

SJECC District campuses to return to in-person instruction and services this fall
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Targeting homelessness
California's big city mayors ask state leaders for record level funds to end homelessness – **SEE PAGE 7**

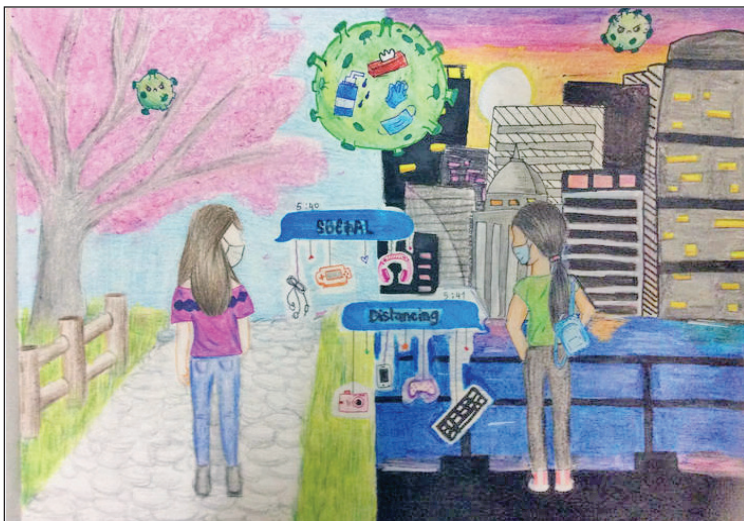
Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley enchants and educates children
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MAY 7 – MAY 20, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 10

EvergreenTimes

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Athmika Anbarasan recognized for her recent achievement

The Evergreen School District is proud of a recent achievement by a student.

Athmika Anbarasan submitted an original drawing to the Seattle Times Education Lab and was selected for the "Best In Category, Visual" for her drawing titled *New Normal*.

Athmika's submission was part of the *Seattle Times* contest called "Tales of Quarantine!" Students utilized their creative expression answering the question "How has COVID-19 impacted you and your community?"

Out of more than 180 students who entered, Athmika was one of the top 10 winners.

The contest from the Seattle Times generated more than 180 entries from across the country and seven prize winners from the states of Washington, California and New York.



Ideas wanted: The future of vacant 27 acres at Evergreen Valley College; Zoom meeting May 15

By Sandi & Rex Randles, Wes Lee, Daniel Reyes, and Robert Reese

On Saturday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. the San Jose Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) is sponsoring a Zoom meeting to provide an update on

the future of its vacant 27 acres.

The communities of Evergreen Valley, East San Jose and others are encouraged to provide their thoughts and suggestions for the best use of the vacant land which wraps around the CVS/Well Fargo Shopping Center at the corner of

San Felipe and Yerba Buena Roads.

"The Saturday Zoom meeting is an opportunity to share your vision and ideas on how the vacant 27 acres should be utilized in the future for the benefit of education in the San Jose, East San Jose and Evergreen communities," said Pat Waite, Past-President of the District 8 Community Round Table."

A lot has changed over the past several years regarding the 27 acres and this Zoom Meeting is in several ways a reset of the SJECCD's discussion of the future uses of the 27 acres with community members. The last community meeting on the 27 acres was in February 2018 when more than 100 Evergreen community members attended.

"We are hoping to have a similar large turnout for this extremely important community meeting," said Robert Reese, chairman of See *MEETING*, page 3

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EVC STUDENT

Lauren Dart: from doodles to designer

Content creator for the Evergreen Valley College Marketing Department

By William Bellou
Publisher

Lauren Dart has always been an artist. Growing up living in San Jose around diverse communities, cultures, and personalities shaped Dart's creativity and compassion that ultimately shows in her work.



Lauren has been drawing ever since she was a child, but when her teacher saw one of her classroom doodles and the school put it on the front cover of the yearbook, Lauren was hooked. She parlayed her doodling success into an entrepreneurial enterprise, selling drawings in middle school from somewhere between \$0.50 and \$5.00. The reactions and support she got from

See *LAUREN DART*, page 2

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

Times Cover Story

Lauren Dart

Continued from page 1

others who saw her artwork growing up left her thankful, astonished, and optimistic that this may be a talent worth practicing after all.

While attending Independence High School, Lauren's passion for black and white drawings quickly advanced to color when she was introduced to painting. Her teacher provided her with the materials and the opportunity to turn one of her homework assignments into a large, 40-inch painting for the Downtown Doors contest in San Jose. Although it did not make it to the end, she gained valuable experience that rewarded her with a new artistic perspective and skill.

Presently, Lauren attends Evergreen Valley College (EVC) and will be graduating this Spring 2021 with her Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree. During her time at EVC, art and Lauren have gone hand-in-hand. Her fine art experience has combined with her interest in technology and developed into a passion for graphic design.

After taking design courses at EVC, Lauren was sure she wanted to further develop her skills by practicing outside of school and learning new techniques. Aside from



Lauren Dart will be graduating this Spring 2021 with her Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree.

this, she was the President of the Art and Design Organization and also won an Honorable Mention Award at EVC's 2020 Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition for her digital illustration titled "Monochrome Sea" (which was created while taking EVC's graphic design course).

Lauren has remained very active in other areas at EVC as well and was a Senator and Board Official for the Associated Student Government. She also currently partici-

pates on the EVC new website design committee, helping advise the process of the college's new website.

Develops ads for EVC Marketing

Lauren's entrepreneurial spirit, which she developed at an early age, is still in effect. In addition to working a full-time job, Lauren also sold custom paintings while at EVC. And, during the Spring 2021 semester, she has been working as a graphic designer and content creator for the EVC Marketing Department and for her own personal projects set out to help others. Among the many projects Lauren has worked on, one in particular that stands out is the design of a special edition #EVCIMPACT campaign, which highlights EVC alumni and shares the impact EVC had on their lives and in turn, their impact on the world today.

"EVC has not only introduced me to so many incredible and generous opportunities, but I have learned so much more self and intrapersonal awareness along the way. I have also been given a variety of helpful resources, been connected with genuine people, and have received an exceptional education," Lauren said.

Lauren's goals are to transfer and apply this year to San Diego State, San Jose State, Sacramento State, San Francisco State, and potentially other graphic design programs or universities.

Lauren found her calling at an early age... and she is ready to take the next step in her artistic life journey while making an impact helping others along the way.



Among the many projects Lauren has worked on, one in particular that stands out is the design of a special edition #EVCIMPACT campaign.



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Times **Cover Story****Meeting***Continued from page 1*

the land use subcommittee. "A variety of folks from San Jose, East San Jose and Evergreen and at least two SJECCD Trustees have said that SJECCD underserves the community."

Should EVC offer more classes?

"Approximately 17,000 SJECCD residents attend Foothill, De Anza and West Valley Community Colleges which have greater numbers of course offerings and programs than does SJECCD," said Evergreen resident Sandi Randles. "The brutal impacts of COVID-19 have made it crystal clear that SJECCD needs to do more for our severely struggling East San Jose communities' students. SJECCD has excellent classes and programs. However, SJECCD needs to provide more classes and more programs to meet the needs of their current students and students who must leave the district to get their educational needs and goals met."

The current official policy of the SJECCD is that 27 acres was declared in 2004 to be "surplus" to SJECCD's academic needs.

