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MAY 2021 ■ VOL. 17, NO. 5

Willow Glen *Times*

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Shelter project may soon become a reality in Willow Glen

Santa Clara County is working to place homeless residents in a former retirement home at 1185 Pedro St.

Times staff report

Willow Glen residents are learning unhoused residents in Santa Clara County may be the newest tenants of a long-vacant Willow Glen senior housing complex located at 1185 Pedro St.

Neighbors learned about the plan during a Zoom meeting in November.

At the first Zoom meeting, there were many questions, such as how long will people stay in the housing project, where do they park, and who qualifies to live in the facility.

Local officials attempted to answer related questions during a second Zoom meeting this month led by Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing Director Consuelo Hernández and County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg. Also at the meeting was Councilmember Dev Davis.

After all the details at the meeting the projected move-in date is tentatively set for May 17. It was also revealed that the effort to place homeless residents in the building was set in motion early March 2020 when the health emergency was sounded over the rapidly spreading Covid-19 in the South Bay.

In a unanimous vote a two decade, \$20 million lease was approved with the building's landlord and a 10-year, \$19 million onsite services contract with Abode Services. Part of the deal was that Sobrato Philanthropies and Destination: Home Silicon Valley providing several million to support the program during the first 10 years.

Open House

Abode Services along with county staff members will host an open house at the retirement home between 10

a.m. and noon on May 8 and another community meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 17.

Since the county has already invested millions of dol-

lars in the project, the consensus among Willow Glen residents is that the housing of the unhoused will soon get a green light.



THE 5 Social: a unique and cutting edge experience opens in Evergreen; 42,000 sq. ft. of fun and food

By William Bellou
Publisher

THE 5 Social, a new locally-owned and operated recreational "Eatertainment" venue, has opened at the Sportplex complex.

From laid-back leisure to lively activity — THE 5 Social is the "go" place to be for family and business gatherings, offering fun and food under a whopping 42,000 sq.ft. roof.

See *THE 5 SOCIAL*, page 2

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15

Silicon Valley Reads 2021

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Times News

THE 5 SOCIAL

Continued from page 1

The new venue, which also has outdoor patio dining, offers an incredible mix of entertainment with more than 30 popular and vintage arcade games, bocce ball courts, and a cornhole.

The initial opening of THE Social 5 was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but now that dining restrictions are easing, the "Eatertainment" venue is now welcoming patrons with plenty of space providing the safest environment possible. Dining tables are situated 6 or more feet apart and lounge areas are separated as well. A heated patio dining area is also available.

"We have created a unique venue for people to 'connect' by providing gathering spaces for families and also for corporate events," said Andrea Scott, President of THE 5 Social. "Our business model provides great flexibility allowing our patrons to create and design their ideal experience with all of our entertaining options for a fun celebration making any ordinary occasion extraordinary!"

Among the different events planned during the next six months at THE 5 Social include milestone birthday parties, wedding rehearsal dinners, themed parties, corporate events and parties, and possibly bocce and cornhole tournaments.

Dining

THE 5 Social offers counter service with indoor and outdoor areas for dining, equipped with heat lamps, and indoor fireplaces. The menu items include: Appetizers, salads, pizza, sandwiches, and several pasta dishes, and wine. In addition to the delicious chef inspired dishes, more than 30 craft beers available on a convenient self-serve tap wall.

Sports 'Watch Parties'

THE 5 Social hosts "Watch Parties" for key sporting events with vendors coming the venue to help host and provide giveaways. The recent NFL Draft Watch Party, complete with a delicious BBQ, was a great success.

"THE 5 Social is dedicated to providing a safe, socially-distanced fun environment for our guests," said Kylie Smith, Events Coordinator. "All of the safety protocols are in place and due to the spacious setting, our guests feel more relaxed during these past 14 months of unusually stressful times. Now with the County going to an 'Orange Tier' we can open up with our full array of recreational offerings."

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Times Community News



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THE 5 Social hours of operation are: Thursdays 5 pm-10 pm; Fridays 4 pm-10 pm; Saturdays 4 pm-10 pm; Sundays 4 pm-9 pm. Reservations are needed for 15 or more and include seating for you and your guests to enjoy food and drinks while playing.

