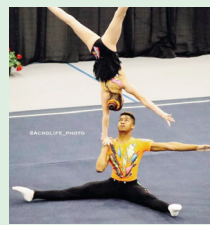


Future use of 27 vacant acres at Evergreen Valley College discussed by community at Zoom meeting **SEE PAGE 4**



**Limited classrooms**  
High schools offer limited opportunities for students to have in-person learning – **SEE PAGE 7**

Jaylen Ivey of Evergreen to participate at World Acrobatic Gymnastic Games in Switzerland **SEE PAGE 4**



MAY 21 – JUNE 3, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 11

# Evergreen Times

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## UNDEFEATED!



Senior team members on Senior Night (Left to right): **Tony Perez, Heather Hermange, and Matthew Bolli.**

## Mt. Pleasant's first ever coed water polo team wins league championship with undefeated season

*Super teamwork results in epic moment in school's history, in the midst of a pandemic, with as many as 3 games per week*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

In years past the boys' water polo team at Mt. Pleasant High School in Evergreen Valley had not had much success but this year with the combination of special coaching, their team even with fewer players, propelled themselves into  
*See WATER POLO, page 12*

## THE 5 SOCIAL: A unique and cutting-edge experience

*New 42,000 sq. ft. gathering 'Eatertainment' venue*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**T**HE 5 Social, a new locally-owned and operated recreational "Eatertainment" venue, has opened at the Silver Creek complex on the border of Evergreen Valley.

From laid-back leisure to lively activity – THE 5 Social is the "go-to" place for family and business gatherings, offering fun and food inside a whopping 42,000 sq. ft. facility. For size comparison, this wonderful place is almost as large as an indoor football field.

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 cornhole.

The initial opening of THE 5 Social was unfortunately 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 gath-



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 (pictured above), and cornhole.

ering 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!"

### Upcoming Events

Among the different events planned during the next six months at THE 5 So-

cial are milestone birthday parties, wedding rehearsal dinners, themed parties, corporate events and parties, and bocce and cornhole tournaments. The most anticipated event, Fantasy Football Draft, will take place during the summer. Food specials and a 30-Tap Wall of craft beer is offered, so bring your group, stats & cheat-sheets and make your picks! You can review booking packages and reserve a room today by contacting [events@the5social.com](mailto:events@the5social.com).

### 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, several pasta dishes, and wine. In addition to the delicious chef inspired dishes, more than 30 craft beers are available on a convenient self-serve tap wall. Takeout is also available by walk-in, phone, or online at: [www.the5social.com](http://www.the5social.com).

### Catering

In addition to delicious pizzas, pastas, sandwiches, and specials, THE 5 Social offers a variety of catering menus with culinary favorites all prepared on-site for any type of event you may be hosting. Catering is managed by THE 5's Executive

*See THE 5 SOCIAL, page 15*

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## E-waste and shredding event June 12 at EQ1 Real Estate

**E**Q1 Real Estate will host a Paper Shredding and E-waste event on June 12 in the parking lot area in front of its office at 2901 The Villages Parkway in Evergreen.

The E-waste collection is free and the shredding cost is a nominal charge of \$5 per box.

Proceeds from the event will be provided for local charities which include CityTeam and San Jose City Animal Shelter.

The EQ1 management team is committed to a COVID-safe drop-off event that includes social distancing, extra cleaning

and masks.

For more information, call (408) 270-5555.

Editor's note: Please see the EQ-

1 Shredding and E-Waste event advertisement on page 2.

Pictured below: the EQ1 Team meet the public at a recent event.



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





# PAPER SHREDDING & E-WASTE DROPOFF

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*CityTeam and San Jose City Animal Shelter*





Times **Community News**Mission Chamber Orchestra conductor **Emily Ray**

## Mission Chamber Orchestra brings back live classical music with free performance

Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose is bringing back live music with a free in-person concert of chamber music on Sunday, June 13 starting at 3 pm.

In the past, the orchestra has (with the exception of 2020) annually presented a Music of Portugal concert in June at Five Wounds Portuguese National Church, 1375 E. Santa Clara St. in San Jose. This year it will present small combinations of strings and winds in an hour-long concert with no intermission to minimize gathering time in enclosed spaces.

Luiz de Freitas Branco's *A Morte de Manfred* for strings will be offered as a tribute to those who died from COVID-19, while works by Joly Braga Santos, Eurico Carrapatoso, Sergio Azevedo, and Francisco de Lacerda will lighten the mood.

Since maximum capacity for this performance will be 300 people, people desiring to attend must reserve tickets at: [www.missionchamber.org](http://www.missionchamber.org). Attendees are required to wear masks and be fully vaccinated. The performance will also be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/FiveWoundsPortugueseNationalChurch](http://www.facebook.com/FiveWoundsPortugueseNationalChurch)

## Aloha Roller Rink Clinic now vaccinating children 12+

*Every day Stanford nurse team makes 5/5-star experience for all*

**By Kevin Larsen**  
Times staff writer

It's located at Eastridge Shopping Center and open 7 days a week; providing an opportunity for all youth in the Evergreen area to get Covid-19 vaccine shots for those 12 years and up.

It's free of charge and very easy to make an appointment with many registering a few days in advance.

Now this is how it works, for the youth, Pfizer is approved, for the adults sometimes you might be offered other vaccines. Adults may be offered other vaccines because the County of Santa Clara instructs the vaccine center what shipments will be sent and the clinic follows direction by using the supplies on hand.

For now, it is very easy to sign up your son or daughter to get their vaccine and adults too.

At the clinic some days have light traffic but other days have hundreds of people, but the line moves quickly through processing as the clinic has many workers.

After taking the shot one is asked to sit in the rest area for 15 minutes just to ensure they have no side effects before leaving.

To get signed up, just type into your web search (Aloha Roller Rink Vaccine Clinic). Answer the questions to make your appointment and register even if you don't have major health care insurance.

And, shhhh, and it doesn't have to be a secret, so you know... they also offer walk in vaccinations and one can check by asking a half hour before they close each day. Why throw vaccines away when they can be used for a walk in?

Wow, Stanford has a great group of nurses who help the world, and too, that's why Stanford University was created by a mom and dad who named the institution for their son.

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**The public is invited to provide input at the  
2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee's (MBCOC)  
public hearing on 2016 Measure B  
revenues and expenditures for the periods of  
Fiscal Years (FY) 2017-2019 and FY 2020:**

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 12:00 p.m.**

**Zoom videoconference**

*(includes phone capability)*

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure B, a 30-year, half-cent countywide sales tax devoted to enhancing transit, highways, expressways, and active transportation (bicycles, pedestrian, and complete streets) within Santa Clara County. Voters entrusted the MBCOC with oversight to ensure that Measure B funds are being spent consistent with the ballot language and to inform voters on Program compliance.

In 2019, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) began the process to deliver the projects and programs contained in the 2016 Measure B Program, having been delayed by an unsuccessful court challenge to the measure. Examples of the many projects/programs underway include local streets/roads repair and improvements; highway interchanges; and bicycle/ pedestrian projects. More information on projects/programs is available at VTA's 2016 Measure B Program website: [vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b](http://vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b).

To ensure everyone's safety during the pandemic, there will be no physical location for the public hearing. Further information on the public hearing is available at the **Board & Committee portal** on [vta.org](http://vta.org). The public is encouraged to provide their input during the Zoom meeting or via email, which will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on 5/26/21 at: [board.secretary@vta.org](mailto:board.secretary@vta.org).

Sign language and additional interpreter services will be provided upon request by contacting VTA Customer Service at least five days prior to the hearing at [customer.service@vta.org](mailto:customer.service@vta.org) or (408) 321- 2300, TTY (408) 321-2330.

Copies of 2016 Measure B Program documents, and the results of the independent audits on (A) FYs 2017-2019 and (B) FY 2020, are available for public inspection from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the VTA offices at 3331 N. First Street, San Jose, CA in the Building B lobby. This information is also available at: [vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b](http://vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b). Questions on the public hearing should be directed to: Office of the Board Secretary at (408) 321-5680 or to [board.secretary@vta.org](mailto:board.secretary@vta.org).

**Your 2016 Measure B Tax Dollars at Work!**



## Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale

Norwood Neighborhood Association is sponsoring the event on Saturday, June 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Many residents are expected to participate!

To find out the participating resident streets, view the Association's Facebook Event Page: <https://fb.me/e/bnbflcG1s>.

