

Evergreen School District receives *Excellence in Communications Award* **SEE PAGE 2**



Back indoors
Indoor events reopen for those with proof of negative COVID-19 test or full vaccination – **SEE PAGE 3**

Evergreen School District Speech and Debate Teams headed to Nationals! **SEE PAGE 4**



APRIL 23 – MAY 6, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 9

Evergreen Times

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Founders and presidents **Riya Shukla** and **Hrishi Koushik**, high school students, began a daunting journey in the creation of *futureofus*, an upstart organization that showcases the voices of the younger generation and explores the future of our world post-pandemic.

New organization showcases young voices post-pandemic

Startup futureofus founded by two high school students now international

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

High school students and founders **Riya Shukla** and **Hrishi Koushik** from San Jose, are on a daunting journey in the creation of *futureofus*, an upstart organization that showcases

the voices of the younger generation and explores the future of our world post-pandemic.

The startup is showing great success. Just after only its first year of service, *futureofus* is now an international movement with more than over 250 contributors.

With article writers located everywhere from Costa Rica to Poland, and England to India, this

See futureofus, page 11



Mascots welcome students back to in-person learning at Tom Matsumoto Elementary School in Evergreen Valley on Monday, April 19.

Evergreen School District students return to in-person learning

Evergreen School District (ESD) welcomed students back on campus for in-person learning for the first time in thirteen months on Monday, April 19.

Hugs were replaced by air fist pumps as nearly half of the district's 9,764 students are returning to in-person learning four days per week in the district's TK-8 grade classes. Pre-school, Special Day Class, TK-2, seventh and eighth grade are beginning in-person

learning on Monday, April 19, and grades 3-6 will start on April 26.

"We are celebrating the opportunity for students to safely learn in-person again, as well as the energy and vitality that they – together with our staff – bring to our community's school campuses," said Dr. Emy Flores, Superintendent of the Evergreen School District.

Students who are continuing in distance learning are learning concurrently with their in-person

peers so that they can stay connected with their teachers and classmates. In addition to mask-wearing, families and staff are required to complete daily health checks, and students and teachers practice social distancing in the classroom and during recess.

To prevent crowding, the schools also have staggered drop-off and pick-up times. The district is implementing a four-foot social

See IN PERSON, page 9

ESUHSD high schools now open for in-person learning

The East Side Union High School District school board approved reopening of schools to in-person learning to start April 19, 2021.

There will also be vast opportunities for students to have in-person tutorial support at the high schools both online and in-person.

Each school in the district currently has a cap of the number of students on site to not exceed 1,000 students. Additionally, each school has a unique way

of reopening and different ways of offering on site classes.

Principal, Kyle Kleckner of Evergreen Valley High School sent out an email to parents on April 19, 2021 which stated:

Beginning today, EVHS has entered Phase 3 of our district's reopening plan. In Phase 3, we begin to welcome single-stable cohorts of students for in-person tutorial support from EVHS teachers. We are also pleased that several extra-curricular and athletic cohorts are also active. All of our scheduled distance learning classes (Periods 1-7) remain virtual

See BACK TO SCHOOL, page 2

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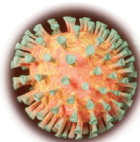
Now vaccinating age 16 and up Possible walk up for Covid-19 vaccine without appointment

The secret 'No-Show' inoculation opportunity

A Times Media Special Report

The Aloha Roller Rink-Eastridge vaccination site is a partnership between Santa Clara County and Stanford Health Care.

Word on the street is that the current sign up for this site is fast and



See VACCINE, page 7

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Times **Community News**

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Evergreen School District receives the Excellence in Communications Award

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Evergreen School District (ESD) received special recognition recently in receiving the Excellence in Communications Award from the California School Public Relations Association (CALSPRA).

The award recognized ESD's work in engaging the Evergreen community during the school consolidation process that started in Fall 2019 to close Dove Hill and Laurelwood Elementary Schools. ESD was selected by public relations experts from throughout the nation.

The award was accepted on behalf of ESD by Johanna Villareal, ESD Director of Communications, Board, and Administrative Services on behalf of ESD. "It was no small feat closing two schools in three months and dealing with a \$12 million budget shortfall with a superintendent who was only two months into the job," said Villareal.

The goal of Superintendent Dr. Emy Flores was to strive to ensure that stakeholders felt valued, informed, and to trust the process and the district. Regardless of the final outcome, it was not only a priority for stakeholders to be engaged, but also to know and understand the steps and timelines of the school consolidation process.

Dr. Flores along with ESD Cabinet en-

gaged a Superintendent's Advisory Committee comprised of stakeholders across the district. They held 20 stakeholder engagement sessions, made phone calls, sent emails, prepared website and social media communications and produced eight informational videos shared throughout these channels. ESD used clear communications; their internal and stakeholders felt informed; and trust increased in the district. And, by the end of the process, some Evergreen community members sent letters to the ESD Board of Trustees supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

"Receiving this excellence award is a great honor and being recognized for the hard work and valuable time that our stakeholders have put in is truly humbling," Dr. Flores said. "It was an emotional process for our community, that's why it was important to provide a platform for our community members to engage in the school consolidation process."

ESD Board of Trustees President, Chris Corpus stated "We thank the Evergreen community and stakeholders for their engagement and patience throughout this difficult process. The closing of Dove Hill and Laurelwood weighed heavily in our hearts and we appreciate everyone's involvement no matter how difficult it may have been."

Back to school

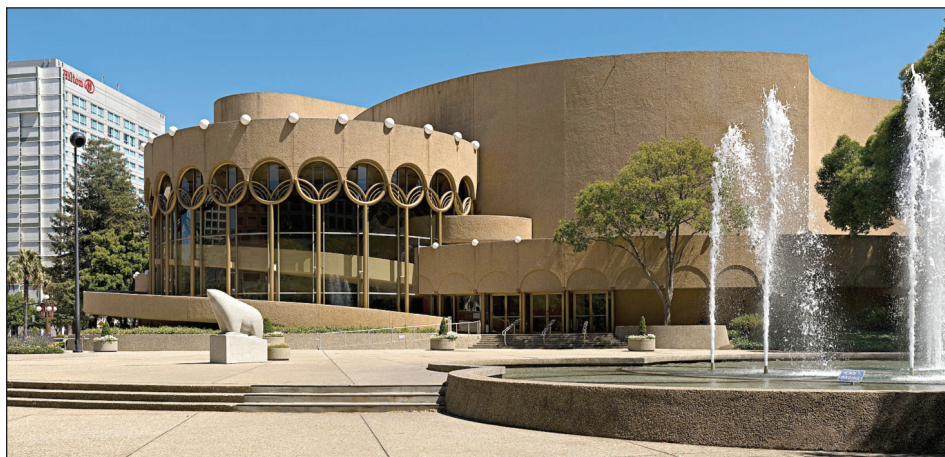
Continued from page 1

only. For families who opted into Phase 3, information regarding the time and location of your student's cohort meeting has been shared with you and your student via email. It is also viewable on your student's Schoolloop account. Please be sure your student shows up on time and wears a mask. If you have not opted in to an in-person cohort and would like to do so, it is not too late. Please complete the opt-in forms. Masks and social distancing are required on

campus at all times and cleaning protocols are in place. Weekly COVID-testing is strongly encouraged for all Phase 3 students. COVID-19 testing is available outside the EVHS Gym on Mondays and Wednesday from 3:30pm-4:30pm and Saturdays from 9am-11am.

