

Shadow Brook neighborhood hosts District 10's first Neighbor Day
SEE PAGE 4



Laura's Law:
Key tool in approach regarding homelessness, mental health issues in our community — SEE PAGE 11

South Bay parents hesitant about COVID-19 vaccine for kids
SEE PAGE 9



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Top Row (L to R): Anna Ashe, Alyssa Blodgett, Chloe Case, Natalie Clark, Mahlia Gonzales, Grace Harrison, Gabriella Lau. Middle Row (L to R): Ava Leonard, Charlotte Martinson, Kaylee Ness, Marisa Panella, Madison Phan. Bottom Row (L to R): Paige Rosckes, Kayla Schnittker, Sammy Schweizer, Shelby Scott, Ally Suzuki, Mariana Villalovoz, Madeleine Wing.

Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of the National Charity League holds annual Senior Recognition event

Senior class 2021 serves 2,469 hours of community service

By Stephanie Schweizer
Special to the Times

The French Proverb 'Wherever life plants you bloom with grace' was the theme for the Class of 2021's Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter National Charity League (NCL) Senior Recognition,

which was held recently at Hakone Estate and Gardens.

NCL is a nonprofit organization comprised of mothers and daughters who are committed to its three pillars: community service, leadership development and cultural experiences.

This socially distanced celebration, held in accordance with COVID-

19 guidelines, was the first time the Class of 2021 has been together since prior to the start of the pandemic and marked the culmination of the senior class serving 2,469 hours of community service over the course of the past six years.

Seven different high schools are represented by the Class of 2021, See SENIORS, page 5



Tre Harrup, freshman, was named Goalie of the Year.

Leland High School captures Blossom Valley Athletic League (BVAL) Mount Hamilton Division Boy's Water Polo title

By Jeanette Gibson
Special to the Times

The Leland High School Chargers Water Polo Team has finished the season with a perfect 5-0 record, and an overall 7-2 record with a shortened nine-game schedule.

The Chargers entered the season with a relatively young squad, having graduated nine seniors from last year's BVAL champion and CCS Division 1 semifinalist team.

Leland led the season with the help of top scorers, including Junior driver Ayden Ross, who scored 37 goals, sophomore driver Jack Gibson who led the team in assists (18) and steals (19), and freshman goalie Tre Harrup who tallied 48 saves.

"In a year where we weren't sure sports would happen, it was great to be able to get in the water and compete with other schools," said Leland Boys Coach Evin Wieser. "I'm proud of the hard work these boys put in to get 'game ready'. Water polo is a tough sport and they really showed up and worked hard as a team."

Several Chargers were awarded end-of season honors. Ross was

named BVAL Junior of the Year. Harrup was named Freshman and Goalie of the Year. Sophomore Jack Gibson, Senior Trey Philips and Sophomore Michael Sher were awarded First Team All-League Honors. Senior Colin Wein and Sophomore Ved Iyer were named Second Team All-League Honors.

"We were a young team, but we worked hard to gel together and See WATER POLO, page 7



Ayden Ross - First Team All League and MVP recipient.

Almaden Community Center Clean-up Day June 5

The Almaden Community Center's grounds need some sprucing up, so volunteers are needed for Clean-Up Day on Saturday, June 5 at 8:45 a.m.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle, snacks; and wear closed toe shoes. Tools and instructions will be provided. All Covid-19 protocols will be followed, so wear your face coverings.

The Volunteer Service Agreement is required and you must bring the form with you. Request the form by email: Parkvolunteer@sanjoseca.gov with the date and location of your registered event.



All persons under 17 must have a parent or guardian signature.

To register as a volunteer for Clean-up Day, use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/pfedjk8w>

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Valley Currents

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



Councilmember **Matt Mahan** held a hybrid live online *Chat with Matt* in the Shadow Brook neighborhood of Almaden Valley.

Shadow Brook neighborhood hosts District 10's first Neighbor Day

By **Lorraine Gabbert**
Senior Staff Writer

Cars lined up waiting to access a row of dumpsters as Councilmember Matt Mahan led a live/online hybrid edition of his *Chat with Matt* series, standing beneath towering redwood trees

This was all part of District 10's *Neighbor Day* kickoff on May 22 in the Shadow Brook neighborhood of Almaden Valley. The day began with a coffee social followed by Mahan's presentation.