The event page will be updated as local residents inform the organizers that their home and or street are participating.

## Three local high school sophomores advance to DECA national level competition placing 6th

By William Bellou  
Publisher

San Jose teens Riya Pai, Neetika Mishra, and Aashirya Rai made it to the final round of the national level in the DECA competition, placing sixth.

All three girls are sophomores at Basis Independent Silicon Valley. Pai and Mishra are Evergreen Valley residents.

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) judges the top 20 competitors in a particular category and only two California teams made it to the final national round.

After clearing the regional level, they placed 2nd in the state for the franchise category. The tiers are as follows: Tier 1 - regional level; Tier 2 - state level; Tier 3 - national level; Tier 4 - top 20 national level (Finals).

The 225,000 member strong DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

DECA Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit student organization operates in all 50 United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and Germany. The United States Congress, the United States Department of Education and state, district and international departments of education authorize DECA's programs.

To learn more about DECA, go to [www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org).

## EvergreenTimes

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# Valley Currents

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

## Future use of 27 vacant acres at Evergreen Valley College discussed by community at Zoom meeting

### Times staff report

The future of the vacant 27 acres at Evergreen Valley College was discussed during a Zoom meeting held Saturday, May 15.

The vacant land wraps around the CVS/Wells Fargo Shopping Center at the corner of San Felipe and Yerba Buena Roads.

The Saturday morning virtual discussion was sponsored by the San Jose Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD). More than 70 community members participated.

Matt Bohannon, vice president of Brailsford & Dunlavey, facilitated Saturday's meeting along with district officials. His development management firm is assisting with SJECCD community outreach.

Bohannon recently presented plans for redesigning the Ever-



San Jose-Evergreen Community College District Chancellor **Byron D. Cliff Breland** speaks with residents during a virtual discussion about future use of 27 vacant acres near Evergreen Valley College. More than 70 members of the community participated in the May 15 Zoom meeting.

green Valley College campus to the board of trustees. His firm's designs include a new sports complex, a language arts facility, and a student services center. Currently there are no development sketches or construction

plans for the 27 acres.

Numerous suggestions were offered by the participants for the future use of the vacant land during the meeting. The consensus among participants was to only use the vacant land for education-

al purposes.

It was clarified at the onset of the meeting by ESECCD Chancellor Bryon D. Cliff Breland that the purpose of the meeting was to facilitate diverse stakeholder engagement involvement in the decision-making process of how the 27 acres of land might be used in the future. He said the district will discuss "next steps" and take the feedback from Saturday's discussions on the future use of the surplus land to the board of trustees.

Some residents decried Evergreen Valley College's lack of degrees and programs, which forces many students to attend other community colleges, such as De Anza, resulting in long commutes.

SJECCD leaders said they wanted to understand the range of ideas and creative thinking from  
*27 ACRES, page 20*

## Jaylen Ivey of Evergreen to participate at World Acrobatic Gymnastic Games in Switzerland

*Commends California Connections Academy Monterey Bay for helping him with flexible learning schedules*

USA Gymnastics announced that Jaylen Ivey of Evergreen Valley, and his partner Amaya Rogers, have been selected for the U.S. team that will participate in the World Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships at the Vernets Sports Center in Geneva, Switzerland June 22-July 4.

While the pandemic impacted his travel schedule in 2020, Jaylen's education went undisrupted as a competitive acrobatic gymnast enrolled at California Connections Academy Monterey Bay—a tuition-free online public school serving students in K-12 across Monterey, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.

With flexible scheduling and the opportunity to work at his own pace, Jaylen was able to train for the World Team Trials this past April—landing 1st place in Jaylen's category, 12-19 Mixed Pair, and securing his spot on the World Team—while making it on the high



Jaylen Ivey and partner, Amaya Rogers

honor roll for the first time since elementary school.

The team of Jaylen and Amaya qualifying for the World Games was announced following the conclusion of the U.S. Acrobatic World

Team Trials. They both participated in the five-day trials held at the Community Sports and Wellness in Pendleton, Indiana April 22-26.

More than 200 gymnasts representing 24 nations will compete for five World titles up for grabs at the World Games in Switzerland's second largest city. Initially planned for the spring of 2020, the championships were delayed for a year due to the pandemic.

"If it were not for the incredible flexibility that California Connections Academy Monterey Bay offers, I do not think that I would have been able to keep up with my school work and juggle my rigorous training and competition schedule," Jaylen said. "Thanks to the flexible schedule I have with the full-time virtual school, I'm able to train and compete at the 27th Acrobatic gymnastics World Championships in Geneva, Switzerland!"

Acrobatic Gymnastics competition at the World Championships includes five categories - Men's Pair, Women's Pair, Mixed Pair, Women's Trio, and Men's Group - as well as a team competition, meaning a total of 18 medal sets will be awarded in Geneva.

Hosting a World Championships in Acrobatic Gymnastics is a first for Switzerland, a nation where Gymnastics is so deeply rooted  
*See IVEY, page 18*

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Times **Community News**

**E-Bike Affordability Bill would establish a pilot program to incentivize the purchase of e-bikes**

*Study: E-Bikes are the best climate investment for California*

By **William Bellou**  
Publisher

A recent study found that subsidies for electric bikes are more cost-effective than electric car incentives at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from private cars.

The study focused on the greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of subsidies for electric bikes, battery-electric cars, and plug-in hybrid electric cars in Oregon. It found that e-bike subsidies, like those in CalBike's proposed \$10M E-Bike Affordability Program, were the most cost-effective way to reduce GHG emissions.

While lawmakers contemplate spending billions of dollars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from private cars, including \$1.5 billion to subsidize electric cars, they also have a chance to support electric bikes according to a bill being advanced by the Assembly.

AB 117, the E-Bike Affordability Bill (Boerner Horvath), would establish a pilot program to incentivize the purchase of elec-



The Blix Vika+ is a popular folding electric bike.

tric bicycles as a means of reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), reducing air, water, and noise pollution, and helping Californians get more exercise. To implement the program, legislators must allocate \$10 million in the budget being negotiated among the capital's leaders this month.

"If California is serious about tackling climate change, promoting e-bikes needs to be front and center," said Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath, the bill's author. "E-bikes help us cut out shorter car trips, reduce emissions, and move closer to our ambitious climate goals. Now is the time to make e-bikes affordable for all Californians."

**E-bikes are 'carbon crushers'**

"Compared to EVs, e-bikes are carbon crushers." See *E-BIKES*, next page

Norwood Neighborhood Association



Community Event - Neighborhood Wide



On Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, many of the residents of the Norwood Neighborhood Association will participate in a Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale.

Norwood Neighborhood Association represents the residents in the area bounded by **White road to the West, Ruby Ave to the East, Tully Road to the North and Norwood Ave to the South.**

The residents of the are invited to participate in the Garage Sale. The residents will hold their garage sales at their own home, in their own driveway. The neighborhood association will publicize the event through various media.

To find out which streets have residents that are participating, look the Association's Facebook Event (<https://fb.me/e/bnbflcG1s>). The event page will be updated as the local residents inform the organizers that their home / street will participate.

**Date:** Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8AM to 2PM

**Where:** homes within the Norwood Neighborhood Association area. See <https://fb.me/e/bnbflcG1s> to get a list of streets participating.

**Inquiries:** contact Michael Gabler at [mgabler@earthling.net](mailto:mgabler@earthling.net)



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Times **Feature**



## High schools offer limited opportunities for students to have in person learning

Times staff report

Earlier this month it was announced that high schools would be reopening April 19.

The school board of East Side Union High School District agreed to having each teacher offer 15 or less students from all of their classes for in-person class once per week.

Some, but very few teachers, offered multiple days in person teaching as can be seen on the schedules for teaching at each school.

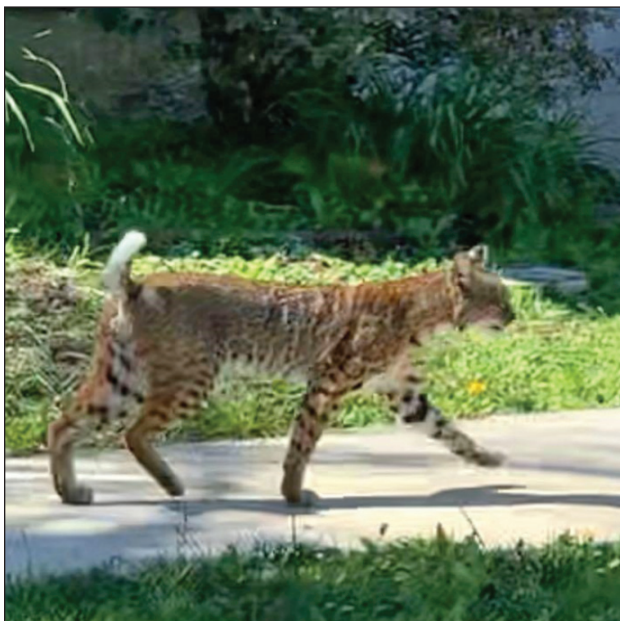
Some teachers simultaneously taught those students who came to the classroom along with the hybrid distance learning to on-line scholars. Parents lamented that the in-person class setting was not the same experience as a regular school day.