We are so excited to have this opportunity to safely welcome students back onto campus. I hope to see some of you on campus soon!

Access to information for each school reopening plan can be found on the ESUHS website. <http://www.esuhd.org>

Times **Community News**

Indoor events reopen for those with proof of negative COVID-19 test or full vaccination

Indoor venues hosting events like concerts, theater and conferences were given the green light last week to reopen.

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," Tomás Aragón, director of the California Department of Public Health. "We antici-

pate that the majority of people will be able to do this and the barriers will be removed."

The new plan, which started April 15, follows a similar loosening that kicked in two weeks ago when outdoor sports stadiums, music and art locales and amusement parks got approval to begin reopening.

Among the many venues in San Jose, Symphony Silicon Valley President Andrew Bales said, "At this stage we believe concertgoers could be returning for our full season beginning this Fall."

Bales emphasized that vaccination rates will determine when and how Symphony Silicon Valley will be able to start its season again. "With the singular exception of Zoom interviews we have not been doing any virtual content during this lock down cycle," Bales said.

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Derrick Seaver will take over as SVO's President and CEO. Photo credit: SVO

The Silicon Valley Organization names new president / CEO

The Silicon Valley Organization (SVO) has just named its next president and CEO: Derrick Seaver.

Seaver received a unanimous vote from SVO board members and will now represent the South Bay's regional chamber of commerce's more than 1,000 companies. Seaver is relieving Bob Linscheid of his duties, who has been SVO's interim CEO since December.

Seaver, who is currently Chief of Staff for Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, will lead the SVO in advocating, promoting and protecting the interests of its members. He also worked as Director of Policy and Operations for the San Jose Downtown Association.

"I am deeply humbled by this opportunity to serve my dynamically diverse community and rebuild the bridges between our businesses and the people of this great Valley," Seaver said in a statement. "It is this area's entrepreneurship that in my eyes offers an equitable road to economic mobility for all of our residents and it is time to refocus on this promise."

Seaver replaces Matt Mahood, the SVO's former CEO, who stepped down while entangled in controversy over a decidedly racist campaign advertisement depicting a group of Black men in a cloud of either tear gas or smoke asking:

See SEAVER, page 9

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Valley Currents

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

Evergreen School District Speech and Debate Teams headed to Nationals!

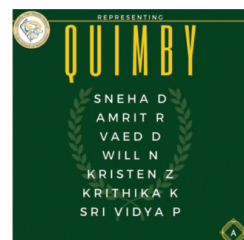
By William Bellou
Publisher

After a very successful first year completion of the Speech and Debate Enrichment Program, Evergreen School District (ESD) Speech and Debate Teams representing Middle schools Chaboya, LeyVa, Quimby Oak and from feeder elementary schools, have made it to Nationals.

The ESD Teams consist of 6th and 7th-grade students representing all schools within ESD. Teams will be competing in National Speech & Debate in June. The teams have earned this huge accomplishment by placing top at recent tournaments.

Speech and Debate Coaches, Bernadette Marcias, Wonderly Peralta, and April Nguyen are extremely proud of their teams' accomplishments. ESD Championship's first place winners and other top competitors were invited to represent their team at the National Speech and Debate Association Middle School Tournament, one of the largest academic competitions in the United States.

All students on the National team have one thing in common:



dedication. Students that qualified for nationals have been invited to judge their elementary peers, attend extra practices, and assist other competitors in the district because they are dedicated to the success of their team. They all understand success is a team effort.

ESD's national competitors will have multiple events and they are eager to take on more because they are all aiming for a national title.

ESD Superintendent, Dr. Emy Flores stated "The dedication and perseverance of our students as competitors are the main reasons why they have earned a national seat on their first year as speech and debate competitors!"

Gifts for Teens already gearing up for December holiday celebrations

By Cheryl Markman
Gifts for Teens

As always, and maybe even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic, low-income teens do and will need some holiday cheer.

Through your generosity, Gifts for Teens will again be able to provide holiday gifts for the neediest local teenagers, the homeless and kids in foster-care group homes. Duffel bags for the boys and sturdy totes for the girls are filled to the brim with popular items, both practical and fun. Each bag and tote includes warm clothes, personal care items, school supplies, \$25 store gift cards, jewelry and cosmetics for the girls, games and sturdy Bombas socks for the boys, plus many more fun and useful gifts. Be assured that the teens really appreciate these festive holiday gifts, often the only ones they receive.

Cash donations received now allow us to take advantage of the many spring sales promotions. Please contact Jan Giroux, jgiroux603@aol.com, to help.

Silver Creek H.S. student Meha Kavoori creates fun after school STEAM clubs for elementary schools

Winning praise in bringing fun to science and math

By William Bellou
Publisher

Meha Kavoori, a Silver Creek High School Junior, is conducting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Labs as after school clubs for elementary schools in the Evergreen Valley.

Meha started the program in her sophomore year with a mission to make Science and Math fun for underprivileged kids so they can pursue STEM based education and careers in their life.



The after school program involves teaching kids science concepts utilizing fun experiments that they can do with items found around the house. The program is winning praise as the activities are especially essential for teachers and kids during the pandemic year.

"Kids at this age are easily impacted and it's important that they receive proper education and guidance necessary to reach their full potential. By teaching kids STEM based topics in a fun and hands-on way,

they are given the opportunity to explore their interests and pursue STEM based education and careers," says Meha.

See KAVOORI, page 18

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Times **Community News****Are you ready for some fun?**

Join us for our first annual:

Virtual Charity 5k Fun Run/Walk**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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World Art Day reminds us to think creatively

By Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
 County Superintendent of Schools

"Art is a line around your thoughts." – Gustav Klimt

Art nurtures creativity, innovation, and culture. It plays a key role in sharing knowledge, encouraging curiosity, and sparking dialogue.

April 15 was World Art Day, and I invite you to continue to celebrate the development and enjoyment of all things art.

Art is everywhere. If we look closely, it is in everything. Art is in the design of your cereal box, the graphics of the video games we love to play, and the songs we sing. Affecting our lives in both subtle and obvious ways, expected and unexpected, art connects us through tradition, and is present in poetry, food, dance, and stories.

Many of us have been spending an excessive amount of time in front of screens for virtual meetings, emails, and even for pleasure



"The Kiss" is one of the most famous works by artist Gustav Klimt.

with streaming services. Today, I encourage everyone to take a few extra minutes to take part in a creative exercise, to look around, and discover the wonders and beauty that shape our world.

Editor's Note: To better raise worldwide attention to the work of international artists and the ways in which everyone celebrates creative expression, April 15 has been established as World Art Day by the International Association of Art. The reason this date was chosen is because it is the birthday of the famous artist Leonardo Da Vinci.

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Times **Feature**

Vaccine

Continued from page 1

easy. They are also giving vaccination shots out on Sundays too so try to book on Saturday. Try to schedule by computer with the information shown below. It's fast and very easy to do.

Although the availability of appointments changes with the vaccine supply the center receives, the secret "No Show" opportunity is available each day (even Sundays) with no guarantee.

