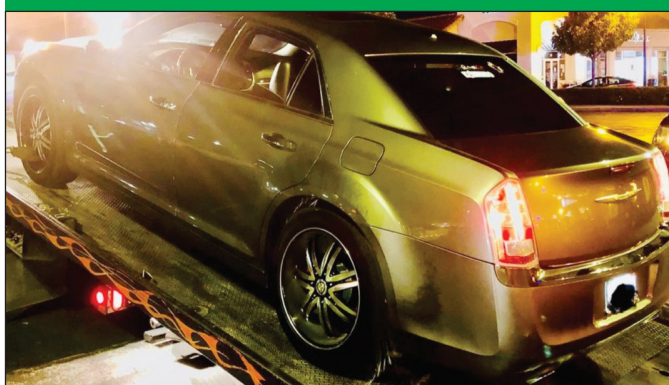
ESD administrators further explained that the decision to lay off teachers was based on the following data points:

- In 2019-2020 we had 10,629 enrolled students and in 2020-21 we have enrolled 9,894 students, a decline of enrollment of 735 students in one year. According to our demographer, the next projections show another decline in enrollment of approximately 608 students.

- This pandemic will likely result in a greater decline due to many families moving out of the area due to joblessness.

See **REPRIEVE**, page 3

SHOW-STOPPERS



San Jose Police seized this car earlier this week after it's driver was involved in illegal racing activity. Photo courtesy of SJPd media relations.

San Jose will draft new law to stop illegal sideshow promoters

By Carly Wipf
Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

Many residents around San Jose may know the sounds of illegal street racing all too well: cars revving, tires screeching and even worse, guns firing.

The San Jose City Council has unanimously approved drafting a new law that seeks to put an end to the chaos before it even starts.

Police data shows people are coming from near and far to participate in San Jose sideshows, which often include dangerous exhibitions of speed, large crowds and violence. The new law will make it illegal to promote or support such events in San Jose on social media or other platforms. The enforcement process and penalties are yet to be determined.

"Over the past few years, one of the things I've seen while living here is six deaths of kids due to exhibition of speed and

illegal street racing," said Aman Diwakar, a resident of South San Jose. "I've seen that the grief that (street racing) can cause, so I urge the city to take whatever precaution they need to take in order to address this."

Dozens of letters of support for the new law flooded in from other concerned residents, who have seen the impacts of street racing in their neighborhood.

Lawmakers also want to increase funding for police to tackle the issue. Burdened by a staff shortage, the San Jose police department is struggling to keep up with the growing sideshow activity. The events can draw crowds of 500 people or more, according to SJPd Capt. Todd Trayer. Officers are working overtime to stop races and impound cars, which draws their energy away from responding to other emergency and medical calls.

While San Jose police have started a racing task force, the

See **SIDESHOWS**, page 2

Indoor event venues to reopen for those with proof of negative COVID-19 test or full vaccination

California will allow indoor venues to host events like concerts, theater and conferences beginning April 15, health officials said.

Many Californians will be able to gather at large indoor events for the first time in more than a year, but in order to attend indoor and outdoor venues, attendees must show proof either of a negative COVID-19 test or a full vaccination.

"I'm hoping that most people will be honest, because vaccines are freely available," said Tomás Aragón, director of the California Department of Public Health. "We anticipate that the majority of people will be able to do this and the barriers will be removed."

The new plan, which starts April 15, follows a similar loosening that kicked in last week, when outdoor sports stadiums, music and art locales and amusement parks got a green light to begin reopening.

Evergreen School District offering new Dual Language Immersion Program

2021-2022 School Year for Kindergarten and 1st Graders

Evergreen School District is offering its new Spanish Dual Language Program for incoming Kindergarten and Grade 1 students this Fall 2021 at Holly Oak Elementary School.

The program will be available to all Evergreen families as a program of choice.

The school district is inviting parents to learn more about the importance of bilingual education, Evergreen's new program and the next steps to enroll their child.

Get more information from the Evergreen School District website: www.eesd.org; or call (408) 270-6800, Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Times **Community News**

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Founders **Nathan Palamuttam** (left) and **Rick Yanashita** (right).

Bellarmine students develops Linkare app for nonprofits to request items they truly need

Students Palamuttam and Yanashita create valuable new app

"Hello students. After careful consultation with our Coronavirus Task Force, and in light of new RECOMMENDATIONS RELEASED BY THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) on mitigation strategies particular to Santa Clara County, we have come to the very difficult decision to close campus to students."

This statement from Bellarmine College Preparatory made 16-year-old Bellarmine student Nathan Palamuttam realize that the coronavirus had officially become a pandemic.

After hearing his high school would be closed, he immediately began to think about what he could do to help others in need, so he started donating food and other items to homeless shelters. However, when he got to the homeless shelter, he saw a wide array of items on a table nearby and started to ask the clerks whether they use all of the items they get. They said they barely use any.

Often donations to non-profits are not exactly what they need

This bothered him as he knew that there were good-hearted people who wanted to donate their items to homeless shelters and nonprofit organizations, but they don't know

the organizations' real needs. Upon further research, while talking to the CEO of Homefirst, Andrea Urton, she said, "Around 80% of the donations that they get are donated to Goodwill." So, he went to work on a solution with his friend and co-founder Rick Yanashita.

YouTube educates Linkare founders in app making

The solution was an app called Linkare, a nonprofit organization that allows other nonprofits to request any items they need, so volunteers know what to donate and drop them at a specified date. Without any prior coding experience, Palamuttam and Yanashita started to watch YouTube video after YouTube video in order to learn Flutter, the framework that is used to develop apps. After recruiting some friends who were interested in helping, the group started the long, tedious development process. After three months and numerous failed prototypes, Linkare was released on August 17, 2020 and can now be found on the Apple and Play stores. Linkare didn't stop there.

After seeing how much work was needed in order to make an app of this scale, they realized that they needed more members, so

See LINKARE, page 14

Sideshows

Continued from page 1

city will look into deploying a special unit dedicated to cracking down on racing either in the police department or at the county level as a task force. Police are looking into using license plate readers to collect data on racers and seize cars.

Last week, San Jose police responded to illegal racing activity at Capitol Expressway and Tully Road. SJPd seized one vehicle for 30 days and an individual was arrested nearby for striking a police helicopter with a laser.

Earlier this month, San Jose police arrested three people for having firearms at an illegal racing event. SJPd seized five cars and made one arrest for reckless driving.

"This is not low and slow. This is fast. This is dangerous," said Councilmember Maya Esparza, who co-authored the initial proposal along with Councilmember Dev Davis. Esparza on Tuesday read the names of individuals who died while participating in street races. "We're not just protecting the neighborhoods, we're protecting the people that participate in the sideshows."

San Jose's transportation department is looking to make roads less agreeable to

speeding and driving donuts. By May or June, the city will narrow lanes and put half circle islands in five racing hotspots in San Jose, which they hope will slow down cars near major intersections.