This method of reopening was not discussed at the school board meetings (if one reviews the YouTube ES-UHSD meetings) and it came as a surprise to many stakeholders that in-person learning would be so very limited.

One union leader at the April 22, 2021 school board meeting expressed that during the reopening, many parents and students had trouble understanding that the reopening was so limited for all grade levels at the school sites.

It can be seen from a chart shown at the April 22 school board meeting that out of the estimated 22,000 students that attend ESUHSD, only 3,041 students (about 14%) returned to in-person learning for the mostly one 90-minute class offered once a week or cohort group in person meetings.

One charter school is shown on the chart to have had only two students return to in person learning.



### PHOTO OP

**AMAZING BOB CAT** – Ben Torres of Basking Ridge photographed this stunning bob cat roaming his neighborhood on a warm afternoon earlier this month. Residents in the northern, central and south Evergreen Valley are reporting bob cat sightings on a weekly basis.

## E-Bikes

Continued from previous page

crushers. This fact adds urgency to the effort to help communities move away from car dependence and its terrible impacts,” said Dave Snyder, Executive Director of the California Bicycle Coalition, the sponsor of the E-Bike Affordability Act. “If California’s climate investments are supposed to prioritize solutions that have additional benefits, then this is a no-brainer. Investing in biking makes people healthier and happier, improves traffic safety, and reduces traffic congestion.”

Even with rebates, most Californians can’t afford electric cars with currently fewer than 1 percent of vehicles registered in California as all-electric.

Get on board for an e-bike will get you a mile on one penny

The E-Bike Affordability Program provides purchase incentives targeted at low-income residents, putting zero-emissions transportation within reach for many more Californians. Plus, e-bikes plug into a regular wall outlet and cost about \$0.01 (a penny) per mile to operate — no need for charging stations.

A paper published by the Published in Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment in Oct. 2020 states: “Electric bicycles (e-bikes) have been found to offer a promising solution to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) impact of a region’s passenger transportation system. Despite having slightly higher lifecycle emissions than conventional bicycles, privately owned e-bikes emit far less than other motorized modes.”



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Times **Community News**

# ESD Homeschool Program

If you're interested in teaching and learning at home with your child, the Evergreen School District is offering its second year of Pods4Learning & Virtual Pathways program in 2021-2022 school year.

**Parent Information Night**

**Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

**Time: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Zoom registration link - <https://eesd.info/3fnPmzV>**



EESD  
NEWS



EESD.ORG



## Quimby Oak student Ayetra Sarkar receives Award of Merit

Quimby Oak student Ayetra Sarkar has received an Award of Merit from the California State PTA for her literary entry, a poem.

This year's Reflections topic was I Matter Because.

Ayetra literary entry is titled: "I Matter Because I Do."

"The purpose of my poem was to show that many of us are still finding our dreams, and highlights the importance of the time spent chasing them," Ayetra said. "The notion of being unsure and figuring things out is what makes our lives memorable, and those are the moments in which we shape our future."

Ayetra explained that somewhere along the journey, we'll find ourselves with strong connections to others. She stated, "Remember that as you lift others, you grow yourself. I think my wishes for this poem will be fulfilled if the reader sees their path in the words, and enjoys the adventure and interpretations that belong only to them. If we combine those aspirations and experiences, maybe we can fly!"

"I Matter Because I do" is printed here:

**I Matter Because I Do**

*By Ayetra Sarkar*

The tip of my touch,  
And the chime of my voice,  
My presence itself is enough,  
Through this, I rejoice

From the stars to the scars,  
And the complexion of my skin,  
Every part is flawed,  
Yet glorified to win

The words unspoken,  
And brittle with fear,  
To the victories and successes,  
Which I know are near

Like a falcon,  
That's yet to spread its wings,  
Even so a bird,  
Who has found her melody to sing

Almost eight billion people,  
That I could be,  
Yet for some reason,  
I still chose me

The serendipity of my entity,  
And the value of my dignity,  
It seems too divine,  
yet somehow a crime

We are depicting,  
The human race,  
Though it seems at times,  
I can't find my place



Ayetra Sarkar has received an Award of Merit.

Mistakes are to come,  
Miracles we attain,  
A rainbow's impossible,  
Without a bit of rain

Whom we aspire to be,  
And what makes me me,  
Will soon help us reign,  
And erase the prolonging pain

As all shall know,  
One will never be complete,  
Still existence itself,  
Is the most edifying treat

I matter because,  
I do,  
I dream one day,  
I can show someone else that too

All students attending PTA schools sponsoring the program are invited to participate and submit original artwork in one of six areas: Dance Choreography; Literature; Photography; Film; Production; Music Composition; and Visual Arts.

The Reflections Contest encourages students of all ages to unleash creative talents and be inspired by expressing themselves imaginatively in their submissions. The contest also inspires young people to tap into creative-thinking skills while experiencing the fun and joy while creating their art.

Artworks are submitted first to school-level PTAs, where they are first recognized, celebrated and judged by five grade-level divisions, while a non-judged Special Artists division celebrates student artists with special needs. School PTAs then choose a selection of entries to be judged by local PTA units, which are then sent on to councils and then districts for consideration. The final artworks submitted to California State PTA by districts are then considered for Outstanding Interpretation, Awards of Excellence or Awards of Merit. Outstanding Interpretation and Award of Excellence entries then go on to represent California in the final National PTA judging round.

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Times **Feature**

## Evergreen School District hires new chief business officer

*Victoria Knutson brings 15 years of school district budget and finance experience*

The Evergreen School District Board of Trustees approved hiring **Victoria Knutson** (inset) as its new Chief Business Officer. Knutson is replacing previous Chief Business Officer Delores Perley who departed the position in June 2020.



Knutson has been in the school finance business since 2006 and has served public school districts in the south bay and Monterey areas in increasing management and leadership roles, which were major factors in the Evergreen School District's decision to hire her.

In her previous role as Director of Fiscal Services for the last eight years with the Morgan Hill Unified School District, Knutson oversaw the district's budget, finance, payroll, and purchasing departments. In this capacity, her leadership was attributed in earning the district an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's, AA credit rating from S&P Global, and receiving a Golden Bell Award for designing a Local Control Accountability Plan that was said to provide a "transparent view of the operating budget and provides a working hub for trustees, staff and advisory groups to link to virtually all facets of district initiatives and operations."

Her previous experience also includes working for Hollister School District and Salinas City Elementary School District, where she also oversaw the district's budget and financial reporting. Knutson's highest priorities focus on professional performance and ethical standards when it comes to budget transparency, earning her an award for excellence in financial services through the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO).

"Victoria has a vested interest in the growth and well-being of children," said Dr. Emy Flores, Superintendent of Evergreen School District. "She wants to focus on bringing fiscal stability to the district and is eager to build and continue fostering collaborative relationships with the school board, teachers, support staff, parents, students, and community partners."

Knutson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Business Management from the University of California Santa Cruz and is a certified Chief Business Official

through the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) program and CASBO. She is also a graduate from the San Francisco Unified School District, making her a Bay Area local. Knutson is the mother of two young children and is married to a veteran teacher of 20 years.

"I am looking forward to joining the Evergreen School District where I can offer

my perspective and expertise in the budget and finance process and I am committed to serving the Evergreen community," said Knutson.

## Gov. Newsom's new proposal: \$600 stimulus checks for two-thirds of California residents

By Times reporting staff

Gov. Gavin Newsom last week unveiled plans to deliver \$600 stimulus checks.

The 75 billion-surplus projected in the state's general fund for the new fiscal year and an additional \$26 billion from the federal coronavirus relief package inspired California Gov. Gavin Newsom to propose a \$600 stimulus program for two-thirds of the state's residents.