If one is having trouble getting a vaccination booking through a major medical carrier it can be given here at the Eastridge Aloha roller rink vaccination center, and one does not pay. Aloha Roller Rink Stanford Care just asks for your medical card and they work with your medical provider so you do not have to do anything. It is all free (see below). Even if you do not have medical insurance they will help you get the vaccination.

This Covid vaccination site which opened at the Eastridge Shopping Center in a roller rink is now open perhaps all the days of the week (currently). So try to sign up for appointments, but if you have trouble there is another opportunity. You can drive over and ask for a Covid vaccine a half hour before they close and maybe you might be served. So, you have two ways to get vaccinated. You can book an appointment which is very easy, or you can try the "No Show" strategy explained in this Special Report.

How it works

The vaccination site closes at 6 p.m., so often there can be some "No-Shows" who do not arrive at their appointment day or time. This means that one might be able to ask at 5:30 p.m. at the front entrance, if it's possible to receive a "No Show" vaccine.

Vaccines in use

The Aloha roller rink site at Eastridge Shopping Center receives vaccines sent to them and the shipments can vary depending on current supplies from the manufacturers.

The site currently injects Pfizer or Moderna but may return to vaccination with Johnson and Johnson vaccine in the future. As for now, state officials issued a report on April 13 encouraging sites to temporarily stop using the Johnson and Johnson vaccine while they examine the safety issues.

Vaccination requirements

What are the requirements needed for vaccination at Stanford Health Care?

Their website states they can vaccinate people who live or work in Santa Clara County AND are:

- Health care workers
- Age 16 or older
- Working or residing in high-risk group settings
- Experiencing homelessness and may move to group settings at short notice
- Emergency services workers
- Food or agriculture workers
- Education or childcare workers (including any staff involved in child and/or student care)
- Public transit, airport, or commercial airline workers

No cost

There is no cost to you to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination is available to individuals regardless of insurance coverage status. You won't pay coinsurance, a deductible, or a copayment.

If you are insured, you are required to provide your insurance information at the time of your appointment. While the vaccination shot that is purchased and distributed by government agencies is free of charge, there is a cost to administer the vaccination. This cost will be billed and paid by your insurance or govern-

ment program.

Do I need to bring anything to prove I'm eligible for the vaccine?

You do not need to bring documentation from your employer or doctor to receive the vaccine. You will be asked to confirm that you meet the current criteria.

If you have a form of identification, please bring it to your appointment. An ID, however, is not required to get the vaccine.

Editor's Note: To learn more about booking an appointment just web search; COVID-19 VACCINE SITE: ALOHA Roller Rink-Eastridge Mall. Also, perhaps other such sites have "No Show" opportunities if one asks a half hour before closing.



If one is having trouble getting a vaccination booking through a major medical carrier it can be given at the Eastridge Aloha roller rink vaccination center.



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Second Story Duo 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 San Jose shares their newest single "A Crack In The Wall."

Lynn Case along with her partner Doug Bloomquist, produced the new song in their home recording studio as an introspective ballad that dives into celebrating the beautiful moments in relationships and the expression of how they can 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, instead, 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

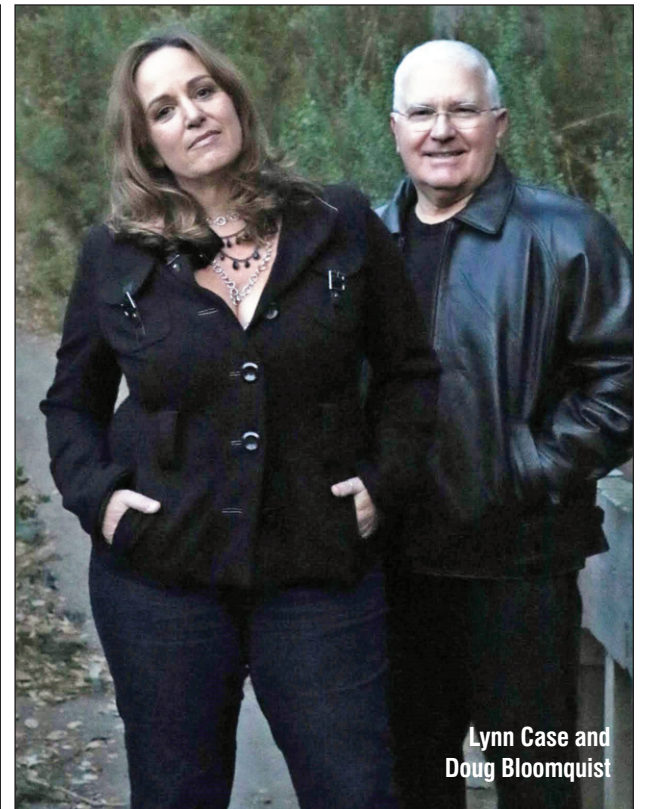
in life are worth waiting for.

Lynn has a way of revealing the truth with emotional vulnerability in her song writing, as she and Doug take us into their world through their first album that beautifully explores 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 and on their own, my focus changed," Chase 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



Lynn Case and
Doug Bloomquist

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."

"We thought we may have a cool story to share as we hit the one year mark of quarantine," Chase 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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Times Feature



Principal **Dr. Marena Doxie** unveils a *We've Missed You* sign greeting students arriving at Chaboya Middle School on Monday, April 19.

In person

Continued from page 1

distancing approach between students, which goes beyond the California Department of Public Health's guidelines of three feet, and also requires six feet of distancing between teachers and students. Regular hand sanitation practices occur throughout the day, as will cleaning procedures. To help familiarize students and families with the new health and safety procedures, families were sent instructions from their school principals and a video - <https://eesd.info/3e5U09T> - featuring district students describing the schools' COVID-19 mitigation measures.

"It's rare to have two first days of school during a school year, and a few months ago, we didn't even think this would be a possibility," Dr. Flores said. "Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Evergreen community has experienced some of the highest concentrations of COVID-19 positivity rates in Santa Clara County. Due to drastically lower infection rates and the opportunity for all district staff members to be vaccinated, the district began the process for its return to in-person learning in late January with the goal of returning to in-person learning this month."

Although students are dismissed at lunchtime, in order to facilitate safe socialization opportunities for students, on a rotating basis, schools will host cohorts of students to eat lunch together so that they can build connections and socialize with their peers outside of class.

One of the opportunities that arose during distance learning was for the Evergreen School District to develop a robust virtual

enrichment program that included dance, art, music, coding, and an award-winning speech and debate team. Due to the overwhelming success of this program, the district will continue to offer it to both students learning in-person and through distance learning.

"This program has not only provided engaging learning and enrichment activities, but it has also provided a way for students to be connected while in distance learning," said Dr. Flores. These enrichment activities will continue in the summer and will be held through distance learning and in person. ESD's goal is to continue providing enrichment activities in the 2021-2022 school year.

More information about the district's Safe Together Return to In-Person Learning Plan can be found at www.eesd.org/SafeTogether.



Balloons in all shapes and sizes welcome students back to in-person learning at Evergreen Elementary School on Monday, April 19.

Seaver

Continued from page 4

"Do you really want to sign on to this?"

The online ad's negative message was in response to community discussions pertaining to a call to defund the San Jose Police Department, amid nationwide protests erupting nationwide following George Floyd's death after a former Minneapolis police officer used excessive force.