In 2019, SJECCD terminated its Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with their development partner Republic Urban, which sued the SJECCD and the litigation is ongoing and not yet resolved.

The opportunities for the community's ideas to be sincerely taken into consideration by the SJECCD have been greatly en-

hanced with Evergreen resident Maria Fuentes as President of the Board of Trustees and new Trustees.

"This is our opportunity for early community engagement with SJECCD to have our ideas given proper consideration in SJECCD's new planning efforts for the future uses of the 27 acres on behalf of meeting its educational mission," said Evergreen resident Wes Lee.

Additional concerns with possible earthquake fault zones at Evergreen Valley College

A January 6, 2017 *Evergreen Times* front page article shed light on an earthquake fault zone on the campus of Evergreen Valley College. This may need to be taken into account in the consideration of redevelopment of scarce land available at the Evergreen Valley College.

Editor's note: You may reach out by emails to the authors Sandi Randles, all4education@yahoo.com; or Robert Reese, RobertReese@reeseerlest@yahoo.com;

SJECCD Meeting Contact Info:

Time: May 15, 2021 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join the Zoom Meeting with this shortened link: tinyurl.com/7zwnn69s

Meeting ID: 923 7101 1409

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SJECCD SURPLUS LAND COMMUNITY MEETING



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Community College District

MAY 15, 2021

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East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees selects Glenn Vander Zee as new superintendent

The East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) Board of Trustees selected Glenn Vander Zee as the new superintendent of schools for the District at the April 22 Board Meeting. Vander Zee will take the helm July 1.

The selection and appointment comes after a statewide search by the Board, which included engagement with, and input from, District stakeholders including input sessions with administrators and staff, a community open forum for parents and other district stakeholders, and an online survey.

Of the selection process and the caliber of candidates, Board President Van Le said, "The District was very fortunate to be able to select from such a highly qualified and impressive pool of candidates and we are excited that Mr. Vander Zee will be leading the District and in our mission to build equitable learning communities for all students."

Vander Zee earned his bachelor's degree at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his Master's Degree in Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He currently serves as Associate Superintendent of Human Resources in the ESUHSD.

He has been an educator for more than 25 years, and began his career as a teacher in Puebla, Mexico. He has taught in elementary and middle schools, and he has served as principal at both the middle school and high school levels.

See VANDER ZEE, page 21

Valley Currents

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

Valley Water, City of San José, and County of Santa Clara join volunteers to clean up Coyote Creek

Dozens of volunteers removed debris along Coyote Creek at Tully Road and Charcot Avenue on Saturday, May 1.

The Coyote Creek Cleanup event was launched by Valley Water's Homeless Encampment Committee in partnership with the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, and local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Coyote Creek has become polluted by illegal dumping and the debris generated by the growing number of encampments adjacent to waterways. Since local creeks flow towards the San Francisco Bay, debris near waterways can lead to water pollution and endanger wildlife.

Volunteers for this effort were recruited by *The Trash Punx*, *Saved by Nature*, and the *South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition*. During today's event the nonprofit *Opening Doors* provided hot meals and outreach services for the unhoused community. The City of San José handed out redemption cards from the Cash



for Trash Program in exchange for filled garbage bags. Event sponsors included Zanker Recycling and Republic Services.

Under the Safe, Clean Water Program, Valley Water has dedicated over \$38.7 million to continue coordinating with local cities and agencies to clean up creekside encampments that can contaminate waterways. Valley Water invites residents who want to be part of

the solution to reduce water pollution to register for the National River Cleanup. Every Saturday in May, volunteers will fan out across their neighborhoods to stop trash where it starts and prevent it from flowing to the bay.

To join National River Cleanup, visit www.cleanacreek.org.

Evergreen Valley High School recognized as a 2021 California Distinguished School

Evergreen Valley High School (EVHS) has been recognized as a 2021 California Distinguished School.

Presented by the California Department of Education (CDE) and sponsored by California Casualty, the 2021 California Distinguished Schools Program recognizes California schools that have made exceptional gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education for all students.

"The EVHS Community is honored to receive this distinction from the California Department of Education," said Kyle Kleckner, Principal at Evergreen Valley High School. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work of the staff and students at Evergreen Valley, and of the ample support our community provides. We look forward to continuing our work towards building a more equitable campus

See DISTINGUISHED, page 6



WORTH 1,000 WORDS

Beautiful Sunset at Montgomery Pond

This photo captured a beautiful moment at the Montgomery Pond located at The Villages Golf and Country Club.

"I hope the photo brings happiness," said photographer N. Jeanette Campa. Many who have seen the photo said it reminded them of beautiful Lake Tahoe.

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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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Distinguished*Continued from page 4*

community and ensuring that every student knows they belong and can be successful at EVHS."

In 2021, California is using a multiple measure accountability system to identify eligible schools based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard (Dashboard). Information about the Dashboard is available on the CDE California School Dashboard and System of Support web page at www.caschooldashboard.org.

"Earning a California Distinguished School award is a tremendous honor. It is a tribute to the leadership team, staff, students and community support for Evergreen Valley High School," said Chris D. Funk, Superintendent of East Side Union High School District.

"Evergreen Valley High School was the last campus to be constructed in our district, but from the beginning it has always been a leader in achieving academic excellence with our diverse student population," said J. Manuel Her-



Kyle Kleckner, Principal at
 Evergreen Valley High School

rera, ESUHS Board of Trustees Vice President.

The California Distinguished Schools will be celebrated at a virtual awards ceremony in the near future.

Additional information is available on the CDE Distinguished Schools Program web page at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs.

With Grace
Hospice scholarship
essay contest

With 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.

With 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 31, 2021. Winners will be contacted by June 15. Website: www.withgracehospice.com



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California's big city mayors ask state leaders for record level funds to end homelessness

\$4 Billion per year state investment; largest allocation of funds in the country

California's big city mayors are asking state leaders to allocate record level funding to end homelessness.

The Big City Mayors (BCM), a coalition of the mayors from California's 13 largest cities, came together virtually last week to ask the Governor and Legislative Leadership to include a historic \$4 billion per year, multi-year investment in the state budget to permanently house nearly every Californian who entered a homeless shelter in 2020.

With the combination of the \$26 billion California received from the American Rescue Plan, and the state's record surplus, the coalition sees a unique opportunity to measurably impact the homelessness crisis in California.

This would become the largest allocation of funds dedicated to fighting the homelessness crisis in United States history and could build over 100,000 homes for unhoused residents in California. The state is home to more than 25 percent of the nation's unhoused residents.

"Our bipartisan coalition of large-city mayors know too

well the urgency of addressing the homelessness that afflicts 161,000 of our fellow Californians," said San José Mayor and BCM Chair, Sam Liccardo. "This year's budget provides California with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to dramatically reduce homelessness --if we can muster the collective courage to stand up for our most vulnerable neighbors."

In early April, the BCM sent a letter to California State leadership including State Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Speaker Anthony Rendon, and Budget Committee Chairs Senator Nancy Skinner and State Assemblymember Phil Ting, outlining the desperate need for an on-

going source of funding for building new housing.