The governor's proposal to award two-thirds of Californians with stimulus checks is part of his \$100 billion "California Comeback Plan," made possible by the state's



surplus.

The state's projected surplus is so expansive that it will need to give some of that cash back to taxpayers under a state law put in place to restrict government spending. The law, approved by voters in 1979, was spearheaded by taxpayer watchdog Paul Gann.

"This is above and beyond the statutory requirement," Newsom said. "This is not the reason we're

moving forward with the announcement."

Newsom's proposal would give \$600 payments to individual taxpayers earning up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income and an additional \$500 to families with dependent children, including undocumented families.

Newsom said he is also proposing spending

up to \$5.2 billion to get 100% of back rent paid for Californians directly affected by COVID-19 and \$2 billion to help Californians pay off overdue water, gas and electricity bills.

The Legislature has until June 15 to pass the state budget, so the proposed payments would likely be distributed sometime this summer.



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Times **Feature**

## San Jose's Happy Hollow hangs on during the pandemic

By Patricia Wei

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The theater and rides at San Jose's Happy Hollow Park & Zoo might be closed, but that didn't dampen 4-year-old Zayden's enthusiasm for his first time at the zoo.

"I'm so excited!" said Zayden as he made his way from the ticket booth to the exhibits.

Happy Hollow is owned and operated by San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, and supports the department through revenue generated from tickets, memberships, food and beverage services, parking and more.



Rebeca Silva holds her son, Zayden, as they look at macaws at Happy Hollow zoo. Photo by Patricia Wei

But as COVID-19 shuttered the popular San Jose attraction for most of the past year

and several months this year when cases spiked, officials are exploring new ways to

patch up an expected budget shortfall. Happy Hollow is now open with timed reservations Tuesday through Sunday, where visitors can walk through the zoo via a one-way path.

While city officials could not say exactly how much money the zoo has lost—they're still calculating it—the most recent budget documents show a \$525,000 reduction in the parks budget with part of that attributed to Happy Hollow.

The documents also show a loss of \$70,000 from special events, face paintings and celebrations. "There will be a loss compared to previous years, but the total impacts won't be determined until the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year," said Charlotte Graham, a spokesperson for the parks department.

During the pandemic, Happy Hollow has been supported by the city's parks department and donations, and is not at risk of closing, said Caitlin O'Hara, a spokesperson for the zoo.

"One thing that has helped support our operations is the Happy Hollow annual membership program," O'Hara said. "We are also grateful to be supported by our nonprofit partner, Happy Hollow Foundation."

The park is also looking for new ways to lure people back—including the introduction of two new lemurs born on April 16.

The twins were born to Vintana, a 7-year-old female, and Nify, a 19-year-old male, who now have a total of four offspring since 2018.

Black and white ruffed lemurs are found only in Madagascar. They're listed as critically endangered due to habitat loss and the demand for them in the illegal exotic pet industry.

"Though their antics can be amusing, it's important to remember that our zoo animals are not here for entertainment purposes," said Happy Hollow Zoo Manager Kevin Hertell. "Very few people will actually take their families to visit Madagascar, but when they see our lemurs up close—it makes them much more likely to want to protect their wild counterparts and habitats."

Later this month, the public will have a chance to help name the lemur pups through a contest. Happy Hollow officials are also grappling with how to convince patrons the facility is safe. O'Hara said workers shielded animals from disease during the pandemic through quarantine requirements for new animals, footbaths before entering exhibits and daily health checks.

"As pandemic restrictions are lifted, the department expects Happy Hollow to return to more 'normal' operations in the long-term," said Graham, adding that the parks department expects funds to be fully restored in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

But the new reservation system brought silver linings for visitors, including short lines and not having to crowd around exhibits to get a glimpse of the animals.

"Attendance has been consistently strong since our February reopening, often reaching capacity within many reservation time slots in a given day," O'Hara said.

With many public attractions being closed the past year, Zayden's mother,

Rebeca Silva, found joy in giving her son a new experience and seeing his excitement as he marveled at the animals, such as Sophie the Jaguar.

"We're happy we can take him here," she said.

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## Times Feature



Kevin Howard and Al Areciado eat brunch at Flames Eatery in downtown San Jose.  
Photo by Lloyd Alaban

## Is San Jose ready to go maskless?

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says fully vaccinated people can ditch their masks when indoors and outdoors. But local guidelines aren't as open yet.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday he will end the state's mask mandate on June 15, nearly a year after he first required masks in all public spaces. It will be the closest the state has come to ending COVID-related restrictions.

But signs of the pandemic ending are all over San Jose already: Many restaurants are offering indoor seating and operating at increased capacity, and more residents are opting to go maskless outdoors amid reports of "misleading" numbers of outdoor transmission.

Some San Joseans are eager to get back to normal amid the governor's announcement.

One such resident, Dalal, was walking her dog Friday outside the Martin Luther King Library in downtown San Jose without a mask. Dalal said she had a good reason—she's fully vaccinated.

"I see two sides to this argument," she told San José Spotlight. "Now that the CDC is allowing people to not wear masks outside if people are fully vaccinated, I'm with it. But unless everyone is fully vaccinated, I don't think we can just open up."

A spokesman for the county's Public Health Department said officials are waiting for a directive from the state public health department before officially easing the local mask mandate.

The California Department of Public Health is working toward a full reopening next month by pushing all residents to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

"With over 33 million vaccines administered and one of the lowest case rates in the country, California continues to encourage all eligible Californians to get vaccinated as the state looks to fully reopen on Jun. 15," reads a statement from the department.

The news comes as the CDC eased its guidelines earlier this week for fully vaccinated people who are not immunocompromised, saying that those who have completed their COVID-19 shots can ditch their masks both indoors and outdoors if they're not on a plane or on public transportation,

regardless of how many people are around.

The county is still not in the least-restrictive yellow tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which allows most businesses to open indoor operations with minimal modifications. But that might not matter come June 15, as the entire state will join nine other states that have fully lifted restrictions and 38 other states that will soon do so. Though the state is gearing up to lift COVID restrictions, some local businesses are on the fence about losing masks.

At Flames Eatery & Bar in downtown San Jose, General Manager Joel Castro said he's still cautious about letting customers go fully maskless. A partial reopening brought mixed positives for him, as the weather earlier in the year was not favorable for outdoor eating. Now, he's considered requiring masks even as the state lifts its mandates until he feels "comfortable."

"Now that we're open inside, business is starting to pick up and people feel more comfortable. That's a good thing," Castro said. "I don't think it's time for us to take the masks off. There's no need to rush."

Just this week, Castro said he kicked out a customer—who claimed they were fully vaccinated—for refusing to wear a mask. "I don't care who you are. This is my location," Castro said. "You want to be inside, you have to wear a mask."

Castro himself is fully vaccinated and said much of his staff is too. "We have employees and we need to make sure they feel safe," he added.

Patrons Al Preciado and Kevin Howard believe Newsom's decision is the correct one, but opined that the state could have lifted restrictions sooner if fewer people resisted wearing masks when the pandemic began. Both men said they are getting their second doses of the vaccine next week.

"People wore masks even before the pandemic out of courtesy," Areciado said. "I think we should just keep wearing masks for now because it's important that people not forget that other viruses spread."

Howard, however, is ready to ditch his mask as soon as he can.

"I'll still wear one if I have a cold," Howard said. "But I think the CDC knows what they're talking about."



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Times Feature

# Water polo

Continued from page 1

becoming truly invincible by finishing their grueling season, undefeated!

During the 2017-18 Season, the Boys' Water Polo Team record was 0-10 and the Girls 0-8. In 2018-19, the Boys went 3-7 and the Girls 5-5. Last year, Boys and Girls improved to 6-4.

**A movie could be made out of this accomplishment**

Then COVID happened, and the Mt. Pleasant water polo players thought they would not be able to play at all but they still kept hope alive.

A shorter season was announced and they were incredibly excited and grateful. As a result, the team's enthusiasm and a renewed sense of purpose returned, but there was a problem; not enough players.

"We had lost kids to graduation and leaving our school and we found ourselves facing a tough decision," said Coach Andy McKay. "Do we play with individual boy and girl teams and hope to get enough people to compete, or do we go coed?"

At that point, the boys did not have enough members to form a team and the girls faced only having one other opponent in their division as only one of the other schools had a girls' team due to the pandemic.

**Coach envisions first ever co-ed team**

Looking at the prospects, the kids decided that the best course of action was to form one coed team. This allowed the boys to have enough members for a team and gave the girls the opportunity to play a variety of teams.