The controversial ad resulted in embarrassed board members' resignations, a now-dissolved PAC, condemnation from election officials and dwindling financial support.

A list of SVO's Board Members was taken offline shortly following the ad and has yet to resurface. Yet, according to the SVO's website, 134 businesses joined SVO last year, a member-

ship base that spans more than 80 industries. Its roster of members ranges from Toeniskoetter Construction, the California Apartment Association and California's Great America.

It will be Seaver's job to keep that base growing and mend the divides that surfaced last year in the wake of the online blunder.

"He brings integrity and a collaborative spirit to every issue he tackles, and I have no doubt that he will bring that same energy to the SVO. Anyone who has had the good fortune of working with Derrick knows he is committed to the community he serves and will work with everyone to meet their needs," Ellenberg said in a statement. "I can think of no better leader, ally or friend to repair and reinforce the integral bridges between our business community and the people who call this place home."



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REAL ESTATE

How does Prop 19 affect local homeowners?

By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

While we are still battling a housing crisis in the Bay Area one new tool can help free up family units onto the market soon.

Prop 19 passed by the voters in November 2020 allows seniors, disaster victims and the severely disabled to transfer their property tax base statewide. Now that it has fully gone into effect, many questions have been brought up about how to utilize the benefits of this new law. In this article we will take a closer look at some of the positive effects of Prop 19 and how it can help solve our need for creating more housing inventory.

You may recall that up until Prop 19 passed, Seniors (55 and older), only had the ability to preserve their tax basis on their home when moving to a home in a county accepting the transfer of basis and were required to buy a home of equal or lesser value. Under Prop 19 Seniors only had this opportunity if they were moving to Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego,

San Mateo, Santa Clara, Tuolumne, or Ventura County. This restriction had the effect of making Seniors feel trapped in homes that no longer meet their needs and created shortages for much needed family housing.

Now under Prop 19, older homeowners, those who are severely disabled, or victims of wildfires or natural disasters can move anywhere in the state without location restrictions. Qualified homeowners can transfer their existing property tax base to another property regardless of the cost of the replacement home (with an adjust-

ment upward to their tax basis if the replacement property is of greater value).

For example If my Aunt sold her 4 bedroom home in Morgan Hill for \$1 million to move to a senior living condo in San Mateo, she is able to preserve her tax basis as long as the new condo is equal to or less than the value of the home she is selling. (See fig. 1)

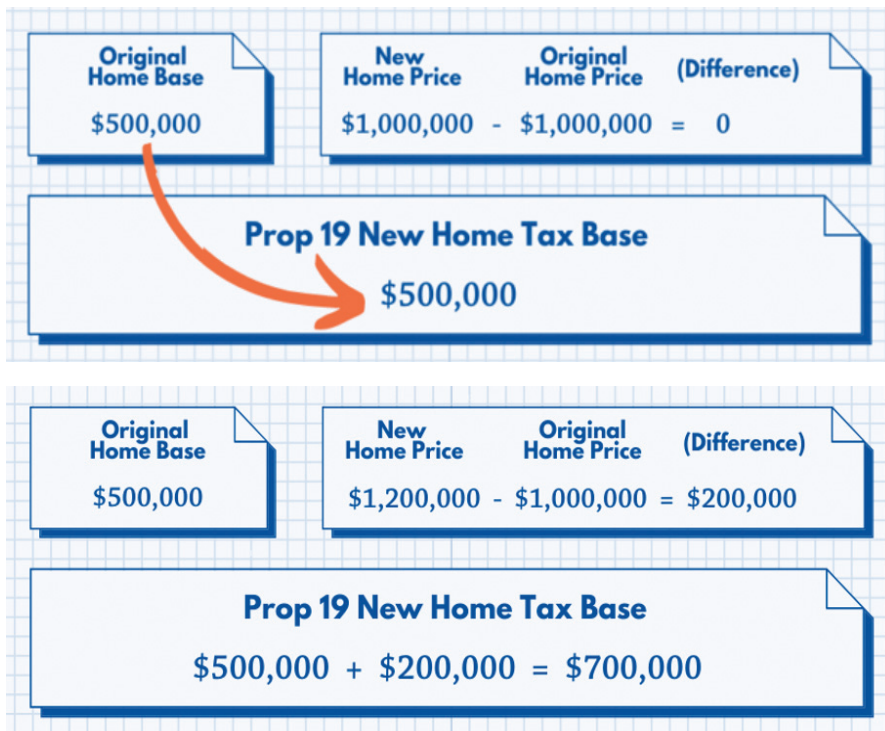
Now if Aunt Lily wants a high rise condo in San Francisco and pays \$1.2 million she would still be able to preserve most of her tax basis. (See fig. 2)

The State Board of Equaliza-

tion has created several new forms to enable homeowners to claim the tax savings. They have made the forms available to all county assessors, but some offices are still working on implementing them. Learn more on the Assessor's website. You can also use SCCAOR's Prop 19 tax basis portability calculator. The

Santa Clara County Assessor's Office has created a Prop 19 inheritance tax calculator.

Now that seniors have been given the freedom to move closer to their grown children or into housing designed to cater to their needs, we can expect the inventory of 3 and 4 bedroom housing to go up. While this is one step in increasing family housing inventory, we must continue to build more housing if we are ever going to work our way out of our housing crisis.



futureofus

Continued from page 1

ever-growing organization is taking youth empowerment to the next level.

Student-run organization

While completely student-run, *futureofus* has article writers, poets, media and marketing teams, graphic designers, website creators and more. Not to mention their recently launched podcast available on all streaming platforms, "our future, our time" currently has upwards of a thousand listeners.

The *futureofus* podcast goes into great depth as hosts Riya Shukla and Hrishi Koushik engage warm conversations with change-makers around the world in their departments to break down and understand the future from the perspective of influential types. Their guests range from Master Chef Champion Beni Cwiakala, to author of *Mom's Don't Have Time to: A Quarantine Anthology*, Zibby Owens and young creators like Natalie Shell.

Director of Events at *futureofus* Daria Wilk shares that "Being a young person with innovative ideas today is hard. As a 21-year-old activist, I found myself multiple times in a room with a group of middle-aged men who assumed that my youth meant I didn't have a voice. Convinced that their life experience gave them all the answers, I was often ignored. The frustra-

tion I felt in those meetings is the frustration I share with many young people in the United States and worldwide. The future starts today, and it does not start with men sitting in a boardroom; it begins with the next generation."

Students from around the world are joining this lively platform and submitting their articles, poems, and art using their launched website futureofus.info to voice their opinions on everything from the Future of Saving the Sea Turtles, to the Future of Fashion. Participants explore politics, environment & climate change, communication & society, and much more.

Director of Human Resources at *futureofus* Arnav Vyas says, "When I first heard about *futureofus*, I was immediately interested. An organization that's getting teenagers across the world involved in our generation's future? No other organization is doing anything like this and reaching the levels of engagement that we're at right now."

One of *futureofus*' senior writers Jeremy Elwell tells us, "I think that *futureofus* is a wonderful outlet in which the voices of the future are able to express their views and opinions, and I could not be more grateful for the platform."

One thing's for sure, with the dedication of students, *futureofus* is not just a website, it's a brand, it's a lifestyle, and it's the future.