To create, plan, and host your next event,



contact Kylie Smith, Events Manager, (408) 440-3295; or Email: events@THE5social.com

Editor's Note: If you're interested in learning more, visit THE 5 Social at the Silvercreek SportsPlex, located at 800 Embedded Way, San Jose, CA 95138; or check out these information sites: Website: www.the5social.com; Facebook: [facebook.com/The5Social](https://www.facebook.com/The5Social); and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/the5social>



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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, wild-land fires and unhealthy air.

Wildfires can last for many days and fill the air with unhealthy smoke miles away from Santa Clara County and 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 approved the initial steps last week.

Valley Currents

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

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 Hor-

vath, 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.

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 non-profits in response to racial attacks.

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



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

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 highlighted 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.

Willow Glen Times

Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU
willamb@timesmediainc.com

STAFF WRITERS: NEHA BANDARU,
ANKITA BHANOT, DIANE BLUM,
FRANK SHORTT, NIRBAN SINGH,
PANKAJ TYAGI, SRAVYA VOLETI

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Times **Community News**



Assaults on two women in separate incidents in Willow Glen Neighborhood

Suspect sketches released

Police in San Jose released sketches this week of a man who allegedly assaulted two women in separate incidents in the same Willow Glen residential neighborhood.

San Jose police said the first victim was jogging when she was approached by a man who initially engaged her in conversation, but then he suddenly attacked her without warning late last month in the area of Meridian Ave. and Frutdale Ave. The victim was able to escape and the man fled on his bicycle.

After traveling a short distance, he encountered another woman and again began talking to her before violently attacking her, police said.

Both women sustained serious injuries in the attacks and the man fled the area on his bicycle. He was last seen heading southbound on Meridian Avenue.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male in his late twenties or early thirties, about 5'-5" to 5'-8" tall with a medium build, dark hair, and dark eyes. He was last seen wearing dark clothing and an orange vest.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Lemus #3787 or Detective Bielecki #3579 of the San Jose Police Department Assaults Unit at (408) 277-4161. Persons wishing to remain anonymous may either call the Crime Stoppers Tip Line, (408) 947-STOP (7867).

Editor's note: Persons providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect may be eligible for a cash reward from the Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers.



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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.

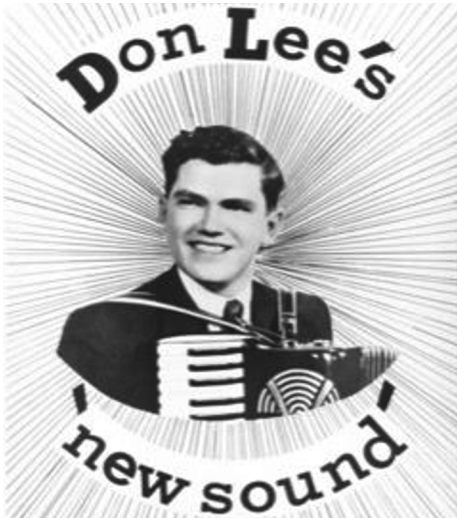
As background for you, accordion during the 50’s was a fad every bit as big as guitar

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>

Continued on next page

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Times Feature



As a result of his album's success, Dad played shows all over the country and had some TV appearances as well - including one with Jackie Gleason (pictured above).

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 Almaden 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.rock 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/3jpfbd5>