The Shadow Brook community

appreciated Mahan's efforts.

Meera Desai, Homeowner's Association board vice president social, said it was great to be able to connect with the councilmember.

"We're really appreciative of him taking the time to spend a Saturday with us," Desai said, "and having the opportunity to have the dumpsters here is fantastic. It's a great service that he's brought for us."

Mahan said he wants to make neighborhoods feel more connected.

"We know when people know one another, it makes the neighborhood safer and healthier and a better place to live," Mahan said. "Part of the idea was to bring out coffee and donuts and give people an excuse to meet their neighbors."

As Dumpster Days are popular events, Mahan said his staff recommended going neighborhood-by-neighborhood to update residents on local issues and put the dumpsters out. They are planning to visit Vista Park next, adding a neighborhood beautification project.

"We're trying to bring people together, get them engaged in their neighborhood, understand what's going on at City Hall, know how



Cars lined up to access dumpsters on *Neighbor Day*, held in the Shadow Brook community.

they can participate and provide a service," Mahan said.

Everything from old furniture, mattresses, counter tops, and carpeting to hardware, toilets, glass and building supplies can go in the dumpsters; even lawn mowers, plastic toys and packing Styrofoam.

Andy Chiu said he appreciated the city creating this event and would like to see it happen regularly.

"It's good to clean up the house and have a place to put all the stuff you don't need anymore," Chiu said. "Sometimes you see stuff on the highway, like sofas. If dumpsters were more available, you'd see less of it."

Stanley Xu said it's a great convenience and hopes some of the things can be reused.

The Shadow Brook community also relished the chance to get together with neighbors outdoors.

"We're a really tightknit community," Desai said. "This is one way we can get together safely and continue to beautify our neighborhood."

Tracy Rodriguez, Homeowner's Association board secretary, said beautifying a community is a social responsibility.

"Our group works hard to maintain our neighborhood and keep it looking nice so everyone can enjoy it," Rodriguez said.

In addition to its Homeowner's Association, Shadow Brook's pool is the glue holding the community together. With its swim team and social events, families typically meet year-round, especially in the summer. Residents said they hope this summer they can do so again after sheltering in place for more than a year.

"It's been tough with COVID not being physically together," said Rodriguez, "but the social chair has worked hard to bring us together during this time with monthly food trucks and Light up Shadow Brook."

Light up Shadow Brook started this year, celebrating a range of cultures starting with Diwali's festival of lights. The Board created a friendly competition and chose three



Shadow Brook residents said they appreciated the City Hall update as well as the chance to beautify their neighborhood.

homes as light decoration winners, as well as the top street.

Rodriguez said the board works to make the community feel inclusive.

"I don't see how you could not feel that you're part of something," she said. "We all look after each other in the neighborhood. There's comradery and friendship."

Steve Ferree, Homeowner's Association boardmember in charge of communications, said there's a reason Shadow Brook was chosen to pilot Neighbor Day.

"We're quite involved with District 10," Ferree said. "Members of Shadow Brook are involved in the Almaden Valley Community Association and District 10 Coalition."

Ferree said it was great having Mahan there talking with residents.

"It turned out very good overall with the dumpsters and *Chat with Matt*," he said. "We work hard within Shadow Brook to bring everyone together."

San Jose City Council Updates

Fireworks Ordinance Workplan – The San Jose City Council received an update on the City's fireworks workplan. The City recently increased fines for illegal fireworks and is studying how to add reporting to the San José 311 app. The council also voted unanimously for a Social Host Ordinance which makes it a violation for an individual to host a gathering at which fireworks are used.

Sanctioned Encampments – Due to the costs and legal liability involved with sanctioned encampments, The San Jose City Council voted to reaffirm the "setbacks and services" strategy Councilmember Matt Mahan proposed earlier this year. This approach protects sensitive areas where encampments will not be allowed, including schools, and improves services, such as toilets and trash removal, for people who aren't camped in those areas.