San Jose already has a law that makes it illegal to be a sideshow spectator. The crime is a misdemeanor which can lead up to \$1,000 fines. The city still needs to work out the details of how exactly the new promoter law will be enforced.

According to SJPd data, 43% of the people who received citations for watching the shows or reckless driving were from San Jose, while the majority — 57% — were from 44 other cities. Esparza said people know San Jose police are struggling to respond to races, making San Jose an easy target.

Councilmember Pam Foley is ready to kick racers out of town.

"I'm appalled that 57% of the people that citations were issued to are from out of the city. We need to not make it attractive for them to be here," Foley said. "I want the city to be safe on the streets and it isn't right now when it comes to sideshows."

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

Times **Community News****Reprieve***Continued from page 1*

ness and affordability. When we look at a student decline of 608 students we must consider that equals approximately 23 full-time teachers.

• In addition, to support teachers and students, our Board of Trustees approved eliminating combination classes for the 2020-2021 school year, which resulted in the one-year hiring of 15 additional teachers. We are resuming combination classes beginning with the 2021-22 school year and will no longer require these additional teachers.

• Our current budget is directly connected to a budget stabilization plan that addresses a \$12 million dollar shortfall, which is a result of declining enrollment. This budget stabilization plan includes the closure of two schools last year, one more next year, 25% budget cuts across all district departments, and staff furlough days.

"I'm sorry teachers had to face the roller coaster of losing their jobs, then getting them back," said Evergreen Teachers Association union president, Suzanne Lima. "I'm relieved it isn't going to drag on, and the teachers who had been working very hard this year under difficult circumstances are going to get to go to spring break without worrying if they'll have a job next year."

Lima said the district should have issued early retirement offers before deciding to send layoff notices. She had asked the district for months to move forward with its early retirement incentive for teachers.

Flores said years of declining enrollment have hurt the district and it is projected to lose another 500 to 600 students in the next school year. "We've lost 735 students since 2019," Flores said.

According to financials presented at the March

1 meeting, the district projected an ending balance of more than \$29 million for the 2020-2021 school year, \$27 million the following school year, and \$21 million for the 2022-2023 school year. However, the 2020-2021 budget included the release of 15 teachers and did not include \$9 million from AB 86, the state's reopening grant, or \$9 million from the federal American Rescue Plan.

The district projected a \$12 million shortfall before receiving state and federal funding. It cut costs by closing two schools last year and planned to close one next year. It also made 25 percent budget cuts across all district departments along with staff furlough days.

Some of the layoffs affected teachers hired for the current school year when Flores eliminated combination classes during distance learning. Combination classes are when two grades are combined in one classroom. Flores stated, "Combination classes can be a challenge in any year, and even so much more as we saw ourselves moving into a year of distance learning and so many unknowns. As we approached the fall of 2020, I did not feel confident in our ability to meet our students' academic needs in a combination class setting. I also thought that the new realities of distance learning would present even greater challenges for teachers, many of who were still un-proficient in instructional technology."

"You don't want to be overstaffed," Lima said, "but...if we didn't do combination classes for another year, we'd need more teachers. I wish they would have had this conversation before they sent notices out."

Flores said ESD will continue to work and keep its collective bargaining units and community informed about ongoing staffing developments.



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Three injured in shooting near Silver Creek High School and Montgomery Elementary School

On Thursday Evening, March 25, a shooting took place. Two teens and a man were wounded near Silver Creek High School and Montgomery Elementary School. The shootout occurred at Brigadoon Park and was believed to be possible retaliation for a deadly shooting earlier in March, according to police sources. A teen boy, who was seriously injured and originally thought to have life-threatening trauma, has recovered from his injuries. A man and another teen boy were wounded but not as severely. The shooting was reported at the park, located off Daniel Maloney Drive near Montgomery Elementary School and Silver Creek High School. The shooting is believed to have erupted as part of attempted retaliation for a March 6 shooting on Alvin Avenue and Center Ridge Drive, near O.B. Whaley Elementary School, that resulted in the death of 25-year-old Eric Zarate. Contact Robert Salonga at 408-920- 5002 if you can provide any information relating to the shootings.

Absolute Beginner Ballet Course: Apr. 14

The San Jose Dance Theater is offering the first Absolute Beginner Course, a six-week program beginning April 14. The beginner ballet program is being offered via Zoom. Attendees will learn all of the basics to get started with their ballet training for teens 14 and up and adults. The six week course is being offered for \$99 and will run on Wednesdays 12 – 1:15 pm. For more information, call: (408) 286-9905; or visit: sjdt.org.

Valley Currents

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

Sujana Mukund: Engineer to educator

An insight into how Sujana Mukund has accomplished it all

By Reya Yeddula
Special to the Times

Whether you're in high school or an adult, 15 or 55, I guarantee at one point in your life, you've had to think about your career choice. This single choice is vital to your future because once you're in that career, it's the only one you get to pick. No changes. This is probably the case for many, and for the majority of people, once you're a teacher, you're a teacher. Once you're an engineer, you're an engineer. But not for Sujana Mukund. From starting her career in a computer science start-up in Silicon Valley to earning her Master's degree in Education and teaching math to high school students, Mukund is an Evergreen native who has done it all. Mukund's incredible journey coming to the United States from India includes her working as an engineer for a start-up, starting her own after-school child care business, serving as the president of the PTA, and earning two master's degrees in vastly different career paths. She has done amazing things. Despite pursuing engineering and being 1 of only 4 women in her class, Mukund earned her



Master's in Computer Science. Today, I'm sitting down with her to talk about her experiences immigrating to the USA and pursuing a career in engineering that was male-dominated from the start. Reya: Hi Sujana! Thank you so much for this interview. The first question I wanted to ask is what were your experiences like coming to the US from India? Sujana: You know when I came here, I came here to study. On the flight when I was coming here, I left India to meet a few people who were coming here. I ended up going to Houston [from India] to stay with my cousins. I ended up missing my connecting flights twice. And I landed in Houston and it was very late at night. It was like 1 or 2 o'clock. Because I missed my flight, it was scary. And my cousins weren't here to pick me up and I didn't have enough money to make a phone call. And my cousin was trying to find me on my connecting flights

so there were a lot of complications. Thank God, in the airport, I saw a lady who was a passenger and she was just leaving and she looked at me and let me make a phone call. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't be here! R: So you would say it was an overall good experience, but scary? S: Yes. So, it was good but scary. See when we come here as students, you don't carry change. I mean you carry bills but not change. Dollars don't help you make a phone call. R: Yes, definitely. So coming here from India are two vastly different places, especially in the engineering field. Would you say you faced any hardships being a female engineer? S: You know, when I landed here there were only three other girls from India. And there were only four girls in the entire university. I don't know if it was scary or weird to see so many men. There were around 150 men, most of them from India and it was good but very disproportionate. But did I feel scared? No. The three other girls who landed were my roommates so it was like we are going on this journey together. The professors didn't give us very good advice in regards to the courses. I had to pretty much fail the classes and make the wrong choice and then realize those courses wouldn't help. I think if you're an Indian girl who came this far, back then, you had to be extremely bold. At the time I didn't know I was bold. I just wanted to study and do something different. Most of my roommates had brothers, or relatives, or aunts who lived [in the United States] so they were all supported. I was not. I was surprised that to come out here you had to have people. Even my roommates were surprised how I came without the support and when I was going through this I didn't realize it was amazing. The first call I made was about 10-15 days after I landed, because you know we didn't have cell phones, and I would call my parents. But I had to be very careful with my money. I would write a lot of letters. You know, the whole take- See MUKUND, page 20

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Khmer Krom Community urges support in wake of Asian hate crimes

Like so many of our neighbors, we were saddened by the recent uptick in hate crimes against the Asian-American community.