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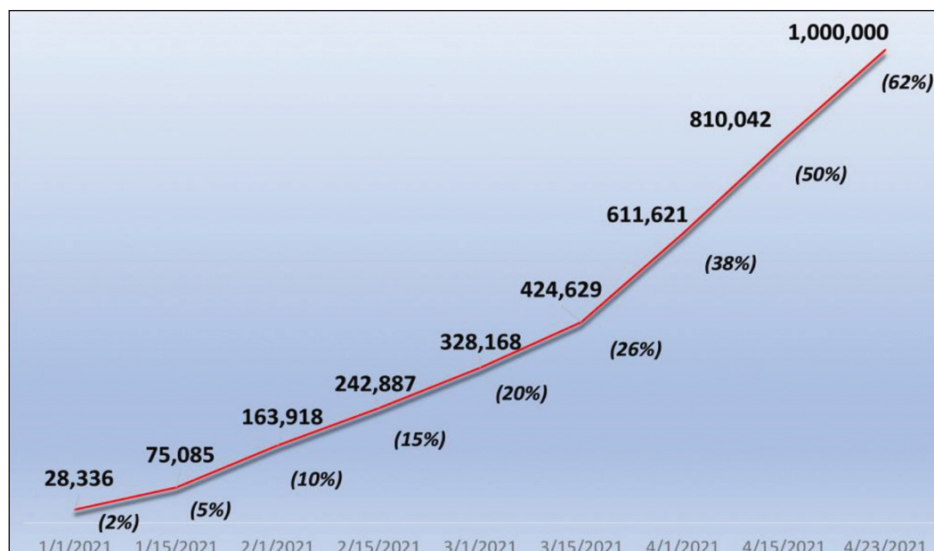


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Times **Community News**

One million first doses in Santa Clara County

By Mike Wasserman
County Supervisor

I was proud to announce that we just gave our 1 millionth first vaccine dose!

With 2 million residents, Santa Clara County is one of the largest and most diverse counties in the nation. Creating an infrastructure — practically overnight — to vaccinate this many people was a herculean task. But through a vast network of partnerships like the one with the 49ers, we achieved this very significant milestone of 1 million first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine given!

I am a numbers guy, but celebrating this 1 million number is about celebrating and acknowledging people. It's about our front-line heroes who for more than a

year have been giving up days off, much-needed sleep and their own well-being to care for complete strangers.

Today is a good opportunity to thank and acknowledge all of the people who have helped us get to 1 million doses and set us on our healing course. And we also want to thank the community members who have done their part and already received their vaccines.

We are far from done. Many appointments are available to receive the vaccine. I appeal to the community members who haven't already, to please schedule your vaccination as soon as you can by visiting www.SCCFreeVax.org. Help us get to the next milestone and restoration of normalcy in Santa Clara County.



County Report

Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor

How to help students return to the classroom

By Lorraine Gabbert
Times senior staff writer

After a year of distance learning, students began returning to their classrooms.

Some students may experience anxiety and insecurity. What can parents do to help?

According to Dane Caldwell-Holden, director of student services for San Jose Unified School District, being back at school is going to look and feel different during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is not typical school," Caldwell-Holden said. "Kids are going to be six feet apart. They're going to be in masks all day...it's not like the first day of school where you pop back on campus, give hugs to everybody, play and have fun. We're still in COVID."

Parents aren't going to be allowed on campus, he said. But at elementary schools, the staff is meeting students at drop-off so they feel safe. Students can mingle with each other during recess and lunch as long as they're six feet apart and wear a mask, Caldwell-Holden said.

For students attending a new school, a campus tour can help alleviate stress. In February, 400 students who struggled with distance learning attended school in-person in



Members of Leland High School's 4K dance team practice their moves. Students returned to school on April 21.

Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

small groups. "They got to know new kids," Caldwell-Holden said. "That's what we anticipate for the students returning. It will be a little awkward the first day or two, but by the end of the day on Friday, it won't be smooth sailing, but it will be good. We're all excited."

District spokesperson Jennifer Maddox said students who returned to campus seemed happy to be there. "Whatever anxiety they had receded when they saw it was still a school day," Maddox said. "Although they can't get close, they can still see their friends."

Although school capacity is limited to 50 percent, the district was able to accommodate about 98% of families who wanted their students to return with their current teacher. Counselors will be deployed the first couple of weeks of school, and parents can request meetings for their children. "Sometimes just a single conversation or two is enough to

let them express what they're feeling and get it out," Maddox said, "and accept reassurance that it really is going to be okay."

Michelle Humke, executive director of Almaden Valley Counseling Services, said it's important to acknowledge the transition back to the classroom. She advises telling children, "This will be a big change, like moving from in-person school to distant learning was." Humke said parents should ask their children what their thoughts, concerns and fears are, and try to address them. Kids might feel anxious about reconnecting. Humke suggests having children verbalize how they made friends in the past to remind themselves how they did it.