Illegal Dumping – The San Jose City Council voted to increase fines for illegal dumping to \$10,000. Previously, fines were set at \$2,500 for the first offense, \$5,000 for the second, and \$10,000 for the third. To avoid fines and help keep San José and your home clean, residents are encouraged to use the City's free junk pickup service by using the San José 311 app.

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Times **Community News**

Seniors

Continued from page 1

including Branham, Leigh, Leland, Lincoln, Mitty, Notre Dame and Pioneer.

The 19 seniors recognized at the event include: Anna Ashe, Alyssa Blodgett, Chloe Case, Natalie Clark, Mahlia Gonzales, Grace Harrison, Gabriella Lau, Ava Leonard, Charlotte Martinson, Kaylee Ness, Marisa Pannela, Madison Phan, Paige Rosckes, Kayla Schnitker, Sammy Schweizer, Shelby Scott, Ally Suzuki, Mariana Villalovoz and Madeleine Wing.

The evening kicked off with a welcome from NCL President Chantal Adam who during the event referred to the “resilience of the Class of 2021” despite the challenges they have faced throughout the year. Mothers and daughters were formally introduced, the girls walking over a bridge to meet their moms with a rose in hand. The central part of the evening focused on individual reflections where the girls spoke about volunteer, cultural and social experiences related to NCL and emphasized how NCL helped shape them into who they are now.

Senior Ava Leonard reflected on her six years of volunteering, stating that through NCL she “was able to help unite others and make a difference in their lives while spending time with my mom.” These girls made a difference in countless ways, such as by helping children and families in need, spending time with the elderly and packing care packages sent overseas to members of the military. All of the girls expressed deep appreciation for their mothers and families who supported and encouraged them.

Co-Presidents of the Class of 2021, Madeleine Wing and Mahlia Gonzales, thanked all of the moms for empowering the girls “with the skills and confidence to lead, to model graciousness and responsibility,



while serving others with humility.” They further stated that “NCL has provided us with a strong foundation to continue our leadership and service in college and beyond.”

The Senior Recognition was co-chaired by Erin Blodgett and Holly Case, who skillfully included all of the mothers in the event planning while they carefully managed every detail, all while ensuring the event would be safe despite the ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions. The phrase ‘it takes a village’ well represents the combined efforts of the Class of 2021 moms who each diligently performed their assigned jobs, all with one goal in mind: to ensure the Class of 2021’s senior recognition event would reflect the spirit of the graduating seniors.

The girls were treated to a video of photo stills, including baby and senior photos and photos of the girls volunteering throughout their NCL journey, and viewed each other’s memory boards which showcased the personality of each girl. The event ended with the girls joining their fathers for a sentimental father daughter dance to Frank Sinatra’s song ‘The Way You Look Tonight.’

The Class of 2021 has bloomed with grace and these accomplished girls will go on to represent the local community in a variety of colleges and will continue to serve wherever life plants them. Each of these girls leaves an immense legacy for the younger girls of the Almaden Blossom Valley NCL chapter to aspire to.

Poll: Majority of California’s Asian Americans fear physical violence

California Community Poll shows shift in attitude toward anti-Asian racism

Californians are acknowledging that Asian Americans experience discrimination, and an overwhelming majority of Asian Americans report that they fear becoming victims of hate-based violence, according to a new survey.

The California Community Poll, which surveys Californians about politics, race and current events, found that 70 percent of Californians agree that Asians are “frequently or sometimes” discriminated against.

The conclusion of the poll marks a “substantial shift” in perceptions and experiences of discrimination among the group, up from 55 percent last year.

There has also been a dramatic shift among Asian American respondents, with about 79 percent saying their community experiences discrimination, as compared to just 63 percent last year.

“This increase in awareness — as horrible as the reason for the awareness is — it gives us the chance to talk about what solutions to this could be,” said Nancy Yap, executive director of the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment, one of the poll’s sponsoring organizations. “We’re all afraid of this, we’re all in this together, so how do we start to change what race relations look

like in California?”

The organization Stop AAPI Hate has received 6,603 reports of anti-Asian incidents across the U.S. since then, more than 2,000 of which took place so far in 2021, according to a new report released Thursday. About 65 percent of the incidents involve verbal harassment, and 13 percent involve physical assault. Forty percent of the incidents were reported in California.