In fact, one of the reasons we settled here in San Jose 40 years ago was because of a sense of safety we felt, given our roots as a refugee group searching for protection. Now, we seek to be welcomed in the same manner by this community with our proposed Temple in Evergreen. As many of you know, we have been proceeding through a collaborative process to gain approval for our Temple as a place for our members to worship, pray and meditate in a peaceful setting. We are grateful for the feedback we

have received and have been eager to honor the community's wishes and show that we are good, peaceful neighbors. For that reason, we have made significant changes to our design – most notably, we have reduced the size of our buildings and abandoned our plan for underground parking. Our new design reduces our conditioned spaces by 24%. If we factor in the underground spaces, the square footage has been decreased by 72%. In addition, we will be doing a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as

a way to identify and prevent any adverse impacts. The re-submitted plans can be viewed here: tinyurl.com/m9ubrpt6 For all of you who have taken the time to meet with us, we appreciate the input you have offered and we understand that it is because you love your community. We, too, look forward to making our home here, with you, in a way that will allow us to learn from one another as we co-exist in harmony. Lyna Lam
Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom
Founder and Executive Director

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Times **Community News**

Are you ready for some fun?

Join us for our first annual:

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May 20 to May 24

This is a fun family event that will allow any community to participate. Follow a suggested route or go on your own over a 5-day duration. Runners, walkers, hikers can create their 5K anywhere, from an indoor treadmill to walking the dog, or choose to "Go for the Gold" and see where they rank on the leader board.

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

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National Library Week celebration

The Library Foundation and library supporters across the country are celebrating National Library Week this week.

This is an annual opportunity to show your support for the people and programs that make public libraries such a vital part of our community.

Social media is paying tribute to San Jose Public Library staff members who've had a positive impact on your life — which one can share on the Library Foundation's social media posts.

To send a gift to the Library Foundation to celebrate National Library Week, visit: sjplf.org/donate

Grace Hospice scholarship essay contest

Grace Hospice and Palliative Care, a locally founded and based company servicing Santa Clara County for more than five years, is offering three \$500 scholarships.

The scholarship competition is intended for students in grades 11 and 12 interested in medicine, nursing, and social work.

Scholarship winners will be selected from submitted essays not more than 3000 words. Essays can be personal experiences, objective opinions or a general outlook on the pandemic and the importance of social interaction with the elderly community.

Grace Hospice and Palliative Care are dedicated to providing excellent end-of-life care wherever a person lives and support their loved ones during the process and after.

Essays may be submitted to Sarah Jimenez, Administrator: sjimenez@withgracehospice.com by May 31st 2021. Winners will be contacted by June 15. Website: www.withgracehospice.com.

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Times Feature

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

Children's Discovery Museum has begun phased reopening

After a 13-month closure of the museum's inside, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose has joyfully reopened the iconic 52,000 square foot purple building.

After successfully operating the outdoor space, Bill's Backyard, for several months in 2020 and 2021, Children's Discovery Museum has opened 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 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

To prioritize visitor and staff safety, protocols have been put in place that meet and often exceed the county's mandates.

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 accordance 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.



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TENNIS TIPS

Restraining your racquet for success

Tips that can affect your play, feel and power in tennis

By Ken DeHart

Director of Tennis SCVCC

I get lots of questions about when and why to string a racquet. Here is some basic information that may be of help to you with your decision and choosing a string that will help you game - yes, strings do make a difference...

When should I restring? How do I know when my strings are dead?

1. The strings move around and continually need straight-

ening - you will need to swing harder to create power.

2. You lose feel and touch on shots - especially drop shots volleys.

Your skill level, hours you play, string composition, tension and playing style can dictate when you need to restring; because the loss is subtle and over a period of time you seldom notice the tension loss. 25-30% loss of tension needs replacement.

3 main questions regarding stringing a tennis racquet:

1. What is a Poly String and Co-Poly String or synthetic?

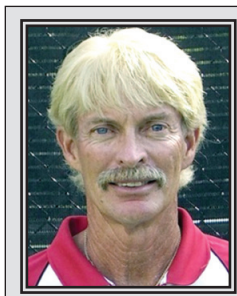
2. How often should I string?

3. What tension should I use?

Answers:

Poly is a string made from polyester like years ago when they made suits out of (Polyester Suits) a single polymer. It is usually a monofilament string (one strand).

Co-Poly is the same string with other additives to make it softer or more elastic. Synthetic Gut is simply a marketing



Tennis Tips

Ken DeHart
Director of Tennis, SCVCC

term used to describe an advanced nylon string - there are monofilament (single strand) Synthetic Guts and Multi filament Synthetic Guts. i.e., Wilson Syn Gut vs Wilson NXT. So, nylons for synthetic gut and plastics for poly. We see higher grades of nylon or plastics being used for numerous performance differences as well as more complex manufacturing processes.

Benefits:

How to get spin - you must possess sufficient technique and racquet head speed in order to get more spin from a Poly or Co-poly string. The strings appear to move less but they do move but "snap" back into place. This "snap-back" is the key ingredient to generating spin. You must have sufficient racquet head speed at contact to move

the string so it will snap-back and cause the spin.

Durability - Poly's do not break as quickly but lose tension incredibly fast both without playing and while playing... yes, without playing!

Therefore they need to be replaced very frequently or you will lose control and power. That is why you see the pros change racquets after every 9 games.

Poly and Co-Poly need to be restringed every 2 to 8 hours of play depending upon density of the string pattern, type of string and string gauge.

If you are not a big hitter - synthetic is just a good if not better for you.

Who should use Poly and Co-poly?

Poly players should be skilled players who can generate necessary racquet head speed to flatten out the ball on impact. A well-made Co-Poly that is soft will fit most everyone.

* If you are not a string breaker - there is little advantage to using a Poly or Co-Poly (Luxilon, Black Savage, Revolve Spin Cycle etc.), especially if you have arm problems or need more power or depth on your strokes.