The \$4 billion per year, multi-year request came from the average cost of a Project Homekey unit at \$148,000. Mayors continue to utilize HEAP and HHAP funding, previous one-time State funding allocations, to build prefabricated dorms, modular housing, tiny homes, and shelters more cost-effectively with state and local dollars.

The Big City Mayors is a coalition of Mayors across California's 13 largest cities. Members include Mayors from Los Angeles, San Diego, San José, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento, Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim, Riverside, Santa Ana, and Stockton.

OP-ED

Minecraft, a masterpiece

By Max Liu (8th grade)

Special to the Times

Millennials played it in their childhood and children today play it as well.

For many people today who have played Minecraft, it reminds them of a time when life was more simple.

For those that are experiencing it for the first time, it represents a time of relaxation, creativity, and fun. It's the best-selling video game of all time, and it is part of many people's lives today. Can you guess what it is? It is Minecraft.

Like sketching, watercolor, and sculpting, Minecraft is a medium in which artists can create beautiful things. One of those things is pixel art. Minecraft's square aesthetic is perfect for recreating each pixel of an art piece. Its wide variety of different-colored blocks allow for a huge range of colors. Minecraft can also be used to create sculptures.

Each of Minecraft's cubic blocks can be put next to another to form curves and angles. In-game commands can be used to execute functions that make sculpting much easier in Minecraft than it is on other platforms. Using it as an architectural design tool, cities have started to use Minecraft as a way to visualize the renovations that they will make to parks and other important areas. People have also used Minecraft to model how they would want their backyards to be renovated. Now let's talk about the social aspect of Minecraft.

Servers in Minecraft are virtual worlds in which players can interact with each other. They can talk to each other using the chat system built into Minecraft. Young children who do not have their own google accounts or phones often use games, such as Minecraft, to chat with their friends. Stranger danger? Not in Minecraft. If players do not want to give away their contact information to people on the internet, they can still safely communicate with their in-game friends using the chat system. Many servers host tournaments and mini-games that players can participate in with their friends. With many people locked in their homes and apartments, Minecraft is a great way to be able to interact with other people in a virtual world.

But most importantly, Minecraft is a sanctuary of peace. No matter what happens in the real world, Minecraft will always be a place to calm down. You can explore the vast world and see new things. You can build whatever your heart desires. You can tame animals and take care of your pets. You can conquer dungeons and defeat monsters. Minecraft is a game of infinite wonders and unlimited possibilities, which makes it a great place to get lost in and forget about the worries of reality.



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San Jose – Evergreen Community College District campuses to return to in-person instruction and services this fall

Evergreen Valley College, San Jose City College, the Milpitas College Extension, and the Community College Center for Economic Mobility will return to in-person instruction and services for the fall 2021 term.

While many classes and student services will continue to be delivered via online modalities, SJECCD will begin its transition back to in-person operations this fall.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, our highest priority has been the health and safety of our students, our employees, and the entire community,” said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, SJECCD chancellor. “With thoughtful and deliberate planning, increasing vaccination rates and decreasing infection rates, the use of social distancing and personal protective equipment, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting processes, we believe we can safely return to limited in-person classes and services.”

Clift Breland has served as a member of both the Silicon Valley Economic Recovery and Resilience Council and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Safe Campus Re-

opening Workgroup, both of which were created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In-person instruction will be prioritized among courses and programs that include hands-on elements that are more difficult to transition to a remote learning environment, including allied health programs, career education fields, and critical STEM labs.

The District is receiving approximately \$14.8 million in federal Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) stimulus funding. Of that, the majority will be distributed directly to students to assist with financial challenges and the remainder will be used to offset costs incurred by the colleges for COVID-related expenses such as health and safety equipment, technology, and training.

San Jose – Evergreen Community College District and its Colleges have created multiple programs and initiatives to help students succeed despite the ongoing pandemic. Drive-up Wi-Fi service is available in designated parking lots to ensure students have internet access regardless of whether or

not it is available in their home, free food distribution programs have continued throughout the pandemic, and more than 3,000 laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots were distributed to ensure students had the technology needed to continue their studies in an online environment.

“Despite the many challenges faced by our students and throughout our District, I believe that, overall, we did a great job of moving to remote operations when the pandemic began more than a year ago,” Clift Breland said. “However, returning to campus presents a new set of challenges, and we are confident that we have engaged in the necessary planning to manage the transition.”

The fall 2021 term begins for both San Jose City College and Evergreen Valley College on August 30, 2021. The schedule of classes for both campuses is now available at sjcc.edu and evc.edu.



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Gifts for Teens’ efforts could not succeed without the generosity of our branch members, community donors and corporate sponsors.

Gifts for Teens grateful to those who donate gifts

By Cheryl Markman
Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens could not succeed without the generosity of our Branch members, community donors and corporate sponsors.

Many of the Branch members, usually over one-third, include a donation to GFT when paying their renewal dues in May and early June. A new feature on the Branch website, the Donate Cash button, makes it easy to donate, and many of you and other community donors have taken advantage of it.

The organization is grateful to everyone who has donated to this very worthwhile cause. Cash funds allow Gifts for Teens to purchase duffel bags and sturdy totes, sweatshirts and other warm apparel, school supplies, store gift cards, and personal items. These and other fun and

useful items will fill more than 500 bags for holiday giving to low-income teenagers this year.

The fun donations have been a blessing and helpful, including the San Francisco Giants, the San Jose Sharks, the Grateful Garments project, Golfland, Kohl’s, Wal-Mart and Target. And of course it can’t go without saying how grateful the organization is for the physical help of committee members and volunteers. These Committee members are preparing items this summer, sizing, folding and rolling, and tying clothing items with decorative ribbons.

In the fall, Gifts for Teens will be joined by youthful volunteers from local high schools and service groups including the National Charity League mothers and their teen daughters who will assemble and fill the bags.

On behalf of Gifts for Teens, thank you for your continued support!



Proposed new law allows bicyclists to run stop signs

California’s proposed "Safety Stop Bill" makes it legal for bicyclists to treat stop signs as yields. If other traffic is already at the intersection such as a pedestrian crossing then bike riders must yield the right-of-way. However, if the intersection is clear, people riding bikes (including electric e-bikes) can now just ride through the red light without stopping.

Most Democrats and two Republicans supported the bill. The bill will replace the requirement that people on bikes stop at stop signs with a requirement to yield and slow and stop if necessary for safety, including to yield the right of way to pedestrians. More than 75 organizations across the state signed a letter in support of the bill.

"To cut down on car emissions,

promote healthy living, and improve equity, we need neighborhoods that encourage safe bicycle riding," said Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath, the bill's original author. We know from the example of other states that when riders are allowed to yield at stop signs, they choose safer streets and will spend less time in dangerous intersections. It's time for California to live up to its values and start encouraging -- not penalizing -- smart riding in our state."

"Bicycling is good for California in so many ways: it improves our health, our economy, and our environment. We're grateful to our thousands of members who agree with that and contacted their assembly members to ask them to remove this nonsensical obstacle to safe and reasonable biking," said Dave Snyder, Executive Director of CalBike.

The Bicycle Safety Stop Bill doesn't change existing right-of-way laws. Instead, AB 122 reforms the rules of the road to conform to safe and logical bike riding. It will improve predictability at intersections and mutual respect among road users.