After the first game, senior Heather Her-



Standing in back: **Coach Andy McKay, Dylan Nguyen, Marco Heredia, Tony Perez, Heather Hermange, Chayse Waters, Asst. Coach Michael Bolli, and Coach Isaac Saldivar.** Leaning down in mid row: **Amy Madrigal, Jessica Tran, and Leylani Melgar.** Kneeling in front: **Isabella Perez, Matthew Bolli, Lucero Rivera, and Holly Hermange**

mange remarked "I was a bit nervous going into the game, but once we were playing, it was no big deal. Since the boys and girls always practice together anyway, it didn't really feel any different."

"Let's say that everybody was nervous about the decision," said Brenda Serrano-Perez, parent of two of the water polo team members. "The boys did not want the girls to get hurt playing against the boys. Most of the other schools do not have coed teams since it's a full contact sport, and the girls wondered if they had the stamina to play a whole game if they were short on subs or if the difficulty of the game called for the top seven to stay in.

Miraculously the boys and girls achieved an undefeated 2020-21 season together!

The Mt. Pleasant team had a total of 12 players (7 girls and 5 boys) with a starting lineup of five boys and two girls. Even though some of the other teams had 20+ players, MP played as a cohesive team and made it thru the season undefeated!

"I was really proud of how well the kids worked together" said Debbie Hermange, whose daughters are on the team. "They communicated well, kept their cool, and everyone contributed. It was truly a team effort."

This is amazing for a team that started three years ago without a single win, and then managed to finish a shortened season

with as many as three games a week, undefeated.

Turns out the girls were the secret weapon. "The boys on the other teams underestimated us" said junior Holly Hermange. "They thought they could ignore us and get an easy win. They had no idea how tough we are."

"Small but mighty" as sophomore Isabella Perez puts it.

With the girls holding their own on defense and the excellent goal keeping of senior Matthew Bolli, the other teams didn't get many goals on the board. Add in the strong shooting of junior Chayse Waters and senior Tony Perez and you have a winning combination.

"The last time the school team (boys) was undefeated was the 2004 season. The last time that the school team (boys) won a division title was the 2009," said Water Polo Coach Andy McKay. News about this great accomplishment makes students, parents, school administrators, and the community so very happy and proud; especially in these uncertain times."

"There's definitely a sense of family among all of us" said Mathew Bolli and the other players would agree. Many have played together over the years and are friends outside the pool as well. That camaraderie came through this season and was a vital part of the team's success.

Mt. Pleasant High School Water Polo Team Members: Matthew Bolli (Sr); Tony Perez (Sr); Chayse Waters (Jr); Dylan Nguyen (Jr); Marco Heredia (So); Heather Hermange (Sr); Holly Hermange (Jr); Jessica Tran (Jr); Amy Madrigal (Jr); Leylani Melgar (Jr); Isabella Perez (So); and Lucero Rivera (So).

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Times **Feature**

# Largest middle class tax cut in California history proposed

Former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer is proposing the largest middle class tax cut in California history.

Joined by local leaders and academic experts, Faulconer emphasized his campaign is focused on the people of California as he introduced the California Comeback Tax Cut plan.

"The hard-working men and women who are being priced out of our state need more than a one-time rebate; they need permanent financial relief that lasts. California's serious problems require serious leadership, and our campaign is focused on real solutions to make our state affordable again," Faulconer said.

"Under my plan 99 percent of taxpaying households will qualify for relief, many middle-class families will see their state income taxes reduced to zero, and we will make it rational to retire here. This is not a tax cut for the Wall Street crowd, it's a tax cut for the people who make our state work and deserve change in this election."

The current California State tax law requires an individual earning \$50,000 to pay a higher marginal tax rate than someone making \$1 million in the state of New York.

Not only does California have the highest income taxes, highest gas taxes, and highest supplemental poverty rate in the U.S., it is also flush with cash despite the pandemic. The state government is projecting a \$75 billion three-year budget surplus – an amount larger than the budgets of many states.

Faulconer's plan will reduce the margin-

al tax rate to zero for the first \$50,000 earned by individuals, and the first \$100,000 earned by families, for those earning under \$1 million per year. It will also eliminate taxes on military retirement income.

For example, a single office worker earning \$48,000 in annual income will owe no state taxes. A single construction worker



Kevin Faulconer

earning \$55,000 in annual income will owe no state taxes on the first \$50,000 they earn, and only pay state taxes on the income they earn over that amount (\$5,000 at a tax rate of 8 percent). A married couple earning a combined \$110,000 in annual income will owe no state taxes on the first \$100,000 they earn, and only pay state taxes on the income they earn over that amount (\$10,000 at a rate of 8 percent).

State government spending on daily operations has increased by 30 percent per person over the last decade, even after adjusting for inflation.

### Current CA State income tax rates:

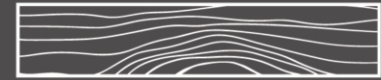
| Singles  |                        | Married Filing Jointly |                            |
|----------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tax rate | Taxable income bracket | Tax rate               | Taxable income bracket     |
| 1%       | \$0 to \$8,932         | 1%                     | \$0 to \$17,864            |
| 2%       | \$8,933 to \$21,175    | 2%                     | \$17,865 to \$42,350       |
| 4%       | \$21,176 to \$33,421   | 4%                     | \$42,351 to \$66,842       |
| 6%       | \$33,422 to \$46,394   | 6%                     | \$66,843 to \$92,788       |
| 8%       | \$46,395 to \$58,634   | 8%                     | \$92,789 to \$117,268      |
| 9.3%     | \$58,635 to \$299,508  | 9.3%                   | \$117,269 to \$599,016     |
| 10.3%    | \$299,509 to \$359,407 | 10.3%                  | \$599,017 to \$718,814     |
| 11.3%    | \$359,408 to \$599,012 | 11.3%                  | \$718,815 to \$1,198,024   |
| 12.3%    | \$599,013 to \$999,999 | 12.3%                  | \$1,198,025 to \$1,999,999 |
| 13.3%    | \$1,000,000 or more    | 13.3%                  | \$2,000,000 or more        |

### Proposed Comeback Tax Cut Plan rates:

| Singles  |                        | Married Filing Jointly |                            |
|----------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tax rate | Taxable income bracket | Tax rate               | Taxable income bracket     |
| 0%       | \$0 to \$8,932         | 0%                     | \$0 to \$17,864            |
| 0%       | \$8,933 to \$21,175    | 0%                     | \$17,865 to \$42,350       |
| 0%       | \$21,176 to \$33,421   | 0%                     | \$42,351 to \$66,842       |
| 0%       | \$33,422 to \$50,000   | 0%                     | \$66,843 to \$100,000      |
| 8%       | \$50,001 to \$58,634   | 8%                     | \$100,001 to \$117,268     |
| 9.3%     | \$58,635 to \$299,508  | 9.3%                   | \$117,269 to \$599,016     |
| 10.3%    | \$299,509 to \$359,407 | 10.3%                  | \$599,017 to \$718,814     |
| 11.3%    | \$359,408 to \$599,012 | 11.3%                  | \$718,815 to \$1,198,024   |
| 12.3%    | \$599,013 to \$999,999 | 12.3%                  | \$1,198,025 to \$1,999,999 |
| 13.3%    | \$1,000,000 or more    | 13.3%                  | \$2,000,000 or more        |



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Times **Local News**

**Kainth of Evergreen Valley inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at UC-Davis**

**P**rabhdeep Kainth of Evergreen Valley (inset) is the newest member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Kainth was initiated at University of California-Davis.



Kainth is working towards completing his B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of California Davis. "I'm currently seeking an internship opportunity to utilize my problem solving, software design and development skills to further enrich and develop my abilities in the field of Computer Science," Kainth said.

Kainth worked as an assistant at Silver Creek Academy in Evergreen (2018-19) He taught students from grade school to high school in subjects including Math, Writing, and Reading.

While attending Evergreen Valley High School, Kainth was appointed Team Captain - First Tech Challenge Robotics Team and led both the mechanical and software team. He coordinated and held meetings, scheduled practices, mentored new members, and did software design, development, and debugging for the robot.

Membership into Phi Kappa Phi, founded in

1879, is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

**Newsom says no masks required on June 15**

**G**ov. Gavin Newsom says California will stop requiring people to wear masks in almost all circumstances on June 15.

"It will look a lot like the world we entered into before the pandemic," Newsom said. "Masks will be needed for large-scale indoor convention events where we use our common sense."