Recent incidents in the Bay Area, have shocked local Asian-American communities, resulting in San Jose and Oakland, community leaders forming patrols to protect Asian-American residents.

Max Pendl of Almaden Valley named to SNHU Dean's List

Max Pendl of Almaden Valley has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s Winter 2021 Dean’s List.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean’s List.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 150,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus.

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

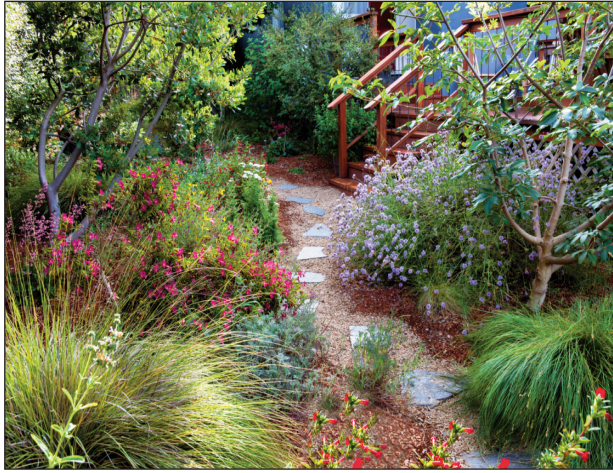
By Barbara Keegan

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



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 program.

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We offer \$100 for every 100 square feet of lawn you con-

vert, for a maximum of \$3,000 for homes and \$60,000 for businesses and institutions. Visit 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, to 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.

Op-ed

Do you really appreciate what you have?

By Bryan Golden

Life is filled with challenges. There are many external circumstances outside of your control. The weather, actions of others, the economy, and politics are just a few examples. However, your response to these circumstances is completely within your control. You chose your thoughts, emotions, and actions.

Two people can exhibit completely different reactions to the same situation. One person will successfully deal with the circumstances, while the other becomes enmeshed in negative emotions. Unfortunately, it is more common for people to focus on the negative instead of the positive.

How you view your life influences your mindset. A positive view creates a positive attitude, while a negative view leads to a negative attitude. People with a positive attitude are much better at coping with stress and challenges.

Although there are many factors contributing to how you react to situations beyond your control, one of the most significant components is whether or not you appreciate what you currently have in your life.

Those who truly appreciate all of their blessings feel as if they have more than enough. Conversely, people who constantly focus on what they believe is lacking continually feel they never have enough.

Taking all you have for granted is too easy because you get lost in negativity. Not appreciating what you have until it's gone is too common. Air, water, and food are ignored when plentiful. Yet, you surely appreciate any of them which are in short supply.

Think about how the quality of your life would suffer with the loss of any component you may be taking for granted. This approach also helps you keep things in perspective. Throughout the world, there are too many people struggling to acquire all of the things you may be taking for granted.

No positive aspect of your life is too small to appreciate. Each and every day must be cherished. Begin each day by reviewing a list of everything you are thankful for. Start by appreciating that you woke up. Appreciate what you see and hear. Appreciate the food you eat. Appreciate where you live. Appreciate family and friends. Look in awe at the seemingly endless miracles in nature.

Life is not a contest. Don't compare yourself to others. Someone who seems to have more does not diminish what you have. Also, there are numerous examples of people living very spartan lifestyles who are happy and content.

Appreciate your ability to control your thoughts, emotions, and actions. You are not a victim. You decide how to respond to circumstances. You can find solutions for problems, or you can find problems in every situation.

Decide beforehand to have a positive response to whatever

Continued, next page



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Times **Community News****Water polo**

Continued from page 1

pull out some competitive wins against Willow Glen and Pioneer," said Ayden Ross, junior and team captain. "We are excited to compete this Summer for club season, and come back strong in the Fall."

For any interested player, at any level, from any school in the area, the San Jose Almaden (SJA) Water Polo Club is operating with training and tournament play. All practices and games are operated under full CDC and Santa Clara County guidelines.

Due to the pandemic caused shortened season, there were no CCS playoffs or a single game winner. Instead, the league winner was based on the overall record for the season. Leland High School had the best record with 5-0 league games with an overall 7-2 record.