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Times **Feature****Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco creates positive Zoom meeting to honor residents***Off-the-Chart World Class-Online-Interactive-Awards Ceremony*By **Kevin Larsen**
Times staff writer**Magdalena Carrasco**

Some say Magdalena Carrasco's communications skills are legendary.

Whenever one hears her name or is lucky enough to see her speak, it is quickly understood she is captivating in how she conveys her ideas and thoughts to the audience; a simple, determinedly-earnest, joyfully-demanding, intelligently-keen quality that enchantingly impacts everyone.

Part of her vibrant communication skill-set is to make work fun and joyful. It is a gift and perhaps this is how ancient women leaders in all cultures once utilized this same power to lead. Does she care deeply perhaps like that of the woman her parents named her for.

Her attention to presentation of ideas and thoughts is key to the way she reaches out to get everyone to work together, to care and respect one another. She is somewhat like a family friend for she radiates care to all.

Such was the case of the unbelievable groundbreaking Zoom meeting she and her TEAM created on Friday evening, March 26 to honor those in the community. These community members were nominated by the residents to honor their unselfish acts of devotion to others.

Carrasco shares special communication skills

Always Magdalena Carrasco is immaculately dressed. She's a role model and says without speaking that appearance is important in life for it too is part of communication. From presentation she adds a truly remarkable way of listening and hearing the views each person attempts to express. She makes communication look effortless but it is anything but that. She rapidly takes information into her mind and creates the most eloquent words to kindly and joyfully keep the conversation going in ways that add joy, pride, value, hope and intelligence to the people. This innate skill was refined by her life experiences and this too positively impacted the way the Zoom meeting was run, with clarity, purpose and fun.

Magdalena graduated from Independence High School in San José and worked in the local community for decades. Growing up the child of immigrant parents, Magdalena learned the value of hard work and community service at a young age, a value that has propelled her to serve families, children and community her entire life.

She was the first in her family to finish high school and she worked her way through college as a caregiver at home for youths transitioning between juvenile hall into the adult world. She taught them life skills, conflict resolution, anger management and how to respect themselves and their communities.

Magdalena led a ten-year career with the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children Services. There, she served as a powerful advocate and spokesperson for the Foster Care and Adoptions Program. Magdalena also served as a Family and Child Advocate with First 5 Santa Clara. She helped rehabilitate perpetrators of violence and made sure their families got the help they needed to get back on

their feet.

Although San Jose has ten unique district boundary areas which are nurtured by individual councilmembers, Magdalena ensures her team reaches out beyond the boundaries of White road and Alum Rock to include all residents overlapping into our District 8 Evergreen area and beyond.

Off-the-Chart World Class-Zoom Meeting

All who signed up for her newsletter were invited to her evening Zoom event. Many in attendance said it was the best Zoom meeting they had ever attended.

Carrasco decided to use high quality social media to communicate. Eventbrite.com kicked off the sign ups to attend the event with a special treat of the first 50 sign ups receiving good-



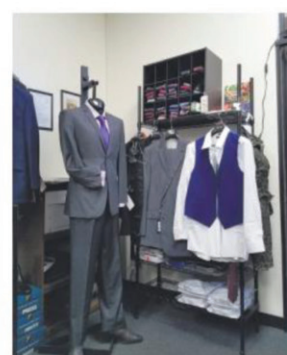
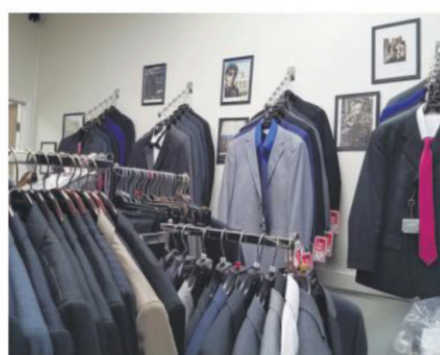
The first 50 sign ups to Magdalena Carrasco's Zoom meeting received goodie boxes.

ie boxes. This was very classy and once again uplifted a community that had been battered

down by so many difficult challenges over the past year dealing with the pandemic and side issues. It was as though Carrasco and her TEAM said to all, you have the right to be happy and have fun even though we are confined to be currently connected by the inter-web.

Special uplifting music was played in the intro and ending of the special meeting. All of the Carrasco TEAM were working together during the meeting to help it function along with MC (Master of Ceremonies) Carrasco sharing the mic with so many. She kept it all going with that special quality of meaningful communication with love and care and joy! You could just tell by how all acted that Carrasco and her TEAM worked well together. Even if there

See CARRASCO, page 15

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Times Local News



Chavez Supermarket opening soon

Many say "We love the taqueria!"
The Chavez Supermarket is opening a new location next to Sizzlers and 24 Hour Fitness, just off of Capital Expressway and Aborn

Square Road this summer at 2926 Aborn Square Rd.

Many Evergreen residents are raving about their taqueria and welcome the new location.



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Times Feature

Carrasco

Continued from page 13

were minor mix-ups here and there, there were no hang-ups for all worked together and that is the mark of solid management.

Carrasco stated, "It was an incredible year full of great challenges. We want to take time to give everyone a minute just to celebrate. When we look back, we know that this is the time when we all came together to help the community. When we had heatwave, we had a power outage, we came together, over a hundred people volunteered to knock on doors and we got people to sign up for things they needed. Once Covid hit we just knew that the East Side would be most impacted. That means our families and those our children play with would be hit hard and you all stepped it up and we had to go back out with volunteers to help the community and we reached out to all including other districts and we never forgot about Gilroy too. Gilroy had rising numbers affected by Covid and Gilroy is part of the East Side, we never want to leave Gilroy out! We help all and continue to do so!"

Carrasco continued, "Tonight we want to take time to recognize all of our wonderful residents. These awards are all about the wonderful work and dedication to the East Side that you do. Love comes from every act you do and have given our community and beyond. I am grateful for the Task Force and leadership in our communities. I want to make sure you are recognized for all of your hard work. There are a lot of things we need to band together for recovery and resiliency. Students need to go back to school healthy and with safe families."

Attendees presented with award certificates

Eva Heredia: Champion of high-quality education. Supports all schools in attending weekly meetings and rallies to bring information to all.

Le Tran: Led efforts to ensure a free Vietnamese Dual Immersion elementary program opened and operated successfully.

Darlene Tenes: Created the grassroots 'Farmworker Caravan' which provides emergency supplies to farmworkers.

Myra Zamora Nava: Unsung hero for decades in helping folks on the East Side by creating safe spaces for displaced families, survivors of abuse. She hustled to garner resources to provide for underserved and empowers those who seem lost. She provides safety nets for those in need of the little help she wished she had when she was in the same situation long ago.

Aileen Villamiel: She put up a classified message board to provide help to those evicted, lost jobs, needed lawyers, SSI, IHSS, MediCal, Cal-fresh, etc. Every day, she used her small business as a "switchboard" for resources. Her leadership is by

example and she has inspired the Fil/Am community to care for each other.

Angela Tirado: She has served selflessly with non-profits teaming up to meet the needs of the community. She has brought comfort and hope during these times of loss. She also sang at community events, among them honoring our Veterans and fallen officers who serve our Country.