The new guidance requires people to wear a mask when gathering indoors with people who are not vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people can meet indoors without wearing a mask.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board will consider changing its workplace mask rules later this month. The proposed rules would not require employees to wear masks indoors if all workers are fully vaccinated and no one has coronavirus symptoms.

The rate of people testing positive for the coronavirus in California is just 1.1% which is the lowest rate in the nation. Nearly 15 million people are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, and another 5.1 million are partially vaccinated.

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Times **Community News****THE 5 Social**

*Continued from page 1*

Chef Myles McEntee, who is the official chef of the San Jose Sharks. McEntee has more than 20 years of experience serving groups of all sizes. Whether you're looking for a grab-n-go, or a fully-catered event, McEntee's staff will create an unforgettable experience for any group.

**Sports 'Watch Parties'**

THE 5 Social hosts "Watch Parties" for key sporting events with vendors participating in the venue to help host and provide giveaways. A recent event, *NFL Draft Watch Party*, included a delicious BBQ, and according to those in attendance, the event was a great success.

"THE 5 Social is dedicated to providing a safe, socially-distanced fun environment for our guests," said Kylie Smith, Programming & Events Manager. "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 in 'Orange Tier' and moving into 'Yellow Tier' very soon, we can open up with our full array of recreational offerings."

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- Indoor and outdoor dining areas featuring indoor fireplaces, outdoor firepits, and plenty of comfortable seating.
- Arcade lounge with a variety of trendy exclusive games spanning every decade!
- Conference rooms – five rooms with capacity ranging from 5-110 people for corporate events, team building, rehearsal dinners, and birthday parties.

- Free parking is available in a large parking lot located on the property for ease and convenience.

- Rental accommodations – bocce ball courts and cornhole lanes may be rented in 30-minute increments and must be reserved for a minimum of one hour.

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 required for 20 or more for Bocce Ball and Cornhole which includes seating for you and your guests to enjoy food and drinks while playing. For dining only, reservations are also required for groups of 20 or more.

"We have an amazing team, which has allowed us to open the doors with safety as our top priority!" said Scott. "I cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication to THE 5 Social, Silver Creek Sportsplex, and ClubSport San Jose, during the pandemic."

To create, plan, and host your next event, contact Kylie Smith, Programming & Events Manager, (408) 440-3295; or Email: [events@THE5social.com](mailto:events@THE5social.com)

*Editor's Note: If you're interested in learning more, visit THE 5 Social at the Silver Creek Sports Plex, located at 800 Embedded Way, San Jose, CA 95138; or check out these information sites: [www.the5social.com](http://www.the5social.com); Facebook: [www.facebook.com/The5Social](http://www.facebook.com/The5Social); and also on Instagram: [www.instagram.com/the5social](http://www.instagram.com/the5social)*



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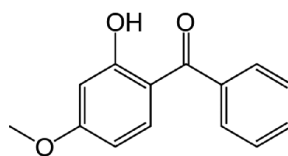
## Oxybenzone? More like Oxybenz-NO!

A simple investigation to an often-used component in sunscreen and other products around us

By Anoohya Panidapu  
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! I'm Anoohya, Apoorva's sister, and I'm a guest writer this week! For a little background on me: I'm currently a junior undergraduate at UC Berkeley, majoring in chemistry, with a minor in Global Public Health. In this article, we'll learn about green chemistry, through the lens of a chemical often found in cosmetic products. Also, since summer is coming and you might be thinking of being outside in the sun more often, it's important to learn about the potential dangers of the ingredients in your sunscreen!

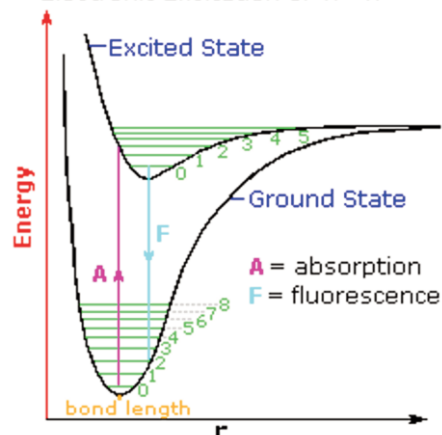
The chemical we will discuss is oxybenzone. Oxybenzone is most often used in sunscreen as an ultraviolet filter. It is found in many products, ranging from nail polish and hairspray to toys and furniture. Oxybenzone is in the class of aromatic ketones and is a naturally occurring chemical found in flowering plants.



First, you might be wondering why we use this chemical in so many products.

Well, oxybenzone absorbs UVB and UVA II rays. This absorption results in photochemical excitation and the absorption of energy. Upon return to the ground state, the absorbed energy results in emission of longer wavelength radiation, and thus reduces the risk of DNA damage. You may recall that UV light can cause DNA damage, which is why this chemical that absorbs UV rays is often used in sunscreen products.

Electronic Excitation of X—X



Now, why is oxybenzone dangerous and who does it affect? Oxybenzone is very lipophilic (tending to combine with or dissolve in lipids or fats) and particularly penetrative after just topical application of a sunscreen product containing it. Therefore, it can absorb into the bloodstream, and cause effects like skin irritation, cell damage, and hormone disruption. Another problem is that oxybenzone is persistent, which means it builds up in the environment and doesn't readily break down from natural processes. It is also bioaccumula-

tive (it builds up in the human body).

**Sunscreen can be dangerous to aquatic life**

Interestingly, oxybenzone is actually most dangerous to aquatic life. It is toxic to coral reefs and has been known to possibly be involved in coral reef bleaching. Oxybenzone is also very poisonous to water organisms at certain concentrations. It can cause reproductive issues in fish and even accumulate in the tissue of dolphins. It poses both immediate and long-term harm to aquatic ecosystems (because it is persistent and has these harmful effects on aquatic organisms). For humans, it can cause endocrine disruption and be toxic to organ systems.



So, how might we mitigate the dangers of chemicals like oxybenzone, seeing as it's found in many products and would be difficult to take out of circulation quickly? Well, there are several ways we can go about this. We can avoid the release of oxybenzone into the environment by monitoring which products they're used in and controlling how it is disposed. The use of oxybenzone should also be restricted in often used products like cosmetics and sunscreens.

If we shouldn't use products with oxybenzone in it, what kind of alternatives could we go for? Well, mineral-based sunscreens are an option, because they are less likely to cause skin irritation and absorption into the bloodstream, while still protecting against UV rays. We could also alter manufacturing techniques and product formulation to avoid the use of oxybenzone entirely in sunscreens and other products.

I hope you enjoyed learning about this topic, and may look more closely at the labels of the products you choose to support and use! I believe it's especially important to learn about what we put into the environment and what ingredients we use on ourselves.

Thanks for reading! Feel free to reach out to me at [anoohya@berkeley.edu](mailto:anoohya@berkeley.edu) with any questions or comments!

**We could also alter manufacturing techniques and product formulation to avoid the use of oxybenzone entirely in sunscreens and other products.**



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Evergreen **Times**



Times **Feature**

## Local students receive Santa Clara County Farm Bureau's Linda L. Lester Scholarship Fund

Santa Clara County Farm Bureau announced it has selected four local students for college scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students majoring in agriculture.

This year the fund awarded \$32,000 in scholarships, thanks to a \$30,000 donation from Linda Lester and \$2,000 from American AgCredit.

The 2021 Linda Lester Scholarship Fund recipients are:

• **Ashley Jordan:** Ashley Jordan is currently enrolled at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Ashley is pursuing a career in agricultural communications, specifically bridging the gap between producer and consumer. She has worked while attending college, but has also taken extra credit and summer courses in hopes of graduating in three years. Ashley will be receiving \$10,000 from Farm Bureau's Linda L. Lester Scholarship Fund, distributed over her final two years of school.



• **Ilona Mauro:** Ilona Mauro is transferring to Butte College in the Fall and will transfer to Chico State University in the Spring. She is preparing for a career in Agriculture Education. Ilona is a very well-rounded student, being involved in everything from 4-H to theater and dance programs. Ilona will be receiving \$10,000 from Farm Bureau's Linda L. Lester Scholarship Fund, distributed over her final two years of school.