If AB 122 becomes law, California will join the list of states that



have implemented the safety stop: Idaho, Delaware, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Delaware, Arkansas, Utah, and North Dakota. None of those states has reported any safety problems with the new rule. A recent study in Delaware found that collisions involving bicycles at intersections decreased by 23% since the safety stop became legal. CalBike has created a video to explain how the bicycle safety stop works.

After unsuccessful attempts at passing this legislation in the past, CalBike pursued the issue this year in an environment of growing support for reducing the police role in traffic enforcement. Unnecessary laws that are difficult to follow pose a risk of traffic stops that too often have tragic endings, especially for Black and Latinx people.

SUMMER CAMPS

Comprehensive program developed to improve the academic skills of students this summer

Programs offered both in-person and virtual through Zoom

Silver Creek Academy has prepared a comprehensive program to improve the academic skills of the students in the Evergreen Valley community this summer.

With nearly 15 years of experience serving the South Bay, Silver Creek Academy is offering more academic programs and weekly summer camps for grades K-12 in the areas of writing and grammar, reading comprehension, mathematics, and public speaking and debate.

"We know that the academic school year was not ideal for the majority of students, and we are

ready to provide each child with the academic support needed to get him or her back on track," said Silver Creek Academy's founder Shelley Swircek.

To prepare for the summer, Silver Creek Academy has restructured its center, located in Evergreen, to allow for social distancing and lowered the student/teacher ratios even further to provide more individual support. The academy programs will be offered both in-person and virtual through Zoom. Fun themed camps in areas such as leadership and entrepreneurial thinking, reading comprehension, and public speaking and debate will also be offered.

"Our goal is to ensure that our students continue to thrive in this unique academic environment and that they are fully prepared to enter the upcoming 2021/2022 school year. With our experienced, credentialed teachers and proven academic programs, we are eager to make a difference for our students this summer," Swircek said.

For more information about Silver Creek Academy, call (408) 839-5905 or visit SCAASanJose.com.

First 100 days: Has County Supervisor Otto Lee kept his campaign promises?

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County District 3 Supervisor Otto Lee claimed victory in November following an ugly contest with candidates exchanging barbs over campaign finance and racial comments.

On the campaign trail, Lee promised broader rent relief for tenants, a more aggressive plan to combat homelessness and labor-related proposals, including hazard pay. Since taking office, Lee introduced a grant program called D3 URJGENT Grants, which provides community members and grassroots organizations with funds that fulfill Lee's broad priority categories, including homelessness, racial justice initiatives and green efforts.

Amid the startling rise in anti-Asian American hate crimes, Lee, a Bronze Star recipient, introduced sweeping proposals last month that focus on racial justice and hate crime prevention.

"Clearly, condemning these attacks isn't going to cut it," Lee said. "I thought about what are we going to do about it? We've tried to do better outreach ... to different ethnic groups to let people understand how important it is to speak up."

Lee's made combating crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders a top priority, partnering with several Asian American nonprofits in response to racial attacks.

San José Spotlight sat down with Lee to ask about his first 100 days on the Board of Supervisors.

Q: What has been the most challenging part of the job?

A: When I started this job, I knew public health was a big deal, but I never knew how big public health became—right now it's one of the only issues. And the county has been in the middle of the whole thing. And being a supervisor in the middle of that has been quite the learning curve. In order to balance all the interests of all the parties while maintaining a safe environment for our county has been a challenge. Initially, it was about (COVID) testing, and then afterward it's been about vaccinations. Who do we give it to first? And then we learned from the data that Latinos and the African American communities have been the most affected by COVID, but also the least percentage-wise to be able to get vaccinated. All these issues keep compounding on top of each other. There have been no breaks, let's just put it that way.

Q: What has surprised you the most?

A: One thing I'm surprised by is how great the disparity is these days when it comes to Silicon Valley and Santa Clara County. The haves and have-nots are very clear due to COVID. Folks who have had other issues previously regarding wealth disparity and health care with COVID have certainly high-



Santa Clara County Supervisor **Otto Lee**. Photo courtesy Eric Stroker

lighted those differences in a much more dramatic way. That's just not good. We have a lot more work to do in the county to work on our public safety net. It's become such a necessary piece to make sure we are able to get the services delivered.

Q: What are some of your longer-term goals for your first term?

A: The housing problem we have and the need for temporary housing is something that won't go away once COVID is over. For that reason, we're working very hard to find ways to make temporary housing. Pallet housing has been such a workable solution. I've been looking for ways for this to work for our unhoused population. Land is, of course, the most difficult thing to accommodate in our area. One of the ideas I actually want to explore is adding housing units on top of

buildings. We see five- or six-story buildings being built in downtown San Jose. What's stopping us from putting another story on top? If the structure can hold the weight, the cost of building that would be less than building from the ground up. There are many ways that we can think about (this) and not be shy to come up with new ideas.

Q: What is the biggest challenge facing your district so far?

A: At this point, the ability for us to get the services and get the vaccines out to everybody. For us to beat COVID, I think the distribution of vaccines is absolutely crucial. That is our number one challenge right now. For a long time, we have not been able to do that faster because of the fact that we had a bottleneck and a constraint on the supply of vaccines.

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Times **Feature****MOTHER'S DAY****Many childhood memories include sitting on mom's lap and reading stories together**

This year, you can show your mother how much those memories mean to you by giving her a Mother's Day gift that harkens back to those special moments spent together.

Whether your mom devotes time each week to read the latest best-selling novel or can only find a few moments every now and then to spend some quality time reading, there are plenty of thoughtful options available for nearly every mother regardless of how often she settles into a comfy chair with a good book. From cookbooks and memoirs to suspenseful non-fiction and coming-of-age stories, options like these can be an excuse for her to dive into a new read and steal a few minutes of uninterrupted me-time, which can be a special gift itself.

Find more stories about motherhood, mother-child relationships and other popular topics at [Facebook.com/WilliamMorrowBooks](https://www.facebook.com/WilliamMorrowBooks)

A Memorable Memoir

A story of unconditional love in the face of difficulty and the grace of perseverance "I Have Been Buried Under Years of Dust" by Valerie Gilpeer and Emily Grodin is a memoir that details the journey a mother and her nonverbal, autistic daughter took to get to a place where they could finally understand and communicate with each



other after a breakthrough revealed a young woman who had been trapped inside for more than two decades.

A Tale of Coming of Age

A funny, wise and tender coming-of-age novel set in suburban Baltimore in the 1970s, "Mary Jane" by Jessica Anya Blau is complete with all the nostalgic trappings of the decade. The novel follows a straight-laced teenage girl whose world opens up after nannying for a progressive family in town and the celebrity couple hiding out there for the summer.

A Suspenseful Story

In "Mother May I," *New York Times* best-selling author Joshilyn Jackson delivers a novel of domestic suspense in which a mother must decide how far she is willing to go to protect her child and the life she loves. A tale of power, privilege, lies, revenge and the choices people make – ones that transform lives in unforeseen ways.

San Jose Public Library launches a Chromebook and iPad lending service

Expands its Tech Device catalog to include new devices

The San José Public Library (SJPL) has extended its tech device lending options to include HP Chromebooks and iPads, thanks to the City of San José's SJ Access initiative to provide residents equitable access to all things digital.