Here are the dates and scores of the 5 league games:

Win over Lincoln HS 17-6 (March 17)

Win over Sobrato HS 19-13 (March 31)

Win over Willow Glen HS 12-10 (April 2)

Win over Pioneer HS 13-10 (April 7)

Win over Santa Teresa 17-8 (April 14).

Op Ed, continued

circumstances you encounter. A response is preplanned and thought out. A reaction, on the other hand, is spontaneous and emotional.

A positive response should always be appreciated because it enables you to find the best course of action, while keeping you calm. A positive mindset leads to greater happiness and reduced stress. Your positive attitude generates positive emotions.

Appreciate humor and its wonderfully beneficial effects. Humor boosts your immune system, relieves pain, produces endorphins, reduces stress, and stimulates many internal organs. Humor clears your mind and helps you feel better.

Look for the humor which exists in most situations. There is usually some funny perspective in the circumstances you encounter. Humor is a great coping mechanism, not insensitivity. The more you laugh, the more you'll appreciate the good in your life.

Develop and cultivate an attitude of gratitude for appreciating all of the good in your life. There is no positive aspect of your life too small to appreciate. You'll be happier and healthier while increasing your enjoyment of life.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columunist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com
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The Chargers entered the season with a relatively young squad, having graduated nine seniors from last year's BVAL champion and CCS Division 1 semifinalist team.



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Times Local News

VTA Board of Directors selects Carolyn Gonot as new CEO

By William Bellou
Publisher

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority has a new leader at its helm, Carolyn Gonot.

The transit agency's board's unanimous selection of VTA veteran Gonot to become its new CEO and general manager last Friday comes after several months of deliberation. She previously worked for the transit company for more than 20 years.

Gonot said she's aware of the many challenges VTA faces and wants to make sure VTA's ridership comes back. She served as interim chief officer, helping the organization make improvements

following the passage of the county's 2016 Measure B half-cent sales tax which provides a 30-year revenue source of more than \$6 billion.

"COVID knocked many of the transit agencies down, but it did not knock us out," she said. "I look forward to renewing our commitment and building back even better as we come out of the restrictions we've been living under for the past 14 months."

Gonot served as Utah Transit Authority's first female executive director in 2019, managing a district covering six counties with an operating budget of \$336 million and a capital budget of \$255 mil-



Carolyn Gonot is VTA's top choice for CEO and general manager: "COVID knocked many of the transit agencies down, but it did not knock us out."

lion. VTA faces a sea of change and a tough recruitment process following Fernandez's departure. Gonot is replacing VTA General Counsel Evelyn Tran, who was tapped in

January to serve as interim general manager and CEO. Also, in January, Nuria Fernandez was chosen to serve in the Biden administration as acting administrator of the Federal Transit Administration.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

County reaches least restrictive yellow tier thanks to high vaccination rates

By Mike Wasserman
County Supervisor

Santa Clara County is now in the least restrictive "Yellow Tier" under the State's guidelines!

The County's vaccination rates are among the highest in the nation, as more than 75% of County residents 16 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody's new health Order retires most remaining local rules, including requirements that businesses maximize the number of staff who are teleworking. The County is also supporting the State's decision to wait until June 15 to align with the most recent CDC masking and social distancing guidelines.

Vaccines for youths 12 to 15
COVID-19 vaccination eligibility has been expanded to youth ages 12 to 15.

Appointments can now be scheduled through the County's website below, which also includes information about numerous drop-in vaccination sites throughout the County.

This expansion of eligibility follows the CDC Director's adoption of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendation endorsing its safety. Youth between 12 to 17-years-old need to provide a signed consent form from a parent or legal guardian.

For County-operated sites, the consent form is available online. The County will continue its expansive efforts to ensure equitable access to the vaccine for those communities hardest hit by COVID-19. We also are partnering with schools and other community organizations to provide drop-in vaccination clinics in communities that have experienced disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 cases, and the County's robust outreach

efforts will continue with this expansion of eligibility.