• **Evan Huang:** Evan Huang is entering his fourth year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and holds a GPA of 3.572. His major is Food Science, and he plans to pursue a career that contributes to providing safe and renewable food. Evan currently works on a Sensory Research Team at Cal Poly, where he "...help(s) write, prepare, and administer comprehensive sensory tests on food products, and analyze the data..." Evan will be receiving \$6,000 from Farm Bureau's Linda L. Lester Scholarship Fund for his Senior year.



• **Wyatt Wolfe:** Wyatt Wolfe is entering his fourth year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is preparing for a career in Production Agriculture. Wyatt is involved in the Agricultural Engineering Society and Young Cattlemen's Association at Cal Poly. Wyatt will be receiving \$6,000 from Farm Bureau's Linda L. Lester Scholarship Fund, \$2,000 of which is from American AgCredit, for his Senior year.



For more information about the Farm Bureau's Linda Lester Scholarship Fund, please contact Jess Brown, Executive Director, at (831) 818-1193 or see the website at [www.sccfarmbureau.org](http://www.sccfarmbureau.org).

## IN MEMORY

### Roland Keith Attebery January 6, 1929 - May 1, 2021

*Resident of the Villages Golf and Country Club*

It is with great sadness that Sissie announces the passing of Roland in the hospital on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at age 92.

Roland had a long and happy life. He was born in North Platte, Nebraska, and attended many schools as a child, graduating from Corona High School. He met his first wife, Barbara, and they had three wonderful children, Gary, Bobby and Sherri, and lots of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who survive him.

He married his second wife, Charlotte, and had another child Michele, mother to Carter, who also survive him.

Roland received his Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education at San Diego State University, where he ran track and was very proud of his record. He continued at Pepperdine University where he obtained his Masters in Education.

He then moved to San Jose in 1969 where he was the San Jose Unified Adult School District principal and also worked for the State Education Department. Upon his retirement from education in 1985,



Roland entered the real estate business.

Among his hobbies were wine-tasting, playing tennis, going for walks, and most of all, he loved dancing. That's where he met this third wife, Sissie. They moved to The Villages golf and Country Club in 1996 and married in 1997. They had a great country wedding at The Villages, and they organized the western dances there for 17 years.

He will be missed and loved by Sissie and many friends and family.

A celebration of life will be held at the Villages later in 2021.

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Times **Feature**



**Ivey**

*Continued from page 4*  
 that school children practice flying rings as part of their physical education classes. The Swiss have embraced Acro, hosting a World Cup event in previous years, and in Geneva a Mixed Pair, one of 20 vying for the podium, will mark the country's first participation at an Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships.

"I am extremely grateful for my gen-

erous teachers at California Connections Academy Monterey Bay, who have been incredibly understanding and helpful as I continue my education while pursuing my dreams in Acrobatic gymnastics."

Pictured, left and right: **Jaylen Ivey** with his partner **Amaya Rogers** are shown competing at the 2021 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Team Trials in Pendleton, Indiana, held April 22-26.

*Photo by Alison Wang*



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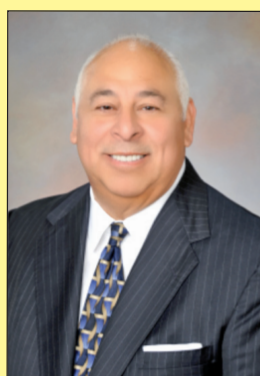
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Times **Community News**

# Is your yard drought ready? Valley Water rebates can help make the change!

By **Barbara Keegan**  
Valley Water Director,  
District 2



As you likely noticed, the past winter was very dry, leaving most of Santa Clara County in a drought.

Conserving water today allows us to be in the best condition possible if we move into an extended period of drought. We can all do our part by reducing the amount of water we use.

Given that at least half of the water in a typical Santa Clara County home is used outdoors, making sure your yard is drought-ready is a great way to help the environment and save money on your water bill. If you enjoy having a garden, I invite you to consider including beautiful drought-resistant California native plants in your landscape and using water-wise irrigation systems.

Our Landscape Rebate Program can help you transform your thirsty yard into a beautiful drought-ready landscape and make your irrigation equipment more efficient. So far, nearly 10,000 residents and businesses have already participated in the rebate program.

We offer \$100 for every 100 square feet of lawn you convert, for a maximum of \$3,000 for homes and \$60,000 for businesses and institutions. Visit [www.watersavings.org](http://www.watersavings.org) to get started and apply for your rebate.

As we ask you to get ready for the potential of an extended drought, we are also getting



ready. Valley Water is preparing for climate change and the threat of more frequent and severe droughts by investing in technology and infrastructure now.

We are in the process of rebuilding the dam that holds back our largest reservoir, Anderson, so that it can safely withstand an earthquake. We are exploring expanding our water reuse efforts through recycled and purified water technology that can provide millions of gallons of water per day of high-quality, drought-resilient water for drinking and non-drinking purposes.

Every drop saved today is water that's available for the future. So, please consider reducing your water usage by replacing a water-thirsty lawn with a beautiful landscape. Your yard will look gorgeous, and you will know that you are saving water and money and helping us all be ready for this and future droughts.



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## 27 acres

*Continued from page 1*

the community to help with developing the outcomes which will allow for innovative solutions related to the use of the designated vacant land which SJECCD considers "surplus" land.

Many stated that a lot has changed over the past several years regarding the 27 acres and the Saturday morning Zoom meeting objective was to start a reset of SJECCD's discussions of how the 27 acres could be utilized in the future with stakeholder buy-in.

Robert Reese, Chairman of the Land Use Subcommittee – District 8 Community Roundtable who spoke during the meeting said, "The issues involving the 27 acres which the community was interested in discussing in support of educational uses of the site were broader than the issues that SJECCD wanted to hear about. We really have a great opportunity for collaboration between SJECCD and all of the residents of the College District and especially the Eastside of San Jose which cannot be squandered."

Reese said that in 2019 SJECCD actually solicited the community's input on working together including planning community workshops and then COVID 19 hit and nothing actually happened.

"Just two weeks ago we were told the date of a community meeting for which there was no collaboration and minimal outreach on the part of SJECCD, Reese said. "It is like they forgot they asked us to work together. Given the history of this issue it is important to be vigilant and clear to SJECCD on the necessity of full discussions and collaboration. The Evergreen Valley College Educational Master Plan needs to be broadened with a EVC Facilities Plan to include the 27 acres and the 130 acres as a whole for the benefit of SJECCD's educational mission, and the sooner the better."

**Rethinking what the 27-acre parcel of land can do for the community**

It was stated that this was a time for rethinking of the use for the land and that a focus should be on the students at Evergreen Valley College. What are those vision pieces that we're looking for? What are those elements that are really going to help move us forward and advance San Jose Evergreen Community College District. A SJECCD leader stated that we are not here to change the mission of the district or the college. Those are already our driving principles of the framework we're working under. It was also stated that at the meeting there would be no debates on the merits of community participants engagement, what their comments are, or their particular viewpoints, instead the college board of directors and leadership were at the meeting to listen. SJECCD leaders encourage all to participate and share viewpoints rather than having questions or debates with other members in the community.

**Here are a few of the comments from those participating in the Zoom call in no particular order and edited for space considerations.**

**John Goldstein, Pastor of Grace Church:** "I've been a pastor for the last 13 years, and have longed to see development of that property for the use of education. One of my major concerns is I do believe the terminology is incorrect! We should not be calling it surplus land or excess land. This really is educational land. Trustees don't own property, they are trustees, and they bought it with the inten-

tion of developing a college there and we would love to see this land used for educational purposes. We have tremendous needs in East San Jose, we have many students, people that go to community colleges all around the city, but don't go to our own local community college."

**Daniel Reyes:** "I was one of the Evergreen Valley Community members that was present when the hiring of the consultant firm made the presentation regarding the 27 acres. I was appalled that they did not allow one single acre to be used for future educational purposes. I propose we use part of the 27 acres for a science museum, which can become a magnet for students from elementary to high school. If you cannot imagine supporting such a project, I emphatically must say that the wheels of Evergreen College will continue to spin with no traction to go forward. In conclusion, Evergreen College you have no less of an ambitious project than those in the west side so that our students can also have the capacity to be employed in the high-end technology workforce."

**Bonnie Mace:** "I want to talk about place-making. Because it's something that I think is visionary. And you know, the Evergreen Valley College 27 acres fronts on the side going into the college. And I feel like it's very important that whatever gets put there is a place that people come to as a way of place making. It's very important for the city of San Jose, we're really trying to look at things that encourage people to come to it. So I agree with what everyone else has said in terms of let it be educational, let it serve the students, the staff, and also let it serve the community. So I feel like this is really a time that we can think about being visionary, whether it's a science museum, whether it's an aquatic center, whether it's something special that we have here that is nowhere else, like I know we have automotive technology, things that really attract students to this area. So that's my main point, let the principal be placemaking. And something really important that draws people to Evergreen."