Barry Noll: Served as an associate in the Health Trust's Jerry Larson Food Basket, providing volunteer training and healthy groceries and meals to people living with HIV/AIDS and homebound seniors. Barry simply will not say no to someone in need...and we as a community are so fortunate.

Gustavo Cazall: Coach and inspiring consultant who has been a great impact to residents in teaching them how to build a better way of living and life. One student stated, "Your conferences and courses have taken me on roads I never thought I could walk upon because I did not go

to the University. The classes made me feel on a different level."

Shrobana Sengupta: "Shrobana Sengupta, a 16 year old junior in Presentation High School in San Jose is an extremely capable, talented and kind leader who has been relentlessly working throughout the pandemic to serve the severely impacted from the underserved sections of our local community. She sold macaroons and donated the proceeds to local senior homes in the summer of 2020 and also to St. Jude and Cure Alzheimers Fund. As the pandemic arrived, she started her biggest project so far.

Yolanda Araujo: A case manager in the Health Trust's Housing Services program, always sees the glass half full. She radiates positive energy, inspiring clients and coworkers with her enthusiasm. Overcoming generational and cultural gender expectations, Yolanda had the courage to pursue her education, completing STEM classes and exemplifying a "¡Si se Puede!" inner strength.

Judy Thompson: Led the Indivis-

*Carrasco continued,
"Tonight we want to
take time to recognize
all of our wonderful
residents. These
awards are all about
the wonderful work
and dedication to the
East Side that you do."*

ible East San Jose group through the past four years with the purpose of fighting dangerous policies, and attacks on the local communities. She started with a committee, but ended up as the primary lead, secretary, communications coordinator, event coordinator and Zoom host with grace and panache.

Mary Valderrama: Chairperson for ARVAC, Alum Rock Village Action Committee. She keeps our organization running strong, ensuring that we are making a strong positive impact in our community, improving

safety and bringing beauty to the community.

Daisy Barocio: Committed leader to the children and families, whether serving as a Rapid Responder, Human Services Commissioner, or educational leader within the East Side and Alum Rock community. She is always advocating for the needs of all families. Even during a global pandemic, she has worked directly with many families to ensure they have accurate bilingual information to obtain internet access, groceries, COVID-19 testing, and, most recently, vaccine appointments.

Louis Alberto Barocio: Insightful leader and role model whose impact goes beyond the school campus and into the community. As a site administrator at James Lick High School in East Side San Jose, he tirelessly leads his team to ensure their students have the resources they need to realize their full potential, all the while validating their experiences.

See CARRASCO, page 17



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Return to Work - one Cancer Survivor at a time - Girl Scouts Gold Award Project

I have a very personal connection with cancer'

By Ria Dhingra
Special to the Times

As a Girl Scout, I am on a mission to help Cancer Survivors return to a meaningful career post-treatment. I have hosted online training sessions introducing Cancer Survivors to LinkedIn, set up a Virtual One-on-One Coaching program to enable Cancer Survivors to seek mentorship from LinkedIn volunteers, and shared LinkedIn's job seeker resources with ~4000 Cancer Survivors through newsletters. I have a very personal connection with cancer. My grandmother was diagnosed with Aplastic Leukemia, a very rare form of Leukemia in 2007. She worked in the Water Department of Delhi, India. However, this diagnosis and the treatment that followed changed her life completely and she did not return to work. I was too young at the time to understand what was going on, but as I researched this topic for my Gold Award project, I realized how the outcome for her could have been very different if she had access to the right resources. Eleven years later, cancer hit our family again in August 2018, when my mother was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma. I saw first-hand what my mother was going through; the treatment wasn't easy on her; she was becoming weaker every day. But by the grace of God, she recovered, returned to work and my family is back to normal again. Life after cancer is worth celebrating and too, we need to empower cancer survivors with resources that enable them to return to a normal work-life. This is what I am striving for in this Girl Scouts Gold Award project.

"Due to Covid, last year has been full of ups and downs for so many. Personally, I feel deep sorrow for the lives that we have lost in the last year, but at the same time, I feel grateful that I have been able to touch so many lives in a very positive way."

—Ria Dhingra

The 'Return to Work' project focuses on connecting Cancer Survivors to the resources that will help them build an online professional community and increase their chances of finding a job. In this project, I am working with Bay Area Cancer Connections (BACC), a nonprofit that provides personalized services to anyone affected by breast or ovarian cancer. I am also working with LinkedIn, one of the most popular online social platforms for professionals. In collaboration with LinkedIn volunteers and BACC, we have hosted LinkedIn training sessions for Cancer Survivors. We have also set up a Virtual One-on-One Coaching program to allow Cancer Survivors who are BACC clients to engage in a meaningful career conversation with LinkedIn volunteers. The goal of these sessions is to:

- Help survivors build an online professional brand and network on LinkedIn
- Get general career advice and coaching

on how to explain gaps in their resume

- Get introduced to LinkedIn Learning resources that will help them re-skill if needed
- General mentorship and guidance on LinkedIn best practices

LinkedIn's Social Impact team offers a lot of free resources (<https://tinyurl.com/32n6ba88>) to enable job seekers to have the resources and networks needed to build a meaningful career. My project has made these LinkedIn resources easily accessible for Cancer Survivors from the BACC Website (<https://tinyurl.com/59fnf9hp>) and also shared them with ~4000 BACC clients through the monthly newsletter. It hasn't been an easy ride. The uncertainty of the last year made planning and coordinating really hard. Hosting an event requires a lot of coordination, and doing everything online due to Covid19, made things even harder. I had to find creative ways of making sure people were able to interact and connect with each other. For example: setting up breakout rooms, sharing surveys before and after to understand what people were looking for, creating a lot of documentation, etc.

I need help from this community to spread the word

Although I have accomplished a lot in the last 5 months, in many ways, I am just getting started. I have plans to reach out to more non-profits and other online social platforms. I need help from this community to spread the word about my project. Together, we can do it.

I feel honored and grateful for the support I have received from LinkedIn volunteers

"Life after cancer is worth celebrating and too, we need to empower cancer survivors with resources that enable them to return to a normal work-life. This is what I am striving for in this Girl Scouts Gold Award project."

—Ria Dhingra

and BACC on this project. BACC has also recognized my work with the Presidential Service Gold Award. The Girl Scouts committee has approved this project proposal for a Gold Award. I am looking forward to submitting my final report to the Girl Scouts committee for a Gold Award this summer. For more details about my project, and/or if you would like to reach out to me, please email me at riadhingra13@gmail.com.
Editor's Note: Ria Dhingra is an Evergreen Valley resident of 10 years and a sophomore at Evergreen Valley High School. Evergreen Times will follow up with another important article on how Ria completed her Girl Scout Golden Award. She is doing important work that inspires all of us in our community!



San Jose Gurdwara offers free walk in Covid-19 Vaccine on Sunday April 25

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

San Jose Gurdwara is offering the community a free walk-in Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic on Sunday, April 25, according to Bob Dhillon, President Sikh Gurdwara San Jose. "We would like to inform Evergreen Community about the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine Clinic on Sunday, April 25 at the San Jose Gurdwara from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Gurdwara Clinic was able to secure 100 shots of vaccine," Dhillon said. When you walk in for COVID-19 vac-

cine, you are required to complete the 2-page COVID-19 vaccine intake form which will be provided at the entrance. The San Jose Gurdwara is located at: 3636 Gurdwara Ave, San Jose, CA 95148. For additional information call Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712
Editor's Note: The Gurdwara will also be serving to-go meals and tea. Currently the Langar (kitchen) and eating area is closed so one can get a to-go meal and eat outside. The view is very nice. Also, look for more opportunities in the future to get your vaccine at the Gurdwara.