Library cardholders can now borrow HP Chromebooks and/or iPads to help them virtually connect to essential services for themselves and their family, including schoolwork, job search, medical appointments, and other online activities.

Tech devices available for checkout at all Express Pickup locations include 3,000 AT&T Wi-Fi Hotspots funded by the City of San José and 600 HP Chromebooks funded by KLA and HP Inc. with on-going funding from SJPL.

Tech devices available at select SJPL Express Pickup locations include 35 Dell laptops funded by a grant from the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) and

120 iPads funded by a grant from Apple.

The expansion of the new tech devices was made available to the public on Monday, April 19 and in just the first week, a combined total of 74% of Chromebooks and iPads have been checked out by library cardholders.

All devices can be checked out for a 90-day period and extended for up to 30-days. Devices must be requested in advance and require an appointment for pick up. At the time of the appointment, staff provides an overview of the device and a user guide is available in different languages to ensure customers can successfully use the device from the comfort of their home. Library cardholders of all ages can check out the devices but cardholders ages 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

The KLA, HP, Inc., Apple and CETF grants were the result of SJPL's ongoing partnership with the San José Public Library Foundation to support and enhance Library programs and services.

Since August 2020, the Library has provided 12,800 free SJ Access high-speed AT&T Wi-Fi hotspots to students, and 3,000 hotspots to members of the public. The Library has also made available laptops for check out, online computer classes, tech support, and outdoor Wi-Fi access at City libraries.

To learn more about SJ Access and tech devices at SJPL, visit [sjpl.org/SJAccess](https://www.sjpl.org/SJAccess)



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Times **Feature**

Gurdwara holds 4 successful vaccination clinics

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

In the span of 8 days the San Jose Gurdwara held four free Covid-19 walk-in vaccination events (see photo).

More than 200 people received the vaccine on Sunday, April 25 and throughout the week an additional 1,000 people were vaccinated.

This is a grass roots kind of clinic manned by volunteers (except those administering the vaccines who work for Santa Clara County.)

Sukhdev Singh Bainiwar, Gurdwara Director, said, "The Sikh Gurdwara of San Jose is providing a facility for Gurdwara members and for our Evergreen Valley community so they can get Covid-19 vaccine and be safe."

Dr. Harpreet Pannu (Director of the Guru Nanak Clinic located at the Gurdwara) said, "We just want to spread the word to the community that you can go to the Gurdwara San Jose Facebook page and become informed of upcoming vaccine dates. These vaccinations provide 95 percent effi-

cacy against one getting the Covid virus. Also, two weeks after getting the vaccine, one is 100 percent prevented from hospitalization (ICU admission). We want to make sure that the community is aware of these vaccination drives and we want to make sure everyone is welcome in the community!"

Kirpal Atwal (Gurdwara board member) said, "By following Guru Nanak's message, the Sikh community always helps needy people, people who need help. At this time, we have the Corona Virus going on for a long time and there are a lot of people who are not vaccinated yet. The Gurdwara is trying to help vaccinate as many people as we can and we are in the process of arranging more vaccination clinic days for the month of May."



Sukhdev Singh Bainiwar, Gurdwara Director, welcomes all during the sign up process for the Covid vaccine.

Langar (kitchen)

Due to the pandemic the food of the Langar (kitchen) is served so that it can be taken in to-go containers for outside eating. The food is delicious, vegetarian and free.

Editor's Note: The Guru Nanak Free Clinic is located at the Gurdwara; open Sundays for all those in the community who do not have medical insurance. The San Jose Gurdwara is located at the top of Aborn Road (3636 Gurdwara Avenue 95148). To get your vaccination at the Gurdwara clinic go to the Gurdwara Facebook to check for upcoming dates or call Kirpal Atwal (Director in the Gurdwara) at (408) 835-7712.

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Times **Feature**

Governor signs bill to ensure forgiven PPP loans are not counted as taxable income

Governor **Gavin Newsom** (inset) signed AB 80 applied to forgiven PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loans that small businesses received from the federal government during the pandemic, to not be counted as taxable income.



Businesses that participated in the PPP loans can also deduct the costs of expenses that those loans paid for to conform to Federal tax laws passed by the US Congress.

While the news is positive for millions of small businesses, business owners and employees across the state for not having to pay state taxes on PPP Loans, AB 80 only allows a limited group of taxpayers to follow the federal rules and there will be significant implementation challenges for CPAs, taxpayers and tax agencies in California – especially with the May 17, 2021 tax filing deadline just weeks away.

So -- what's needed now as millions of taxpayers in California prepare their tax returns since Governor Newsom signed into law AB 80?

What can be done from a taxation perspective to help expedite small business financial recovery as the state re-opens after COVID?

Bay Area facing three threats: drought, wildfires and unhealthy air quality

The lack of rain is causing some Bay Area water districts to already implement water restrictions and Governor Newsom to declare a drought conditions state of emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino counties which could lead to increased fuel for wildfires.

Santa Clara County is now preparing for the drought, wildland fires and unhealthy air.

Wildfires can last for many days and fill the air with unhealthy smoke miles away from Santa Clara County that can still impact our residents' ability to safely go outdoors.

To help address this issue, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, Chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors, is working with cities and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to form a county-wide grant program.

Federal and state funds will be used to provide indoor health protection equitably prioritizing small businesses and non-profit organizations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved the initial steps last week.

San Jose City Council Updates

Residential Recycling & Garbage Services – Council held a study session on Senate Bill 1383, a state mandate requiring cities to divert organic waste from landfills (without additional state funding), and projected garbage rate increases (up to 17% next year), which are being driven by increased residential use, recycling contamination, and labor costs. There was a focus on recycling contamination, which accounts for 30% of next year's projected rate increase and appears to be the best option for reducing costs.

Police Department Duty Manual Updates – Council adopted updates to the Police Department's Duty Manual to improve out-

reach to and support for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The updates include requirements related to investigation and reporting, information sharing, and inquiries about firearm ownership.

Continued Hearing with Valley Water (VW) – Council and VW continued a joint hearing on water supply, wholesale costs, and a proposed water purification plant. VW reported an intention to increase wholesale rates significantly (8.5-9.6% annual increases over the next decade) to cover capital investments in water supply resources. Both parties agreed to continue negotiating a proposed water purification plant that would be located at the City's wastewater treatment facility.

Questions for the Prospective Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE)

Department Director - Council voted on a set of questions to ask candidates for the position. A number of those questions focused on streamlining processes to cut down on wait times and improve customer service.

Campaign Finance Regulations - Council instructed City staff to research a range of possible campaign finance reforms, including increased transparency about campaign expenditures, tighter regulation of contributions made directly to candidates, and public financing of elections.

Actions Relating to the 2020 Internet Crimes Against Children Award - Council voted to accept a grant that would reimburse SJPd's personnel, operating, and equipment costs for responding to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children.

Evergreen School District

May 3-7

Teacher Appreciation Week

The Evergreen School District (ESD) Board of Trustees would like to express their deepest gratitude to ESD teachers for tirelessly serving our students, especially for continuously delivering excellent quality instruction through this extremely difficult time.

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Times **Local News****TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK****Hyperloop**

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:

Hyperloop

Are you tired of the traffic that you had to face while coming home from work today? Do you wonder when will we ever see the flying cars that science fiction books talk about, which would ease travel time? Worry no more, as a new transportation system called Hyperloop is in the works and may be implemented sometime in the near future.