**Rex Randles:** "I support educational facilities there. I'm not going to give numbers, but we are talking about quite a few students having to attend other colleges because they cannot get the education that they need from our local college here. We need to ask them why and what they need and why they haven't been able to attend a college in their own local community and not have to travel across town."

**Wes:** "I really appreciate the district for opening up this meeting. I recall way back in 2016, the climate was very different. I'm hopeful that the administration and the City Council and the Board of Trustees will be much more open to the community and their inputs and really take it to heart what we have to say."

**Mike:** "I thought it would be good to have some dormitory or some small apartment complex built on the campus for faculty. Many of the faculty and staff live outside the area because of affordability. We have now started an advanced manufacturing program at our college. We realize that we really aren't supporting our manufacturing industry very well or industry in general. So there's lots of room for growth if we support our industries and train students. A lot of people brought up that there are lots of things we could do as a college to advance and enhance our educational programs. We used to have a daycare center and that's gone away. It seems like there are some things we could do for our stu-



Times **Community News**

Pictured is a Google aerial view of the 27-acre vacant land close to Evergreen Valley College.

dents, and to help support them in their education, such as childcare facilities. My Tesla program [Evergreen College], I had students from out of state, and I found out that four of my students were living in their cars for 12 weeks because they couldn't afford an apartment. So that's a clear indication that we need to do something to help support our students in some kind of living environment on our campus."

**Raquel Ornelas:** "The majority of our students see Evergreen (Valley College) as an extension of a local high school," Evergreen resident Raquel Ornelas said. "They would rather get on a bus and go to De Anza College then get on the bus or ride their skateboard down the road to Evergreen."

**Jim Zito:** "The EVC property was always intended for educational purposes. The initial plan to turn the 27-acres into a commercial center to raise some income for the college district was ill planned. It would have left the district with a very small return on investment, and responsible for a significant portion of the fees and costs to convert the property. Additionally, students have complained that they have not been able to study their desired programs at Evergreen Valley College and have commuted across the valley to realize their academic dreams. These problems need to be addressed with expanded programs and more timely classes. These additional programs and classes will likely need additional learning spaces and adequately outfitted facilities. As an educator and school board trustee, this pandemic has educated me and my colleagues as to some real learning disparities within our community. Many 'remote' students did not have the technology or location to learn effectively. Many students were sharing inadequate equipment, internet bandwidth and a learning space with their siblings and family members. Creating adequately outfitted technology spaces and providing technically trained proctors and teachers could significantly aid 'internet' students and workers with the technology and support necessary to 'attend' classes and work meetings; a vital real world service to our community. There are many 21st century opportunities these 27 acres can provide to our east-side student and worker communities if the new facilities are intelligently planned with input from ALL stakeholders, including students, technology experts and educators."

**Katherine:** "It seems like students, faculty and staff always need housing and housing as a huge need in San Jose in general. So that would be a good purpose for the land. But also training and trades is good because we don't have

enough people in the building trades or it's a labor shortage."

**Nick:** "You know, housing, housing, housing, there's always going to be the biggest question you're probably going to hear. We may not be able to address it. We may not be able to do it on the college plan, but it's something that we need to address when if you look at it."

**Elaine:** "Many students are transferring to De Anza College because there are not enough course offerings at Evergreen Valley College. More college classrooms should be built so that Evergreen Valley College can offer proper classes for students."

**Margaret:** "There should be more courses offered at Evergreen Valley College because many classes are currently fulfilled by transfer requests to De Anza College. Evergreen Valley College recently closed a child care center but De Anza offers child care so many students go to De Anza due to a lack of child care facilities at Evergreen Valley College."

**Janet:** "I'd like to see a world class soccer field and tech center."

**Demi Yang:** "My studies at De Anza College are made easier because the campus has a daycare center – which Evergreen Valley College no longer has. I was hoping the land can be used for educational progress to support student outcomes in whatever degree they choose. I hope there's also some land preserved as nature wetland so our community can get into nature more."

**Chancellor's reaction to the meeting:** "I was very pleased to see so many community members participate and share their ideas," Clift Breland said. "There was some great feedback and I'm excited to share it with our full Board of Trustees as we consider next steps."

#### Background events for 27-acres

In 2004, the vacant land was first designated surplus by SJECCD in 2004.

The district successfully lobbied San Jose to allow for commercial development on the land in 2016, along with 103,000 square feet for a proposed senior care facility and medical offices.

The developer, Republic Urban, dropped plans for housing on the site after significant opposition from community outreach meetings.

In July 2019, negotiations between the college and developer soured and the district pulled out resulting in a lawsuit filed by Republic in Oct. 2019. The case is currently in pre-trial settlement talks by both parties.

*Editor's Note: If you would like to send ideas to the Board Members of the San Jose Evergreen Community College District, just type into your search engine; SJECCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS.*

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At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



**EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)**

<http://www.eicsanjose.org>  
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose, CA 95148.  
(408) 239-6668

"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".

Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?

A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine holy book that guides Muslims to practice Islam.

Please visit our website to learn more.  
Jazāk Allāhu Khayran!

**FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN**

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) [firstchurchdowntown.com](http://firstchurchdowntown.com)

Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together.

Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



**GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN**

[www.GraceChurchSJ.net](http://www.GraceChurchSJ.net)  
See you on Facebook  
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor  
Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am

Together let us build lives toward excellence!

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

**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

**thepoint.church**

**THE POINT CHURCH**  
3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148  
(408) 270-7646  
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM  
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM  
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM  
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM  
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

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



God is One  
ਰਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

**SAN JOSE GURDWARA**

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

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

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135  
408-223-1562.

[www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) or [www.stfrancisofassisi.org](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.org)

We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose.

Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass  
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall  
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM  
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road  
Sunday 9:30 AM  
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM  
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!



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**Notice**

**Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students**

The Agape Schools admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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**Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;**  
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**ESD Committee**



**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](mailto:kwevers@eesd.org).

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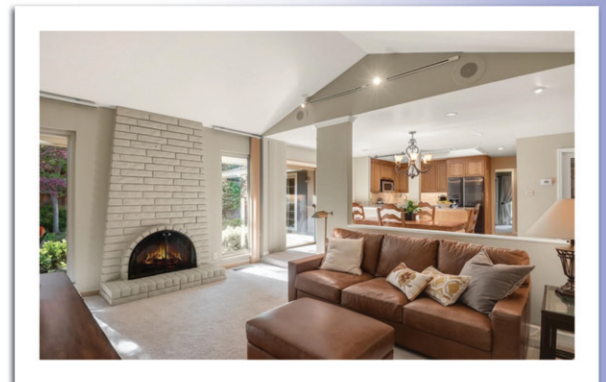
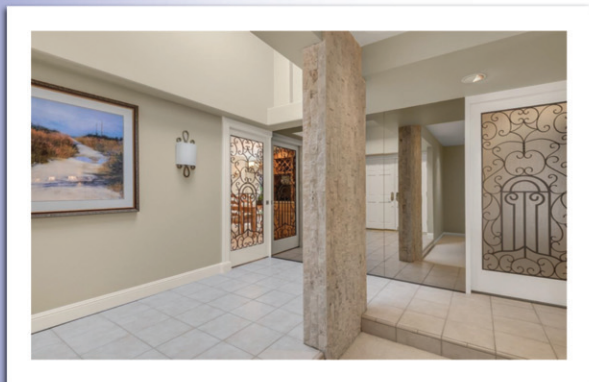
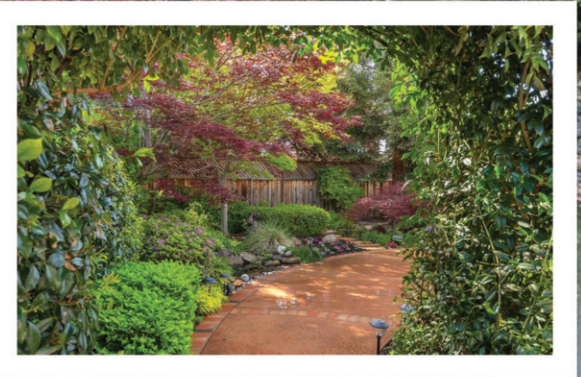


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