"Help the child recognize some of the skills they've already learned," Humke said. "Ask them how they handled returning to school after Christmas or summer vacation."

Another transition for students is staying seated in a classroom for long periods of time. Unlike remote learning, they won't be able to wander away to get a snack or take a break to play a video game. "There will not be the same freedom," Humke said. "There will be an adjustment to the expectations and restrictions of being in the classroom."

Jocelynn Logan, a marriage and family therapist trainee at Almaden Valley Counseling Services, suggested parents help children focus on the positive, reminding them they will get to socialize and see their friends. She suggests having elementary students write down what they miss about attending class in person to help them look forward to being there. Middle and high school students can be reminded that they will get to socialize, see favorite teachers, get out of the house and have a little independence.

Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, a San Jose Unified School District

See RETURN, next page

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Times Community News



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 organiza-

tion 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!



Return

Continued from page 8

board member and former special education preschool teacher, suggested reviewing the schedule, safety precautions and rules in advance. "Teachers are there to help kids transition, be safe and learn," she said.

Janelle Bull, marriage and family therapist and founder of Anchor Psychology, said it's okay to be honest with children about uncertainty. "This is an uncertain time, and we don't have all the answers," Bull said. "Being okay with not knowing is key for transitioning." Parents also need to

"embrace the strange" and prepare kids for what to expect, including everyone wearing masks and tape on the ground showing where to stand. Bull said to remind children the pandemic is temporary.

"It's important to tell kids it will not be like this forever," she said. "Ask them to see how long they can be flexible." Children like routine, and Bull said it will help lower anxiety if parents act consistently and predictably. "We all need to validate that we're all doing the best we can with what we have, including teachers and administrators," Bull said. "We need to give each other some grace."



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Times **Community News**

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 ongoing 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.



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Times **Feature**

CAREER COLUMN

Spring rebirth brings new job prospects

By **Angela Copeland**

How relieved are you that spring is here?

After months of winter paired up with snow storms, and a long global pandemic, seeing flowers and clear skies brings much hope for the future. It's finally warm enough to spend time outside. With the vaccine roll-out, we are beginning to look toward the future. And, the job market seems to agree.

In March, the US unemployment rate dropped to six percent. There were 916,000 new jobs created. This is the fastest we have seen jobs added since last summer. Job growth was across the board, with a larger increase in leisure, hospitality, public and private education, and construction. This is good news.

Many people have been putting all of their energy into holding onto their current jobs through the pandemic. And, it makes sense. It has been hard to know which way things would go or how long it would take to get back to normal life. It has been unclear what work will even look like in the future. Will we continue to be remote? Will we go back to the office full time? Or, will it be some combination of the two?

If you're like many people, you haven't had the energy to job search. Just getting through each day has been a larger task than we'd like to admit. We're worried

about an array of new problems. Kids are doing school from home. We're working from home. We're either completely alone or with our entire family. And, medical risks seem to be around every corner – whether from the pandemic to mental health. It takes more effort than usual to keep moving ahead in a positive direction.

But, spring brings a new energy and an opportunity to take a deep breath. Companies are actively seeking out new candidates for interviews (even when they haven't applied to jobs). Companies are adding new jobs and for some jobs, it appears there may be fewer people looking than jobs available. Companies are working around the pandemic, interviewing candidates via Zoom and Skype. They are moving ahead with a look to our more normal future.

What does this all mean for you? If you've been wondering when to look, this may be the time to get started. If you do, you'll increase the chances that you beat other candidates who haven't yet started to think about looking.

Search for the latest job postings. When you apply, there are a few things to keep in mind. First, companies don't require you to meet every criteria in a job description. They're looking for the best candidate, not the perfect candidate. Second, if you have a desk job, consider looking outside your local area. Even if a job isn't listed as remote, the company may be open to remote work.

If you've been waiting for the right time to consider something new, the spring may give you just what you need.

Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.



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Times **Feature**

Bellarmine College Prep named Green Ribbon School in recognition of sustainability programs

The California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, has officially announced that Bellarmine College Preparatory is recognized as a 2021 California Green Ribbon School Gold Level honoree.