* Most players - including most juniors do not possess the racquet head speed to get the strings to move and "snap-back" to benefit from the Poly or stiff Co-Poly strings

* A Hybrid or mix of Co-Poly and Synthetic Gut is the best option for most players and will be the continued wave of the future for performance strings that will help your game.

When to restring?

1. When they break

2. With major temperature changes - never a good idea to leave your racquets in the trunk of the car in heat or cold - never have your racquets checked when you fly.

3. When you play a lot. They may not break but they lose tension and resiliency that you will not notice with daily use

4. General rule - string as many times a year as you play in a week. Play 4 times a week -string 4 times a year.

5. Because the string goes dead over time - don't wait too long, when you get it restrung it will feel too different even though it was put back to the original tension.

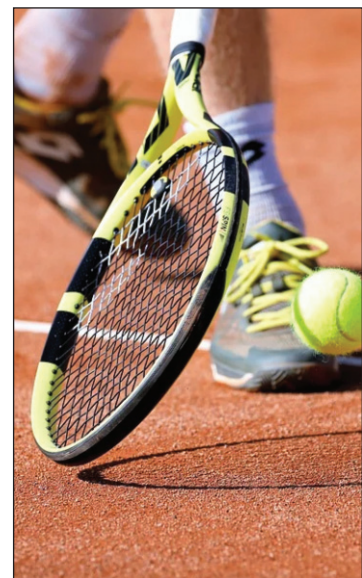
6. To help change your game when you get into a "FUNK"

Also, change your grip often as they become gross and dead as well. Replace the grip or use the Wilson over grip that comes in a package of 3.

So - what should you do?

I have been a professional stringer for over 40 years and have seen all the fads, new product and new ideas come by. Hybrids (Poly or Co-Poly with Syn Gut) for most club players, Synthetic Gut for most non-string breakers are great (Wilson NXT, Sensation, Syn Gut and there are softer versions within those lines as well). The tension is probably most critical to maximize performance of the string and your game - don't wait too long, it goes dead often before it breaks.

I am always glad to answer any questions you may have regarding your personal racquet. Please email me at: kende-hart@aol.com; or visit us on Facebook - Ken DeHart Tennis.



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The local community comes together

By Otto Lee
Special to the Times

We hope you are well. Our community continues to stand up, speak out and act against hate crimes and violence. We recently joined events in Saratoga, San José and Milpitas.

Our community continues to come together to stand in solidarity and unity against the continued hate crimes and violence against the AAPI community.

I have been incredibly moved by the AAPI youth that are organizing and taking action to ensure their parents and grandparents are safe in our community.

Thank you to all of our community partners that are joining the community in this fight. Hate has no home in our community.

BOS Actions on Anti-Asian/AAPI Violence and Racism

For far too long, even before this pandemic, the sting of racism has harmed Asians and the Asian American Pacific Islander community. This issue is incredibly prescient right now, and was discussed at both March meetings. We first began discussion during my second Board of Supervisors meeting on December 15 when we unanimously passed a resolution establishing a Hate Crimes Task Force. The resolution also acknowledged the increase in discrimination and violence against the AAPI community due to irrational fears and misinformation associated with the pandemic. This resolution was one of many steps along a long road to combat racism and hate crimes.

COVID-19 Update
Join us on April 12th for a special Town Hall event with Rep. Ro Khanna! We will be hosting a COVID-19 Relief Update Town Hall and will be joined by various health officials for a discussion with you. To register for the event, here is the link: tinyurl.com/covidprepared

Right now the biggest challenges are obtaining more dos-

es. Moving into the Orange Tier was a major achievement, but we still have a long way to go. I joined with other leaders across Santa Clara County to call on the State of California to ensure that our families continue to receive the doses we need to save lives. We are building a capacity to deliver hundreds of thousands of doses each week, we just need our state and federal partners to help us get more. I will keep fighting for this every day.



County Report
By Otto Lee
Supervisor District 3



AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander community) youth are organizing and taking action to ensure their parents and grandparents are safe in our community.



Spanish & English Dual Language Immersion Program for Kindergarten & 1st Grade Students

2021-2022 School Year
www.eesd.org

This resolution was one of many steps along a long road to combat racism and hate crimes.

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ESUHSD selects *Care Solace* to expand access to community mental health care providers

East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) has selected *Care Solace*, an organization determined to calm the chaos of mental health care coordination, to expand access to community mental health care providers and substance use treatment for students, staff, and their families.

Care Solace provides a Care Concierge team of experts to quickly and confidentially find appropriate, available providers in the community. *Care Solace* also equips school districts with a customized, online tool that makes it easier to connect with community-based mental health care, both in-person and remote.

"We recognize that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health

and wellness of our students, our staff, and our families. We believe that *Care Solace* increases access to the mental health care many of us are in need of as a result of this traumatic experience," said Dr. Chaun Powell, ESUHSD Director of Student Services. "With *Care Solace* we shift from asking families, staff, and students to navigate the mental health system alone to providing support that allows us to walk side by side with them through the process."

ESUHSD will use *Care Solace* to support its mission of supporting schools, students, and families to build and sustain equitable communities through the development of school cultures that use inclusive and relationship-centered practices to support positive attendance, social emotional and behavioral wellness so that students stay engaged in their learning environment.

"We know the detrimental impact Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) have on student achievement. This pandemic has been a traumatic experience for all of our students to one degree or another. We need to provide them ways to process what they have experienced this past year," said Pattie Cortese, ESUHSD Board of Trustees Member. "And the wellbeing of our staff is also essential so they can be fully present for our students."

With *Care Solace*, families and staff gain access to a dedicated Care Concierge to navigate the mental health care system on their behalf, calling providers to find the right fit and availability. They help families with private insurance, Medicaid, and no insurance, and are available 24/7 in any language.

Care Solace's care navigation system uses proprietary technology and a vast database of behavioral and mental health care resources to find carefully vetted therapists and programs in minutes.

"Creating a healthy environment for learning in the 2020-2021 school year has arguably never been more challenging for staff and families," said Chad Castruita,

founder of *Care Solace*. "We are proud to support ESUHSD in prioritizing the well-being of its school community by providing timely access into mental health care services."

The Care Solace service is now available at no cost to East Side Union High School District students, staff and their families. For more information about Care Solace, please visit <https://home.caresolace.com>.



Volunteering on Cesar Chavez Day - Mayor Sam Liccardo volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank along with San Jose Conservation Corps members and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County to distribute free groceries on Cesar Chavez Day, Wednesday, March 31 at St. John Vianney Church in San Jose. The food distribution site serves more than 600 per day.

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Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36-month monitoring contract ranging from \$45.99-\$59.99/mo. with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,439.76), enrollment in ADT EasyPay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

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Times **Feature****San José recyclable trash collection now unlimited***Extra trash picked up free with use of white plastic bags*

It's garbage day.

Maybe you're frustrated with how to put out extra trash when your container is full.

Here's a solution; purchase large plastic white bags and set them out next to your recycle bin!