There are thousands of appointments available throughout the County at dozens of locations. For the latest information about COVID-19 vaccinations in Santa Clara County, visit: sccFreeVax.org

Budget update

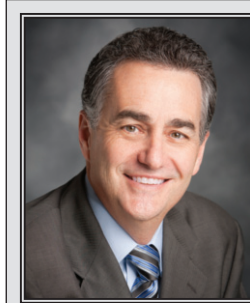
As we move forward on the path to normalcy, the Board of Supervisors will be holding budget hearings the week of June 14th.

The Recommended \$9 Billion Budget for FY 2021-22 prepares the County to operate more effectively in a post-COVID world and balances new initiatives with caution for potential pitfalls. Last year's budget included cost reductions that addressed the County's structural deficit, but risks and concerns still exist.

The pandemic's long-term impact on County operations is not clear, which is why I am advocating for a cautious and prudent approach as we move forward. Some of the variables creating uncertainty are the timing, allowable uses and dollar amounts for the American Rescue Plan disbursements, which are currently unknown. Additionally, excess ERAF funds (Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds) are still at risk with possible State legislative changes that could significantly impact the County.

The County budget reflects the vast and vital services provided daily to our 2 million residents from children's health care to meals for seniors, libraries, parks, homeless services, housing, hospitals and clinics, jails and criminal justice. Additionally, in an effort to help small businesses on their path to recovery, the current proposed budget also includes a \$19 million small business loan program.

The County's budgeting process is public and can be viewed online the week of June 14th.



County Report
Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor

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Times Feature

South Bay parents hesitant about COVID-19 vaccine for kids

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Most parents in a new survey said no to immediately getting their kids vaccinated against COVID-19.

The survey by Invisibly found 74% of parents will either wait or not vaccinate their kids against the coronavirus. Only 26% of parents said they will have their children inoculated right away, 41% will wait a few months and 33% will not have their kids vaccinated.

Invisibly conducts real-time polling to harness data. The firm surveyed 1,258 parents nationally from March 25 to 29, asking them if and when they'd get their kids vaccinated. It also asked the ages of the children and parents.

Invisibly Realtime Research surveys appear on web pages in place of ads. They are optional, ensuring voluntary participation.

Laura Vestal, vice president of marketing at Invisibly, said the vaccine is a hot topic, especially when it comes to children. "Parents are extremely cautious when it comes to their kids," Vestal said.

The survey results come as the FDA this week approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12 to 15. The approval is just in time for students to be vaccinated before starting in-person learning in the fall.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that Pfizer's vaccine is "safe and 100% effective" for this age group.

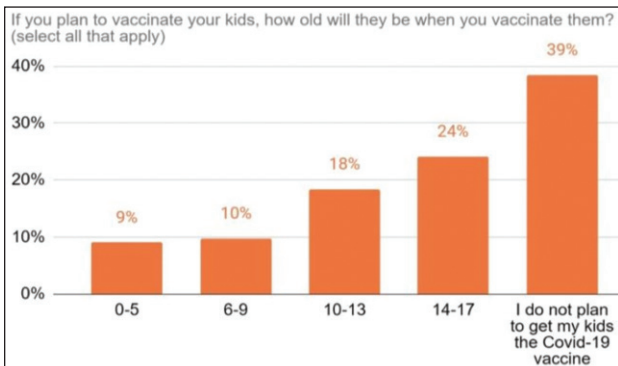
Pfizer will seek FDA vaccine approval for children ages 2-11 in September, and for ages six months to 2 years later this year, AAP states. Moderna is also doing clinical testing with children ages 6 months through 17 years.

AAP has pushed for pediatric vaccines as more than 3.85 million children nationally have tested positive for COVID as of May 6. More than 14,849 children have been hospitalized and at least 297 children have died from the virus. Children represent 14% of the country's COVID cases with 5,121.5 cases per 100,000 children, AAP states.

President Joe Biden said he is challenging states to vaccinate as many adolescents as possible by July 4. In addition to regular vaccination sites, vaccines for children will be available through pediatricians and family physicians.

But parents remain concerned about the newness of COVID vaccines as well as possible side effects, Vestal said. Although she couldn't wait to get the vaccine for herself, Vestal said she is hesitant about having her 3- and 7-year-olds receive it. "It's also what's happening in the news," she said. "With the pausing of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the first thing that came to my mind was...if my kids had it, I would've been nervous."