So, what is a Hyperloop?

The Hyperloop concept was proposed by billionaire inventor Elon Musk, the brain behind Tesla. Hyperloop consists of two massive tubes extending from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Pods carrying passengers would travel through the tubes at speeds topping out over 700 mph. The tubes would house a low-pressure environment, surrounding the pod with a cushion of air that permits the pod to move safely at such high speeds, like a puck gliding over an air hockey table. A one-way trip on the Hyperloop is projected to take about 35 minutes.

Hyperloop aims to be a cost-effective, high speed transportation system compared to

other conventional means of transport like road, water, air and rail. And how? Elon Musk has designed the Hyperloop tube such that it would have solar panels installed on the roof, allowing for a clean and self-powering system.

Given the tight quarters in the tube, pressure buildup in front of the pod could be a problem. The tube needs a system to keep air from building up in this way. Musk’s design recommends an air compressor on the front of the pod that will move air from the front to the tail, keeping it aloft and preventing pressure building up due to air displacement.

There are some drawbacks to the project. California is, of course, susceptible to earthquakes and the Hyperloop design takes this into account. Other drawbacks include the money investment that would be required to get this project off the ground, doubly so when talking about a public work. Even if one can produce an impressive blueprint, there are still issues of public approval, legislation, regulations, and contractors to worry about.

Hence, it remains unclear whether commercial Hyperloop systems will ever be widely adopted. As the global population swells and the environment declines, however, better mass transit systems will become essential. And Hyperloop seems to be the best answer today!

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.

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Times Feature

My dad Don Lee and his music

'Echo, Echo, Echo' became a big hit selling 700,000 copies

By Doug Bloomquist
Special to the Times

Growing up my Dad was into two things - and two things only; music and electronics.

He was recognized at age 18 as one of the best accordion players in the country; hence his picture on the cover of Accordion World magazine.

As background for you, accordion during the 50's was a fad every bit as big as guitar was in the 60's. In the 50's you weren't "cool" unless you played accordion, just like in the 60's you weren't "cool" unless you played guitar.

Around 1952 dad began using "Don Lee" as his professional name instead of Don Bloomquist (Lee was his middle name).

In 1957, Don released a 45 rpm record with two songs on it. In today's world you would call that a single. That 45 included a cover of "Charmaine" and an original song titled "ECHO, Echo, echo."

The songs were unique as they were some of the first multiple recordings ever released -- at a time when multi-track recorders were in their infancy. My Dad played and recorded all of the instruments on that record himself. As a result of this unique sound, "ECHO, Echo, echo" became a pretty big hit for back then ultimately selling about 700,000 copies.

After touring the country (which is what you did back then after you had a hit), my Dad released an album titled "Crazy Rhythm" in 1958 which also did quite well. Crazy Rhythm included "ECHO, Echo, echo" and "Charmaine" along with one other original and nine other covers (all instrumentals). Available now on Apple Music if you want to take a listen <https://music.apple.com/us/album/crazy-rhythm/436863115>

As a result of his album's success, Dad played shows all over the country and had some TV appearances as well. One with Jackie Gleason featured in this photo.



During all of this, Dad had opened a chain of teaching/recording studios. As part of my birthday present



I began taking accordion lessons at age 4. My Dad even used a picture of me that year in his Yellow Pages ad

for the studio.

The pattern continued and for my fifth birthday I started piano lessons and for my seventh birthday guitar lessons and this led to my lifelong interest in music.

When I was 13 I began teaching accordion, guitar, piano and drums in my Dad's studio. Back then it was a great gig as I was making \$15/hour and my friends were bagging groceries for minimum wage which was \$1.29/hour. This opened up unique opportunities as I was able to work as a recording engineer for many sessions with some pretty talented artists.

I always admired my Dad for putting out an album in which he played all of the instruments. I really never dreamed that I would be able to put one out myself where I did all of the instrumentation, but honestly my partner Lynn made that all possible.

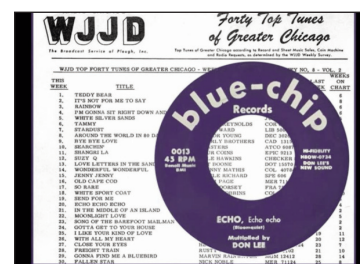
With my experience working as a recording engineer in my Dad's studio combined with the technical expertise I acquired working at Apple

for many years, we have been able to put together a very well equipped recording studio in our San Jose home. Lynn and I (as Second Story Duo) recorded our debut album in that studio during 2020 and have since finished several singles.

With today's technology, I've been able to record all of the instrumentation myself in our home studio without us having to venture out to a commercial studio. You can learn more about Second Story Duo at secondstoryduo.rocks and listen to our music on your streaming platform of choice.

I'll forever be grateful to my Dad for providing me the musical and recording foundation that has enabled Second Story Duo to thrive.

Editor's note: Crazy Rhythm included both ECHO, Echo, echo and Charmaine along with one other original and nine other covers, all instrumentals, are available on Apple Music: music.apple.com/us/album/crazy-rhythm/436863115 or use this shortened link: <https://tinyurl.com/3jpfbzd5>



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Times Op Ed

What's Your Angle?: An Intro to Arithmetic Billiards

By Apoorva Panidapu

Special to the Times



Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu

er usual, I was loitering in the corners of a kid-friendly casino party (in pre-COVID times), wondering what I was still doing there. I had already collected my winnings at the poker table, then subsequently lost them after playing Blackjack plagued by an overconfident headspace.

As I contemplated leaving, I overheard someone from around the pool table.

“Dude, what are you trying to do here? What’s your angle? Ow, think before you hit, dummy!” An indignant voice rose above the chatter.

Woah, is there a fight brewing? I’m not above drama, so I tiptoe closer, fully expecting to see two guys squaring up. Imagine my surprise when I see a guy in a coat, with no one around, staring sulkily at a talking cue ball on the pool table.

I left.

But, that cue ball did have a point. So today, we’ll be talking about the simplified game of billiards! What is this game? Think pool, but take out the hard stuff (and pockets). We study a ball that bounces around a rectangular table following the same rules of billiards, except we assume this ball has no mass, and thus no friction. So, this ball is not bogged down by physics and can

bounce infinitely many times, reflecting off the sides of the table. The path of the ball formed by these reflections actually gives us a geometric method of understanding and determining the least common multiple (lcm) and greatest common divisor (gcd) of two natural numbers!



Least Common Multiple (LCM)

First, a quick review! The least common multiple of two numbers a and b is exactly what it sounds like: the smallest number that is a multiple of both of a and b . For example, $\text{lcm}(2, 3) = 6$, $\text{lcm}(4, 6) = 12$, and $\text{lcm}(5, 10) = 10$.

Suppose the billiard table is $m \times n$ rectangle. Shoot a ball from the bottom left, making a 45 degree with the sides. Given our conditions, the ball will bounce off the sides without losing speed, and by the law of reflection, it bounces off at a 45° angle each time it meets a side. Thus, we can see that the ball only makes left or right 90° turns (since $45^\circ + 45^\circ = 90^\circ$). The ball will eventually hit a corner (after a finite number of reflections), and will then stop.