Now that you know this free secret, you can tidy up your living area!

Extra Recyclables

San José Environmental Services continues to provide essential services to residents including garbage and recycling collection in response to COVID-19. For the safety of drivers picking up your recyclables, please fit all recyclable items, including cardboard, in your recycling cart or save any extra for next week's collection.

In San José, collection of recyclables is unlimited.

- Set out extra recyclables in paper bags or clear plastic bags on the curb near the recycling cart.

- Use bags to secure loose material prone to blowing or scattering such as shredded office paper, packing peanuts, and plastic bags. Tie bags securely and do not overfill paper bags containing extra recyclables. Place all bags on the curb near the carts to prevent accidental spills.

Extra Cardboard

- Flatten and cut cardboard so it fits loosely inside your cart.

- If you have more cardboard than your cart will hold, flatten and cut it into pieces no larger than 4' by 4' and lean them against the cart.

Extra Garbage

Place extra garbage in a 32-gallon plastic garbage bag labeled with an extra garbage sticker on the curb near the garbage cart.

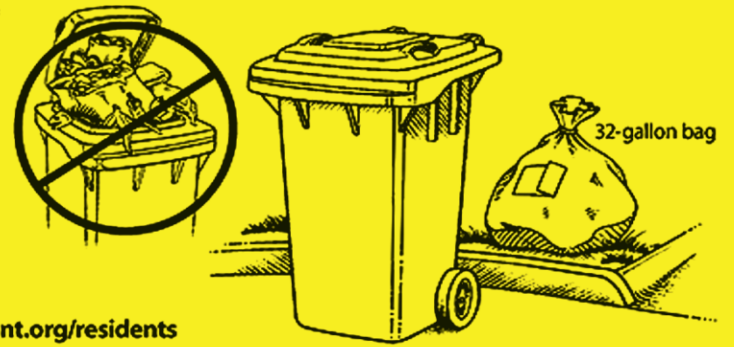
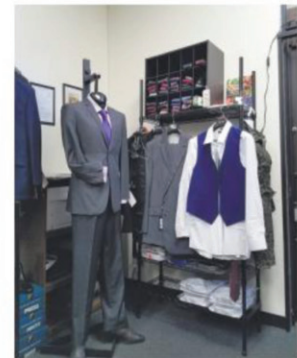
During this time, extra garbage stickers may be purchased at Lucky or Safeway only. Libraries and City Hall are closed due to COVID-19 and are unable to sell extra garbage stickers, but should return to sell-

ing the stickers in the future.

Extra garbage stickers may be purchased for \$6.25. A portion of the sales from stickers sold at San José libraries (when they start selling them again) supports library programs. Cash, check, and credit card are accepted at all locations (libraries are cash/check only).

If you frequently have extra garbage, you may need to order a larger garbage cart.

Editor's Note: Often the supermarkets do not stock the large-trash can size- white plastic bags but they can be found in hardware stores such as Ace Hardware.

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sjenvironment.org/residents
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Times **Feature****Linkare***Continued from page 2*

Palamuttam and Yanashita founded the Linkare team at their school, where they now teach students who have no app-coding experience how to code in Flutter. The Linkare Club now boasts 15 students and teachers who teach students the basics of marketing as well as development.

Thanks to the Linkare marketing team, there are a total of seven organizations and 30 volunteers on the app, with items being donated regularly. Recently, a total of five pillows and two blankets were sent to CityTeam, who recently had a shortage due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Expanding nationwide

"We constantly need stuff," City Team house manager Daniel Armstrong says. "Linkare provides a way for us to request whatever we need and have it delivered to our doorstep within a week. It doesn't get much easier than that."

They also built a website (www.Linkare.org) with the help of web developer and backend manager Nathan Gong to showcase developments to the app as well as market to other nonprofits.

Upon the release, Linkare has partnered with huge nonprofit organizations including CityTeam, Homefirst, and Loaves and Fishes.

"The app is user-friendly, quite intuitive, and well-supported by the team that created this mobile app," a representative from

"The development of this app has taught me much more than just practical development, it has opened my eyes to the problem of homelessness and the hardships that homeless shelters must persevere through," Yanashita says.

Loaves and Fishes said. "We are delighted to be a part of their efforts to help people in the community connect to causes they care about."

Down the line, Linkare wants to expand this organization nationwide, so nonprofits can get the items that they need and keep out the ones they don't need.

"The development of this app has taught me much more than just practical development, it has opened my eyes to the problem of homelessness and the hardships that homeless shelters must persevere through," Yanashita says.

Palamuttam adds, "Nonprofits are in dire need of items, and they should be able to communicate with volunteers so no extra work is placed on their shoulders."

Editor's Note: It's truly amazing that our Silicon Valley youth create and implement wonderful ideas that help not only our city but the nation and world too! To donate to Linkare go to www.Linkare.org



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Times Feature



On March 27, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo celebrated 60 years of providing outdoor play in the Bay Area with a surprise virtual birthday party for Danny the Dragon.

Happy Hollow Turns 60!

San José Park & Zoo holds virtual celebration for Danny the Dragon

Saturday, March 27, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo celebrated 60 years of providing outdoor play in the Bay Area with a surprise virtual birthday party for Danny the Dragon.

"Happy Hollow holds such a special place in the hearts of those who grew up in or near San José – we knew we had to do something fun to commemorate the occasion," says Kiersten McCormick, Happy Hollow's General Manager.

"Originally, our 60th Anniversary plans included a big, in person celebration, but due to COVID-19, we decided to go with something that everyone can enjoy from home, McCormick said. "So far, over 3,500 people watched the video on Happy Hollow's Facebook, and around 2,000 people tuned in on YouTube."

"Our job is to keep Happy Hollow thriving for years to come," says Amy Pizarro, Executive Director of Happy Hollow Foundation. "If you've ever enjoyed a 'ride in the sky' on Dragon Flyers, 'oohed' and 'aahed' at the red pandas or giant anteater, or watched your children clamor into the Crooked House for a whimsical adventure, then you've been touched by Happy Hollow Foundation, which helped bring these projects to life at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. Sixty years is a big milestone, and we wish for many more years to come." The virtual event was sponsored by Happy Hollow Foundation, the Park & Zoo's non-profit partner.

The Park & Zoo has changed a lot since the gates first opened on March 27, 1961. The facility is now home to an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited Zoo, eight family-friendly rides and nature themed play areas, one of California's oldest puppet theaters (Puppet Castle Theater), a Zoo Education with classes and camps for all ages, and a wildlife conservation program that protects threatened and endangered species locally and around the world. More information about the history of Happy Hollow is available online.

"Happy Hollow is a San José treasure," says Jon Ciciirelli, Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services.

"As the second most visited destination in San José, Happy Hollow provides essential connections to nature, while providing safe, fun and educational outdoor recreation."