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Times Feature

Carrasco

Continued from page 15

Annya Artigas: Coordinator of Mental Health and Wellness supports in the Alum Rock Union School District. Annya has been on the front lines to provide much needed family support during trying times for families faced with eviction, food insecurity, those whose families have lost loved ones to COVID, and those struggling to balance at home learning. In particular, she works with families who have children with special needs, mental and emotional challenges who rely on their schools for support and guidance.

Imelda Bautista: Amazing leader in her home and community. Her involvement in her children's education makes a huge difference in the education of her children and the rest of the children in the community. Her work as a community advocate during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped provide information and resources to those who need it most.

Livier Hernandez Orozco: A leader in SPARK of Alum Rock School District, as stated by a student, "An exemplary woman in our community. She represents each category of this recognition! Her motivation daily with a positive message inspires me every day. I can count on a message that will make me smile for the part of every day."

Edward and Theresa Ng: (7-11 store business owners) We are thankful for neighborhood business owners Edward and Theresa Ng. Our local 7-11 on Marten Ave is central to our residents, serving families and students as a hub for groceries or a snack. Edward and Theresa keep their business lot clean and welcoming; they partner with the neighborhood association, police, and city services to keep the area free from blight, litter, and unsafe activities. We appreciate the pride they take as responsible business owners in our residential neighborhood.

Peter Ortiz: Proud member of the Latino / Chicano community and lifelong East San Jose native. Peter is able to bring a wide range of perspectives and experiences to his roles in leadership. As a survivor of gang violence, former systems-involved youth, and a successful community organizer, Peter is a direct product of the community he advocates for.

Fabio Gonzalez: Dr. Gonzalez published articles on Latino community college students' pathway to medical schools and serves on an advisory board to a UCLA Research initiative to explore Latino community college students' contributions in medicine. He was elected president of the California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Association (CCCEOPSA) which acts as a communications network base among EOPS/CARE staff, students, statutory advisory committees, the Chancellor's Office and more at the 116 California community colleges.

Brenda Pinal: She started out as a caring parent who wanted to make a difference in her children's education. Now she has become one of District 5's most active residents, advocating on issues spanning from poverty alleviation, caring for our cities homeless, support for families impacted by Covid19, and partnering with our local neighbors to make sure our community is clean. Brenda is a fierce warrior for our East San Jose families.

Omar Torres: Through this work, he witnessed many challenges facing the community such as poverty, lack of access to education, gang problems and drug issues. In 2014, voters elected him to the Franklin-McKinley School Board, where he advocated closing the achievement gap, better pay for teachers, and

created a Vietnamese Dual Immersion program. In 2020, voters elected him to the Board of Education to the San José-Evergreen Community College District, Trustee Area 7. He said, "It's an honor to serve the East Side, an amazing journey, I have so much gratitude."

Blanca Carbajal: In addition to teaching youth to dance, she inspires students to be advocates for their community. Together they have participated in many events for the city, Univision, and even Disneyland as well as participate in Beautification days, National night outs, Women's march, Cesar Chavez events and many other advocacy community events in San Jose every year! Throughout the years, she has been very inspired to see the new generations of dancers that are inspired to grow the little seed of culture and love for Mexico.

Jolene Smith: FIRST 5 visionary leader, was raised on the East Side and has never forgotten her roots. When the pandemic hit, she knew her beloved East Side would be hit the hardest and families with young children would be scrambling. She brought a coordinated approach in helping others. Jolene used this time of crises to bring joy, comfort and stability to ESJ families.

Si Se Puede Collective: This is a collective of 5 nonprofits in Mayfair, a working-class neighborhood in East San José. Together they ensure our community has what they need to thrive in addition to helping others in surrounding communities. People in Evergreen also depend on these non-profits.

Music, Spinning Wheel, Bump and Spin

The event closed with the same way it be-

gan. There was so much happiness and everyone was connected. It did not matter that Covid reared its ugly head a year ago. No one could stop the rejoicing among the people who were reaching out to help one another during a tremendous time of challenge.

Carrasco acted as the VOICE for all. She set the tempo and mood of the event. Her website states "I am committed to being a voice for all our wonderful neighborhoods and an advocate for city policies that will improve our quality of life." Many said that everyone worked so hard to help others. This kind of event honors all and there is great energy in each person who was celebrated which in turn continues to inspire and amplify the voice of others.

An attendee said, "This was the most

See CARRASCO, page 20



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COMPASS

Times **Feature**

Kavoori

Continued from page 4

Meha began this program in her sophomore year at Silver Creek high school with Tom Matsumoto elementary children. After seeing their enthusiastic engagement during the sessions and how it was positively impacting them, she wanted to extend it to more schools by founding a club and recruiting a team to help her with that mission. She was joined by Rutaa Patel (11th grade) who worked with Meha to

create the outline and help run the club. Together they picked the officer board as Meha continued to reach out to various elementary schools in the area. As of right now, the officer board consists of Ananya Raman, James Trinh, Suhas Yarra, Shivani Patel, Richa Basarkar, and Achyut Chebiyam.

Currently STEAM Lab is working with a total of 150 students from Tom Matsumoto, James Franklin Smith, and Montgomery Elementary schools and they plan to add more. Each school is offered a bi-weekly

session per month with labs designed specifically for upper and lower graders. During the pandemic, the labs are conducted remotely on Zoom. The club designs experiments using materials commonly found in the house. The sessions are offered free to children.

Once in-person sessions begin later this year, the club plans to raise funds in order to supply material so it continues to be free.

Meha hopes for other high schools in the Bay Area to join the STEAM lab movement

and create their own chapters to offer labs to kids in their area. Her dream is to create a nonprofit organization that coaches and guides high school students to conduct STEAM labs for all elementary school children.

For information on bringing this club to your elementary school, starting a chapter at your high school, donating to the club, business sponsorships and other general enquiries - please contact: schssteam-lab@gmail.com.

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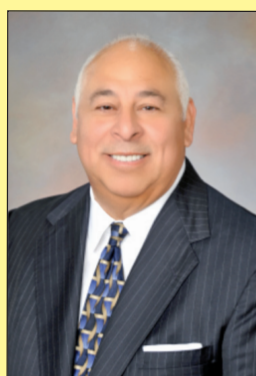
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Times Community News

Carrasco

Continued from page 17

wonderful Zoom event ever." There was the use of Eventbrite which expertly invited and reminded all of the upcoming event. The music was fun and uplifting. The Spinning of the raffle wheel created excitement to give out donated prizes from local businesses (Wheelofnames.com). The fun lighthearted invention of the Carrasco "Zoom bump" caused laughter and one must see it to believe it (it is a Zoom first where the person says, "I'm gonna bump you" and the other person reacts by getting bumped on their chair as seen on Zoom). Then too, another breakthrough at this "Stupendous-Off the Chart-World Class-Meeting," was the "I'm gonna spin you."