Continued, next page

Valentina

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Times **Feature**

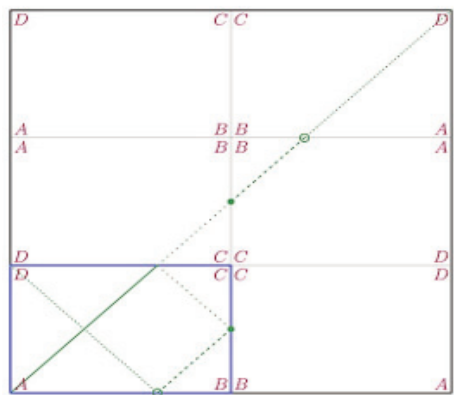
call this path the **arithmetic billiard path**.

We claim that the least common multiple of m and n , $\text{lcm}(m, n)$, is equal to the length of this path divided by $\sqrt{2}$ (in terms of the units measured), which is also actually equivalent to the number of unit squares crossed by the path.

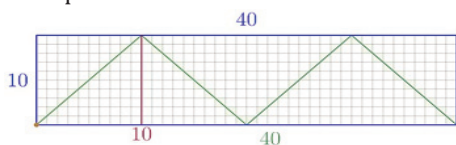
Why is this true? Can we prove this? Yes, we can! We are the little mathematicians that could. I'm just going to provide the general ideas of a proof for sake of simplicity, and if you're interested, I encourage you to think through the details!

First, form a square with side length $\text{lcm}(m, n)$. We can then decompose the square into a grid of $m \times n$ rectangles. (Think about why this is true! What does lcm mean?) This square we're considering is the smallest square that can be tiled with $m \times n$ rectangles. Construct the diagonal d from the bottom left corner to the top right corner, and break it into segments depending on the $m \times n$ rectangle it intersects. Starting from the rectangle from top right corner of the diagonal, you reflect these segments across sides crossed by the diagonal to the adjacent rectangles. Eventually, you will reach the opposite corner of the rectangle (the bottom left $m \times n$ rectangle in our construction), and these repeated reflections have reformed the diagonal d into the path of a ball shot from a corner of an $m \times n$ rectangle. The length of d is $\text{lcm}(m, n) \cdot \sqrt{2}$ (you can use the Pythagorean Theorem if you don't see why this is true). This then becomes the path length, so indeed $\text{lcm}(m, n) = \text{path length} / \sqrt{2}$. Ta-da!

This proof is best explained with a picture, so here is the result of the process, with each reflected line segment indicated.



If one side length divides the other length, the path is a zigzag that doesn't intersect with itself, (as expected). Here's an example:

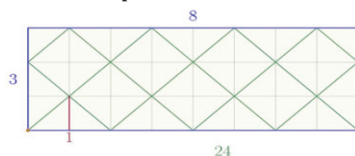
**Greatest Common Divisor (GCD)**

Quick review! The greatest common divisor of two numbers a , b is, again, exactly what it sounds like: the largest number that divides both a and b . For example, $\text{gcd}(2, 3) = 1$, $\text{gcd}(4, 6) = 2$, and $\text{gcd}(5, 10) = 5$.

Once again, let the billiard table be a $m \times n$ rectangle. Suppose that neither m or n divide each other, meaning that the arithmetic path has self-intersection points. Divide the rectangle into $m \times n$ unit squares. We claim that the greatest common divisor $\text{gcd}(m, n)$ is equal to the distance from the starting point of the path to the closest point of self-intersection divided by $\sqrt{2}$. Furthermore, this is

equivalent to the number of unit squares crossed by the path segment from said two points. Why? Let's see!

For simplicity, first assume $\text{gcd}(m, n) = 1$. Then $\text{lcm}(m, n) = mn$. (Why is this true?) By the above, we know that the path will cross $m \times n$ unit squares, so the path will cross all of the unit squares in the rectangle. I'm not going to go too much into the details, but we can find that the first point of self-intersection is the coordinate $(1, 1)$, i.e. the top right corner of the very bottom left unit square, as shown in the picture!



But what happens if $\text{gcd}(m, n)$ is not 1? Well then we can rescale the whole figure by the factor $\text{gcd}(m, n)$. Consider the rectangle $m/\text{gcd}(m, n) \times n/\text{gcd}(m, n)$. Since we divided out by the greatest common factor of m and n , we have that $\text{gcd}(m/\text{gcd}(m, n), n/\text{gcd}(m, n)) = 1$. Thus, we have a path where the distance to the first point of self-intersection is $1 \cdot \sqrt{2}$. Then, we can scale back this rectangle, giving us the new distance of $\text{gcd}(m, n) \cdot \sqrt{2}$. Voila! We now understand least common multiples and greatest common divisors in terms of geometry and games!

What if we do have pockets?

Remember how we took out the pockets for simplicity? Well, what if we put them back in—just for fun? Turns out that mathe-

maticians have thought about this too (they are very hard workers)!

Consider a rectangular billiard table with only corner pockets and sides of integer lengths m and n such that m and n are relatively prime, meaning that $\text{gcd}(m, n) = 1$. Then, a ball sent at a 45° angle from a corner falls into a pocket of another corner after $m + n - 2$ bounces! (See illustration, pg. 18).

Circular board

But, what if we don't have rectangular tables? What happens to the angle in rectangle? Well, then we get Alhazen's billiard problem, which attempts to find the point of a circular billiards table at which a cue ball at a given point must be aimed in order to bounce once off the edge of the table and

Continued, next page

Shawn Ansari Presents

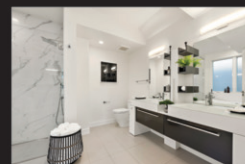


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Times **Feature**

Gems in STEM

Continued from previous page

strike another ball at a second given point. Interestingly enough, this problem is impossible to solve using a compass and ruler construction.

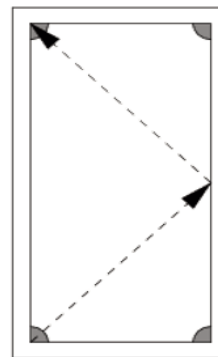
Let's take it even further. What if we have an elliptic table? Or what if it's not even a table, what if it's a prism? Like a cube, or tetrahedron, or any regular polygon? These are increasingly complex questions that mathematicians have been thinking about, and if you're interested, definitely look it up!

So there you have it, your chances of succeed-

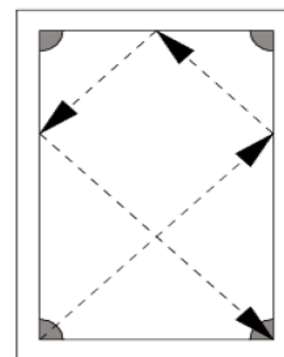
ing at pool or billiards or whatever probably have increased by at least a little now. Go forth, find your angle, and make me proud.