Looking 10-15 years into the future, the Park & Zoo is working towards a new master plan, which was completed in 2018. This includes additional family-friendly play areas and attractions, as well as expanded animal exhibits, a more integrated trail system for the Coyote Creek floodplain and a seasonal splashpad for children to enjoy.

For now, the Park & Zoo is making a comeback after temporary closures resulting from the pandemic. "We're currently working on our phased reopening," says McCormick. "We started with Walk Through the Zoo, a one-way walking path through our Zoo areas – and next is reopening play areas and allowing picnicking through a timed reservation system. The most important thing – now and always – is the health and safety of our guests, employees and animals, and our cautious approach makes this possible."

To view the virtual birthday party for Danny the Dragon, use this Youtube.com link: visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuKXt8zxtU>

About Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has provided outdoor play to the Bay Area since 1961. Happy Hollow is a facility of the San José's Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, and is supported by the Happy Hollow Foundation. The mission of Happy Hollow is connecting people to nature through play. Happy Hollow features a unique combination of family rides and amusements, a Puppet Castle Theater, nature themed play areas, special events for all seasons, an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoo, and a zoo education and wildlife conservation program with classes, camps and events for all ages. Happy Hollow also offers annual memberships for families and individuals. www.happyhollow.org



PIGS GONE WILD -- Wild pigs were feeding just beyond The Villages' perimeter fence in the heavy dusk on the evening of April 1. The pigs were on the other side of the fence so that it is clear they are no threat to anyone or anything in The Villages. (Close-up photo by Lou Alexander and fence photo by Richard James.)



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Times Feature

GEMS IN STEM

Liar, Liar...Who's on Fire? The Liar's Paradox

By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

I seem to have found myself in a... complicated situation. I'll save you from the details of how, but I'm trapped in the Pinocchio movie and I need to find a way to get out. I don't have the patience to play through the movie, so I just have to find some way to break the system. Oh, how lucky, Jiminy Cricket just walked by! If there's anyone in this crazy story who could give me some advice, it's him!

"Hey Jiminy, Jiminy—how do I get out of here?"

Jiminy Cricket studies me, then ominously hands me a paper, a pencil, and solemnly replies, "Nobody knows," while tapping his nose knowingly.

Has he finally lost it? Knows. Nose. Knows, nose? Just as I'm pondering my strange interaction with Jiminy, Pinocchio struts by, his stubby nose gleaming in the sun.

I know what I must do.

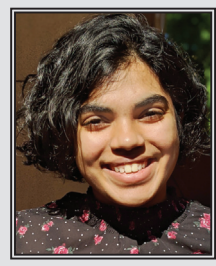
I quickly scribble a couple words on the paper, then run (not very fast) and hand it to Pinocchio. He stops, looks confused (at least I think he does, I don't

exactly know the facial expressions of puppets), and then reads aloud, "Read this out loud. My nose will grow right now." I hold my breath in anticipation.

Pinocchio's nose suddenly begins to tremble, as it valiantly tries to figure out what to do. Is Pinocchio lying? Is he telling the truth? His nose starts to grow, then it shrinks, rapidly fluctuating in length as everything around us begins to shake vigorously.

Maybe I didn't think this through.

Just as I start to regret listening to Jiminy, the ground cracks beneath my



Gems in STEM
By Apoorva Panidapu

feet. The last thing I see before I squeeze my eyes shut is Jiminy Cricket (who somehow appeared out of nowhere) obnoxiously tipping his hat at me, the villainous bug that he is.

Everything stills. I tentatively open one eye. I find myself lounging on my bed with the Pinocchio movie glitching on my laptop next to

me, and breathe a sigh of relief. Jiminy, you're forgiven. Sorry for doubting you.

Alright, alright, I'll get to the point of the column. After breaking Pinocchio, I started wondering if I could've gone about it in a different, gentler way. In my research, I discovered that these contradicting and confusing statements are part of something known as the Liar's Paradox, one of the most famous, everlasting, and debated paradoxes in logic.

Before we get into it, let's break down exactly why Pinocchio's nose had a breakdown. If you're not familiar with the story, Pinocchio's nose only grows when he tells a lie. So if he says, "My nose will grow right now," what is his nose supposed to do? Well, if he is telling the

truth, his nose must grow, which means that he's lying. But if he's lying, then his nose is not supposed to grow. If his nose doesn't grow, then he is lying, so his nose must grow. Huh?! Either way we try to assign his statement a label as true or false, we reach a contradiction, and therein lies the paradox. Now we can understand why Pinocchio's nose had a breakdown.

To help us unpack what exactly is going on here, let's define the concept of truth values in classical logic. If a statement X is true, it has a truth value of 1. If X is false, it has a truth value of 0.

Now, let's look at a more common, strengthened example of this: "This statement is not true." Just like before, we can't assign a truth value to this statement. If we say its truth value is 1, i.e. that the statement is true, then "the statement is not true." If we say its truth value is 0, it must be false, which then makes the statement true, and so on.

Though philosophers have been pondering and writing about this for thousands of years, there is yet to be a consensus on how to fill this hole in classical logic. It's a big challenge to find a proper theory of truth that avoids such contradictions and paradoxes. Despite there being a couple common lines of thought, they all have their own problems (but don't we all?).

Principle of Bivalence

In classical logic, there is something called the principle of bivalence, which says that every declarative sentence must have exactly one truth value, i.e. every such statement is either true or false—there is no in-between. If I say, "Jiminy Cricket is lucky," this principle says that he is either lucky (the statement is true) or not lucky (the statement is false).

However, it's pretty clear that this principle doesn't hold true for the liar's paradox. Thus, some philosophers believe that the statement, "This sentence is false" (call it (X) for convenience) is neither true nor false.

But then we can then modify it to instead the strengthened statement of "This statement is not true." For convenience, we'll refer to this statement as (Y). Now, if (Y) is neither true nor false, then it must not be true. But this is what (Y) states, so it must be true. So (Y) is not true, but is now true, and once again we have a paradox (will we ever escape it?).

Both true AND false?

Okay so, (X) isn't true, it isn't false, it isn't neither true nor false, but is it both true and false? Philosopher Graham Priest followed this thought process, claiming that the statement "This statement is false" is both true and false. But, once again, we can modify it to another sneaky version: "This statement is only

false." For convenience, let's label this statement as (Z).

Let's go through the motions again. If (Z) is both true and false, then (Z) has to be true, and so (Z) must be only false, which means that it can't be true. And so, we have yet another paradox!

Is there any hope of resolving this paradox to put our minds (and Pinocchio's nose) at ease? Let's dive into the nitty-gritty details of it to see!

Self-Referential Statements

Consider the statement: "This chihuahua is evil." Though I would personally argue that all chihuahuas are evil, which specific one are we referring to in this statement? We don't have the context to determine whether or not this is true or false, because we haven't had the chance to evaluate the character of said chihuahua.