The honor indicates that Bellarmine demonstrates exemplary achievement in three “pillars” as follows: Pillar I: reduce environmental impact and costs; Pillar II: improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and Pillar III: provide effective environmental education that teaches many disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Among the many examples of Bellarmine’s sustainability programs are its unique garden (pic-



tured above), which is used for outdoor course instruction that include Botany, Marine Biology, and California History; use of biodegradable and environmentally friendly products in the kitchen; use of refillable water bottles instead of single use, disposable plastic; installation of rooftop solar panel systems; use of a co-generator for electrical power for the main campus and,

as a byproduct, heating of the 600,000 gallon swimming pool.

“I hope that we can all take a moment to appreciate how far we have come as a school toward our goal of becoming a more sustainable institution,” said Patrick Adams, Bellarmine instructor and the school’s Green Initiatives coordinator who has been instrumental in the school’s ongoing environmental sustainability

efforts. “None of this would have been possible without the vision and commitment of Bellarmine president, Chris Meyercord, and principal, Kristina Luscher, and I want to be sure that their contribution is recognized as we celebrate this wonderful achievement.”

Principal Kristina Luscher notes that the recognition is inline with the school’s Mission of Environmental Sustainability, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees in February 2017 and reads, in part: “As a Catholic high school in the Jesuit tradition, Bellarmine College Preparatory is committed to serving God by educating our community about ecological stewardship and solidarity with creation, and by modeling that stewardship and solidarity in the day-to-day operations of our school.”

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 outreach 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.

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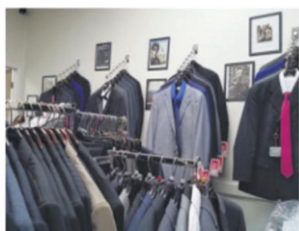
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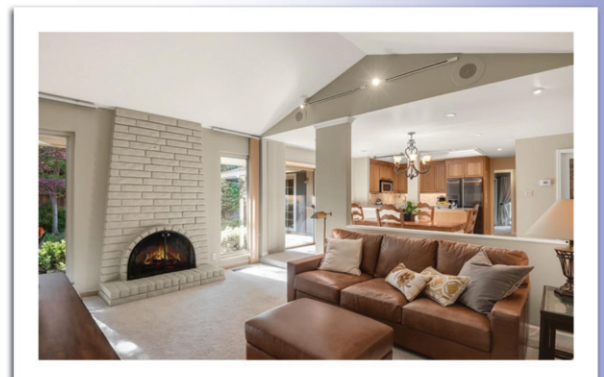
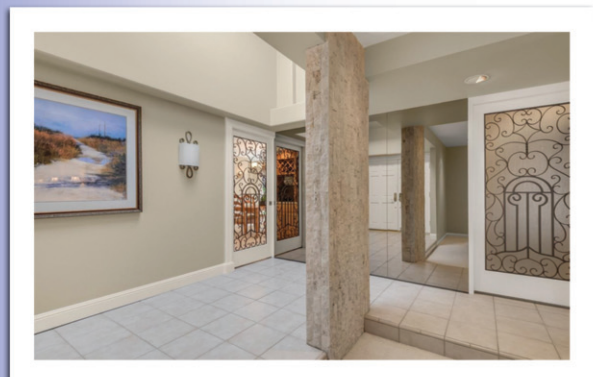
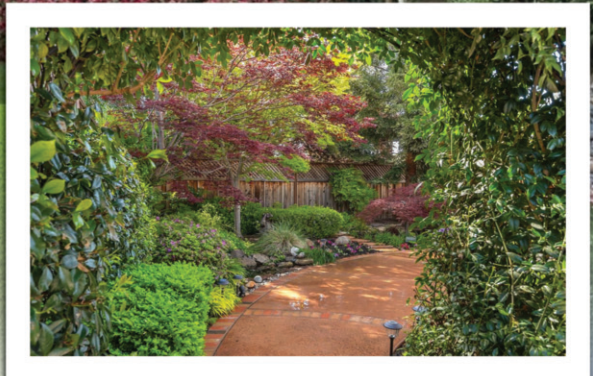
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