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

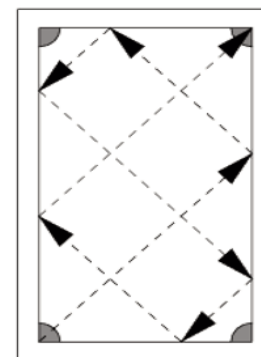
This column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too! This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced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



$$1 \times 2 \\ m + n - 2 = 1$$



$$2 \times 3 \\ m + n - 2 = 3$$



$$3 \times 5 \\ m + n - 2 = 6$$

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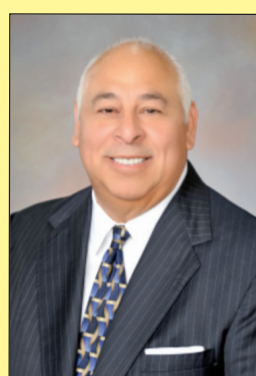
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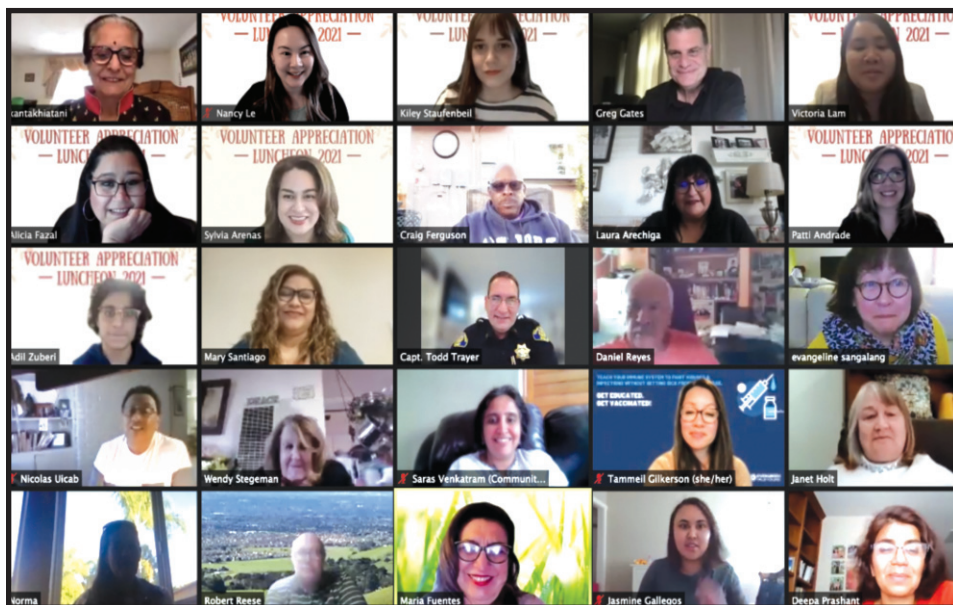
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Times **Community News**

District 8 volunteers recognized at annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to honor and recognize the enormous undertaking of District 8 community leaders was held on April 8.

“Volunteers have made it possible to keep our community fed, sheltered, and healthy--especially during this COVID-19,” said San Jose City Councilmember Sylvia Arenas. “Our neighbors have helped in food distributions, PPE distributions, and advocating for policies that benefit our children and our families.”

Above is a snapshot of some of the friendly faces that work hard as volunteers in District 8.

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Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley educates school children to respect wild animals

More than 1,300 students in Santa Clara County have participated

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic severely limiting in-person learning, the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (WCSV) has continued its free educational programs through virtual visits to classrooms and other online meetings.

“Teachers are looking for ways to keep their students engaged during distance learning,” says Michael Chen, Outreach Coordinator at WCSV. “We are able to bring captivating video presentations to their classrooms that offer a change of pace during these difficult times.”

WCSV has presented virtually over 45 times, reaching over 1,300 students in Santa Clara County through individual classroom visits, and a district-wide afterschool presentation open to all students and their families.

Presentations educate students on how to coexist peacefully with local wildlife, what to do if they find sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals, and what the rehabilitation and release process is at WCSV. Teachers have the option of requesting information tailored to a specific unit topic or area of interest.

“The seventh grade Next Generation Science Standards in California emphasizes a strong understanding of Earth’s four spheres and their interconnectedness,” says Joyce Tang, a seventh-grade science teacher at Thomas Russell Middle School in Milpitas. “The presentations perfectly addressed the idea of connections, from how food chains connect one species to another, to how humans traverse and encroach into the wildlife habitat.”

Continued, next page

Want to submit a news item for the *Evergreen Times*?

Press day: May 19, 2021
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EvergreenTimes

Times **Community News****Free presentations:
Grades K-12**

WCSV presents at no cost to all grades K-12, extracurricular groups, and adult groups. Interested parties can register online at wcsv.org/outreach, or email Michael Chen at mchen@wcsv.org

WCSV Facts

Established in 1993, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (WCSV) is a wildlife rehabilitation hospital dedicated to providing sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife with exceptional free care, rehabilitation, and the opportunity for release.

WCSV also aims to educate the public about coexisting peacefully with local wildlife. Each year, WCSV takes in over 6,000 native animals with the goal of reha-



bilitating and releasing them back into the wild.

For more information on WCSV, visit: www.wcsv.org.

**Vander Zee**

Continued from page 4

Vander Zee has been recognized by his peers in education as the National Principal of the Year – California, Middle Grades Principal of the Year, and Administrator of the Year.

The new superintendent served as the Principal of James Lick High School, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services and the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources in the East Side Union High School District. In each of these positions,

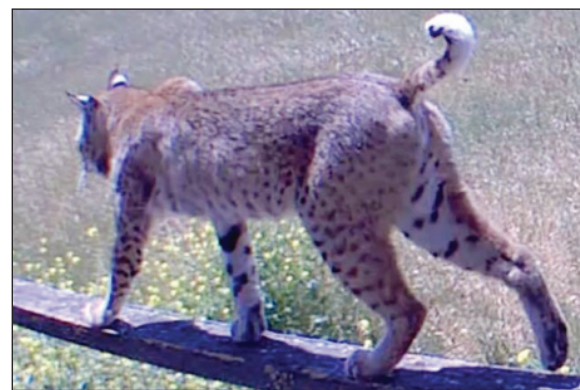
Vander Zee worked collaboratively with fellow educators to develop clear outcomes, positive relationships and innovations toward improved student outcomes.

"It is my honor to be selected as the District's Superintendent," Vander Zee said. "I am humbled by the Board's selection and look forward to working with the amazing team of educators and professionals in the East Side community and to continue the work towards building equitable educational communities and opportunities for our students and families."

Vander Zee resides in San Jose with his wife and their two children.

**WHAT'S
UP, BOB?**

Keith Stephens, a resident of the Silver Creek Valley Country Club captured this excellent photo of a Bobcat at his home using a Bushnell Trophy Field Cam this week.



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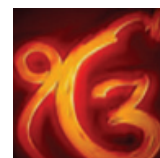
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Measure EE Citizens' Oversight Committee

The Evergreen School District is accepting applications from parents/community members interested in serving on the Measure EE Citizens' Oversight Committee for the 2021-2022 school year. This committee will oversee the expenditure of Measure EE Parcel Tax funds, ensuring they are spent as approved by the voters. It is expected that the committee will meet twice a year.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit a **letter of interest** to:

Evergreen School District
3188 Quimby Road
San Jose, CA 95148
ATTN: Debbie Ashmore

Your letter should include a brief introduction of yourself, your contact information, and an overview as to why you are interested in serving on the committee. **All letters must be received at the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on May 28, 2021.** Applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Karen Wevers at 408-270-6827 or kwevers@eesd.org.

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