Now, let's again look at the statement: "This statement is false." One (pretty lame, in my opinion) way to get around the paradox is to say that the statement is vague—it's not clear which sentence it's referring to as false. The philosophers that label this as the issue are called restrictionists. This theory was popular in the 13th and early 14th century as a solution to the Liar's paradox. They believed that if one is trying to self-refer in a statement, they must be referring to some prefix or suffix of the statement that isn't provided. In other words, you cannot self-refer to your own statement in the same statement.

But, we're rebels, so let's label the statement "This statement is false" as (X). Then, we can write statement X = "This statement (X) is false." Here lies an important property of this family of paradoxes: they are self-referential statements! So, we can construct this infinite sequence of

$X = (X \text{ is false}) = ((X \text{ is false}) \text{ is false}) = (((X \text{ is false}) \text{ is false}) \text{ is false})$ and so on. From this, we can never concretely determine what X really is.

Because of this property, some people simply conclude that this paradox is nonsense, and move on with their life. To them, it's empty, it doesn't actually refer to anything, and thus means nothing—which is honestly a pretty valid sentiment.

But, what if we instead entirely leave the classical notion of true and false, and adopt one that is more reflective of the real world? In traditional logic, we said that the only truth values of a statement are 0 (if false) and 1 (if true). But what if there were more truth values? Not just a couple more, but infinitely more?

Surprise, surprise, this is the basis of fuzzy logic!

Fuzzy Logic

Fuzzy logic is a many-valued
See GEMS, next page

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Times **Feature**

Tech Jargon of the Week

GPU and TPU

By Shubhi Asthana

Special to the Times

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

GPU and TPU

In 2018, Google announced that its Tensor Processing Unit (TPU) – a custom chip to run Google services like Search, Maps, Google photos and Google Translate – would be available in beta for researchers and developers on the Google Cloud Platform. This brought in a lot of excitement for researchers who wanted to run their heavy workloads on a faster processor. However, this was a huge challenge to other

manufacturers like AMD, Nvidia, who manufacture Graphical Processing Units (GPUs) that are used by many AI accelerators today.

So what are a TPU and GPU?

GPU is a specialized electronic circuit designed to render 2D and 3D graphics together with a CPU. Say for example, you must be acquainted with computer games. Now these computer games have lots of arithmetic operations like multiplication, addition etc. that need to be done in very less time. For this processing, GPUs are used. Hence if you have looked at a gaming machine, you would have spotted a Graphics card (which is an assembly of GPU and some other things).

Santa Clara headquartered Nvidia has its core business in building GPU’s and design processors surrounding it. GPU is not only

used in computer games, but also by computer scientists, physicists, biologists etc. that can harness the power of GPUs for their simulations, calculations, experiments etc.

While GPUs have great processing power, Google saw that there was a dramatic shift in its computing needs towards supporting higher and complex workloads. They need to respond to millions of queries from users simultaneously, and large GPUs that used to support then were very expensive. So, Google came up with a chip - TPU that could handle this workload at a lower cost with higher performance, while consuming less power.

TPU is a custom-built integrated circuit developed specifically for machine learning and tailored for Tensor flow, Google’s open-source machine learning framework. TPUs have been

powering Google datacenters since 2015 and it’s estimated to be 15 to 30 times faster than contemporary GPUs. Additionally, the TPU is much more energy efficient, delivering 30 times to 80 times improvement in tera-operations/Watt measure.

As of now, the TPU is only available to Google’s internal data scientists and to users of its AI cloud services. Hence other companies whose work require graphics may continue to use GPUs, until a better alternative or a user-version of TPU is released to the public.

About the Author

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

Gems

Continued from previous page

logic in which the truth value of a statement can be any number between 0 and 1 (including both 0 and 1). This approach implements degrees of truth, which model the real world much more accurately as it gives way for nuance and uncertainty.

For example, consider the statement: “Ferguson the chihuahua is vicious.” In fuzzy logic, we could assign the truth value of (1.0) if Ferguson is extremely vicious, (0.8) if Ferguson is vicious pretty often (except when he’s sleepy), (0.4) if Ferguson is only vicious when he’s hungry, or (0.0) if Ferguson is never vicious and is a (rare) chill chihuahua.

So how can fuzzy logic resolve the Liar’s Paradox? Well, in this system of logic, we can actually assign it a truth value of 0.5, which wasn’t possible in the classical logic we were working in before. But why 0.5?

Suppose the truth value of the statement X: “This statement is false” is x. Then, the negation of this statement must have a truth value of 1-x (this is actually called a Zadeh operator, but we’re just going to brush past this for simplicity’s sake). First, the statement tells us that $X = \text{NOT}(X)$, since if the statement is true, it must be false. Thus, in fuzzy logic, $x = 1 - x$, so $x = 0.5$ is the truth value of statement (X).

(Note that this is a simplified, rather hand-wavy justification, but it’s mostly just to provide a bit of an explanation for how fuzzy logic resolves this!)

Okay, I have a confession to make: That whole thing with Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket didn’t actually happen. I am a liar. I lie all the time. I’m lying right now.

So, dear reader, did it happen? Am I a liar? Am I indeed lying right now? I’ll leave that for you to figure out. ;)

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

This column, *Gems in STEM*, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too! This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don’t have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end. Thanks for reading!

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Times **OpEd**

Santa Clara County doesn't need another shopping center; we need to be the center of aviation technology

By **Walt Gyger**

Community and Airport Partnership for Safe Operation

A white paper titled "Flying into the Future" lays out a vision that would guide Santa Clara County, the home of Silicon Valley, into a position of leadership in the next generation of the multi-billion dollar aviation industry.

Aviation is poised to undergo significant changes in the next few years and this paper presents a roadmap on how the county can position itself as a leader in that transition. But to do so the county needs to rebuild and

revitalize county-owned Reid Hillview Airport.

Reid Hillview is uniquely positioned to contribute with its ties to bright minds from San Jose State's Aviation Program and proximity to the nation's entrepreneurial engine. Michael McDonald, the paper's lead author, is part of a group working to preserve and enhance Reid Hillview Airport. The group is asking that the board of supervisors pursue a visionary view instead of chasing a developer's vague promise of temporary increased tax revenues if the airport were to be closed and redeveloped.

"Aviation is a mechanism for the county to grow thousands of jobs, improve education and services, and raise the standard of living for those in the county and throughout the region," said McDonald. "East San Jose, home of Reid Hillview Airport, is in a particularly strong position to see economic growth from the development and promotion of aviation."

More information on the effort to keep Reid Hillview Airport open and a link to "Flying into the Future" can be found at saveridhillview.org.