This may go viral as a Zoom first and occurs when a person picks another on screen and they say their name and that they are going to spin them. Then the person uses spinning motions with their index finger as if they have some special power in spinning them. That results in the person they choose to spin in their chair yelling out "wheeeeeee." Now that may seem a bit juvenile but it was for some a first time in a long time of not laughing in a group of people since the start of the dastardly pandemic. It mandatorily brought though some laughter which a year ago ran away as we all fought the bad times.

There were lots of smiles and some tears too for it was said that it was a truly challenging year but that The Carrasco TEAM and all other surrounding districts in San Jose banded together to help everybody. There were no

fences, no boundaries, just a reaching out of care for all. This is the Carrasco trademark. Even Assembly member Ash Kalra and Supervisor Cindy Chavez took time to attend and honor award winners.

"The Voice of San Jose," heralded singer Angela Triado sang and was thanked for her God given talent. A talented poet and producer Jonathan Borca (See Facebook-The Francis Experience) read his poems which touched the heart in meaningful ways.

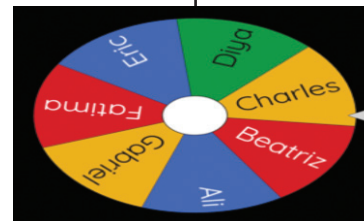
Magdalena Carrasco expertly composed a TEAM that created one of the best Zoom meetings in history. It was so fun and so good natured that many wished it just would never end. It was just the right mixture of serious-

ness and joyfulness. She uplifts everyone even if one doesn't embrace her views and she honors her belief that the true goal of a leader is not where you stand but who you bring with you.

Carrasco said, "It's important we get together at such events. It is good to celebrate and to communi-

cate to bring everyone into the loop of knowing what is going on and making all aware of the issues in San Jose. Having all of you here is the greatest gift! Thank you so much, I am so grateful to you all."

Editor's Note: The ten districts of San Jose all band together and vote in our city council chambers to help San Jose to evolve in positive ways. Magdalena Carrasco works to lead District 5 which touches our District 8, Evergreen. To better stay informed, one can join both the District 5 Magdalena Carrasco monthly newsletter and the District 8 Sylvia Arenas newsletter by going to their websites.



Wheelofnames.com (a wonderful way to enhance Zoom meetings and more.)



Gems in STEM:

Watch for the next installment: "What's Your Angle? An Intro to Arithmetic Billiards" by Apoorva Panidapu in the next issue of the *Evergreen Times*!



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Monthly child benefit payments begin this July

American families will start receiving monthly payments on July 1st

In a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Tuesday, IRS Commissioner Charles

Rettig confirmed to committee members that the newly expanded Child Tax Credit will, in fact, be distributed to parents on a monthly basis, beginning in July.

"The expectation from me and from Senator Bennet especially on this committee and other members of Congress," said Sen-

ator Sherrod Brown (OH), "is that the distribution [of the Child Tax Credit] will start going out monthly starting in July. My question is simple: Is the IRS on track for monthly payments starting in July?"

"We are," said Rettig. "If we end up not being on track for some unforeseen situation we will advise you and the committee."

The newly expanded Child Tax Credit, a provision of the American Rescue Plan, will send American families annual benefits totalling \$3,000 per child ages 6 to 17 and \$3,600 per child under 6. Parents will receive monthly checks of \$300 per month for each qualifying child age 5 and under, and up to \$250 per month for each child between the ages of 6 and 17 from July 1 to December 1, before receiving the remaining six months of the Child Benefit in January 2022. The credit will also be fully refundable.

Since the final stages of drafting the bill, however, there had been lingering doubts on Capitol Hill about the capacity and willingness of the IRS to restructure its staff to meet the intent of the law to make the tax credit monthly.

Those doubts were put to rest with Commissioner Rettig's answer to Senator Brown's question.

The news was received with excitement from advocates for universal basic income,

as the tax credit's monthly advance payments would be experienced by its recipients in a fashion similar to how Americans would receive a basic income.

"It's particularly difficult to overstate the significance of this news," said Liam DeClive-Lowe, Executive Director of Humanity Forward. "We received acknowledgement from the federal government today that American parents will be the beneficiaries of what is essentially the largest basic income pilot ever designed."

Leaders on Capitol Hill have already expressed a strong interest in making this new Child Benefit a permanent part of federal tax policy.

"If we can eradicate child poverty, it will be good for these kids and their families, but (also) for all of America," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) last March. "I'll do everything I can to make it permanent."

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has also confirmed President Biden's position in support of making the new Child Benefit permanent on March 16.

Early estimates expect that the benefit will reduce child poverty in America by over half, a statistic which has strengthened the case to make monthly checks to parents last longer than the one year appropriated for in the American Rescue Plan.



TENNIS TIPS

The 2 most important shots you forget to practice

By Ken DeHart

Director of Tennis

Silver Creek Valley Country Club

In any given tennis match there will be around 200 points played as a combination by both players.

Of those points, 70% will be either a serve or a return of serve!

But what shots do players practice the least – Serve and Return of Serve!

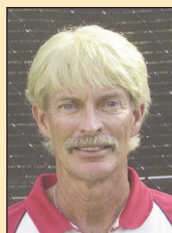
In practice, most players work on ground strokes, some volleys and a few overhands. But these shots only make up 30% of the shots you will hit in a tennis match! When do they practice serving? It's the last few minutes of practice.

Most players hit ground strokes and volleys as part of their warm up before starting a match, hit a few practice serves, no return of serves or call FBI (First Ball In) to start play. When they do that, as a receiver, I always call FBB (First Ball Back). If they get to serve until they get a serve in, I get to return until I get a return back as well.

Want to become a better player, one who can win their serve or can return effectively enough to break your opponents serve? Spend more of your practice time on these two shots and see the difference in your match results.

Here are three ways to improve your game in practice:

- When you practice your ground strokes with a friend, feed the ball in with an easy 2nd serve instead of an underhanded feed, which you never use in a match. This allows you to practice your serve motion as a warm up and your partner gets to work on returning the



serve so you can begin working on the shots you will only use 30% of the time in a match – ground strokes, volleys and overhands

- Practice with a target for feedback. Place a cone, towel or target near the service court alley, one near the center "T" and one between them for the "at the body serve". Call out your target before you serve; "A" alley, "B" body or "C" center. See how often you can get near your target with the serve. Placement of the serve beats power!

- Have a partner return your serve and make it a fun and competitive game. Server will serve until they get 10 serves in the correct service box. If the returner gets the ball back in play, they get a point. If the server hits the serve in the net, the receiver gets a point and if the server hits the ball wide or long but the returner can get it back in play, they get a point. If the serve is wide or long and the receiver cannot get it back in play, neither player gets a point. At the end of the game, the server will have gotten 10 balls in play but the receiver may have more than 10 points. This allows the players to practice with pressure, like in a real match. Switch, now the server becomes the receiver and the receiver becomes the server. Play the game from the deuce court then the next game from the add court since you have to serve and receive from both sides in your matches.

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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

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St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00 PM, 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 11:00 AM, 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
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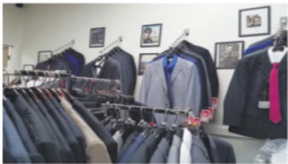
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