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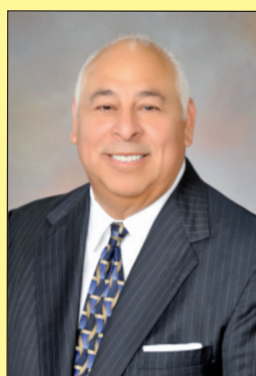
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Times Community News

Mukund

Continued from page 4

away, I think, is everyone should do this. Everyone should go far away from their parents, have an adventure, and learn. And it's okay to make mistakes. When you make mistakes, those mistakes are the lessons you learn and always remember. I feel like Indian women back home are so protected. Even when we study, they don't really allow us to study. When we study they really just want to marry us off to some boy. And I said no, I'm not going to marry, I'm just going to go study. Still, even back home, I get the same questions: how did you go? I think when you're so determined to do something for yourself in life, you just break barriers. I didn't just want to just marry someone and come to the states. I wanted to come on my own.

R: Wow, that's amazing. Even just coming from India here and the whole struggle of pursuing a master's degree in itself is a huge accomplishment. So, I know that you used to have an after-school business. I guess my next question is what were your experiences working as an engineer and what led you to quit and start an after-school business?

S: Marriage, having children, all that. Especially if you're an Indian woman it's engraved in your mind to be a wife, care for your children, and then career and everything else. I was a very career-oriented person when I first came here. The Sujana who landed here had to change and adapt and re-think her priorities. I couldn't continue the way I wanted to and it was not working out. If your partner works in a start-up and you are also a computer science start-up and

also an engineer you end up fighting a lot. I didn't believe in having someone come over and take over and it just didn't work out. But at heart, I'm still an engineer.

R: After quitting your job as an engineer and starting your after-school business, you were the PTA president of James Franklin Smith Elementary. What led you to join the board and what types of events did you plan?

S: When my kids were in JFS, I wanted to be a part of the school and be a part of the school system. I wanted to bring in a lot of programs and it was a way of being involved in the school. It was also a place where I could improve things in the school. I saw a lot of programs being brought in and not brought. I felt there were not a lot of science things being brought into school. We had art and some music and some drama programs but my whole thing was science and math. It was something that every student should benefit from. I met some amazing amazing women [through the PTA] and I learned a lot and we worked very well together. We raised a lot of money. It taught me a lot about how to do fundraising and how do you convince someone that something is important and they should donate? During that time I used to be a marketing type of person and I remember [the principal] saying you are such a marketing person. You know, when you love something and believe in something so much and you know it's going to do good, you are not lying [when you fundraise]. Sometimes people lie about things but I really believed in all the work we were doing.

R: So you went from being an engineer to doing things more on the teaching side. What would you say are similar between engineering and teaching, be-



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Times **Community News**

cause many people don't have such experiences.

S: Both require being organized. Both have deadlines and deliverables to be delivered. My customers, now, are students and previously were the people buying the products. With students, you are always being very clear in your communication. Also, bullet points. I never ever write in paragraphs. Both the skills require anticipating and problems. I used to have lots of things going wrong in engineering and now in teaching, I have to modify my questions [in my class]. But you have to be very adaptable.

R: So after having your after-school care for a few years, you decided to pursue a new venture and start teaching. What inspired you to start teaching after having your after-school care business for so long?

S: [Teaching] was not in my plan at all. I had hoped I would go back to engineering. When my second kid was ready to go to kindergarten, I was interviewing for an engineering job again. All the time you get interviewed by men and I found that many of them would ask, "Will you go back home from work early because you have two kids?" And I found this very annoying. It feels like having a child is a bother to those people. And I was very headstrong. One of [the interviewers] I really remember. The person was asking questions regarding family and what was my level of dedication to the company and I said I don't know. I said once I start working, I'll know. I mean I said for me family matters the most. And many men don't like that type of answer. Women told stories of working hard back in those days but men didn't look at women going home early favorable. I decided I was going to go do something else. I remember [my son's] sixth-grade teacher at that time. She was asking me to help her with some students and tutor them about studying habits. I just said okay. I just started with one, and then two, and then three, and then more and more. Then I got an idea, why not just do this? I asked that teacher if I should start an after-school program and I got overwhelming support from the teachers. All the teachers who I interacted with already knew me and they started sending their students [to my program] and I said okay, and I thought maybe this is the best thing. It changed my life because of that. Then I started teaching after getting my second master's.

R: So, how did you get the idea of teaching since it's so different from engineering?

S: After having my after-school for ten years, I wanted to start teaching. I was getting more and more support from people



who graduated from my after school and they were saying I am the type of teacher who they would like to see. They would've loved to see me there and I thought why not? And after abiding by the emotional and academic struggles of my elementary school kids, I applied for a second master's for education in San Jose State and got in. I could have stopped after getting my credentials but I wanted to understand the whole system of the school.

I wrote my thesis on being mindful with children and enjoyed it totally. While doing my student teaching, I realized that I didn't want to teach elementary. I taught in one fourth grade class and one sixth. After that, I talked to my student teaching coach and I told her maybe I'm not cut out for elementary. If I don't feel I'm doing justice [to them] and if I'm not enjoying it I'm not doing it.

To be into something, I need to give my heart and soul into the subject and go very deep. It can be thought of as negative but for me, it was all or nothing. Then, I went back to my master's professor and I said I think I'm in the wrong place. After I was in my last few weeks, too! I thought I shouldn't be elementary, I should be in middle or high school. Surprisingly, San Jose State that summer they wanted STEM teachers so I could go there and specialize. I jumped on it and I enrolled and even when I applied for jobs I wasn't sure. You know I went in for a job fair and it was just the last job fair that year and the time was almost done. Getting in and registering [for the job fair], I was feeling very frustrated. My professor said "just take your resume, just go and see what happens." I spoke with a bunch of schools and when I was talking to the math department, I just felt at home. I didn't know if I would be a good teacher. It looks like the universe and the divine was rooting for me. That day, Summit said please come and see our school. I just went and they asked me to present one lesson to the students directly. And I just loved it. This is what I want to do. The lesson to be learned you need to be adaptable at all times. You shouldn't be stuck and saying I planned this way and it has to go this way. If you change, you'll enjoy everything that comes your way.

Today I'm in Summit and I'm teaching 9th-grade math and hoping to teach Calculus AB next year, doing what I really want to do. I don't only teach math, I also do mentoring. I think, especially Indians, want to only pursue STEM. I help with, "How do you select a university for yourself?" It's not a cookie-cutter thing. They have a very cookie-cutter image, the world is so huge and full of options. And I just want to be there for kids.

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Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction.

Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

www.GraceChurchSJ.net
See you on Facebook
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor
Christian Worship every Sunday at 11:00 am

Together let us build lives toward excellence!
Music Institute
(408) 791-7772
After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute
PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith. Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.



thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH

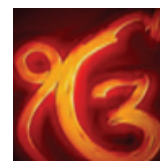
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San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service:
Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service:
11:00 AM
Cambodian Service:
11:00 AM
Cantonese Service:
11:00 AM
Mandarin Service:
11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade):
Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual

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

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



God is One
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Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

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

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



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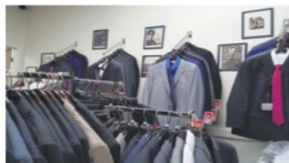
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SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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