Invisibly's survey found the age of kids played a big role in parents' willingness to have them vaccinated, with parents being more concerned about side effects on younger children. About 9% of parents are willing to have children from newborns up to age 5 vaccinated, Vestal said, while 24% of parents are willing to have children ages 14-17 receive the shot.



Invisibly's COVID vaccination survey found the younger the child, the less inclined parents were to have them get the vaccine. Image courtesy of Invisibly.



A 'VACCINES ONLY' sign is displayed outside the room where health care workers are receiving the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, Calif. Photo by Vicente Vera.

The age of parents also played a big role. The younger the parents, the survey showed, the more willing they were to vaccinate their kids. Sixty-three percent of parents ages 18-24 were in favor of it, while 74% of parents over 55 said they didn't want to have their kids vaccinated, Vestal said.

The national survey appears to mirror the views of many South Bay residents.

See VACCINE, page 10



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CAREER COLUMN

Pandemic Purge: Employees looking to leave at record rates

By Angela Copeland
Special to the Times



When you look at it, the numbers are staggering. Workers are looking to change jobs during or after the pandemic at a very high rate. A number of surveys have been conducted on the topic, and somewhere between thirty-five and sixty-five percent of all employees plan to find a new job soon.

One of the top reasons cited is corporate culture. The pandemic has drawn out for over a year. Not all companies have handled the situation well. Some have forced employees into endless meetings,

or have been unforgiving with personal matters. The experience has been especially isolating for young employees who may be home alone, without an option to socialize with coworkers or even to go out with friends.

Many organizations have failed to recognize how tough working from home in this situation can be. Although, in fairness, those at the top are likely struggling with their own pandemic challenges. In the end, employees whose employers haven't handled COVID well have had enough. They're ready to move on.

In addition, many people have

found added balance during this crazy time. They are reprioritizing what's important to them. They are no longer interested in the corporate rat race or working themselves to the bone. These employees are not only looking to switch companies, they're looking to switch careers completely. They want to do something different, and something that better suits their personal values and priorities.

Similarly, many workers have taken advantage of the work from home situation the pandemic has provided. They've left expensive cities and have moved closer to family. Many of those workers are not interested to return to the city

or to the office anytime soon. They're now looking for permanently remote jobs.

This change will present interesting opportunities for employees. The more people who change jobs, the more jobs will be available. And, all of this change may in fact give job seekers the upper hand. They may be considered for roles they were previously thought to be less than qualified for. And, employers will be forced to be more competitive with regards to benefits such as work from home.

Today, some candidates are interviewing all the way to the offer stage. Then, if the company is unwilling to allow them to work from home permanently, the candidate is walking away. This is something we never would have

talked about two years ago, because the strategy would have had little chance of working. But, today, companies are being forced to rethink work from home in order to remain competitive.

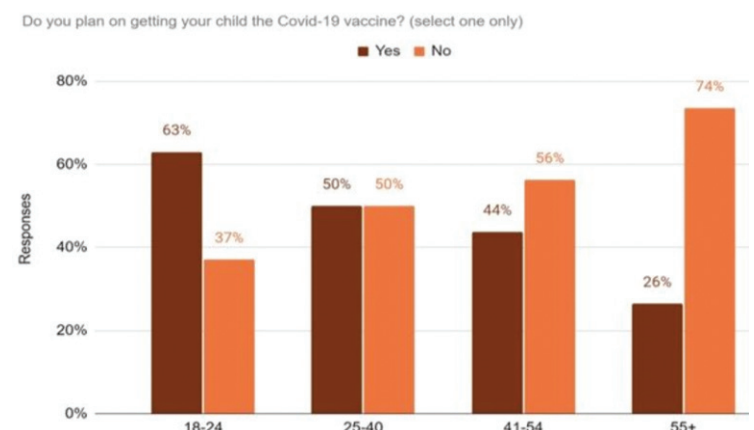
What are you doing to prepare? This is an unprecedented time. With that, there may also be unprecedented opportunities. If you've thought of looking for a new job, it's time to get your resume and LinkedIn profile in order. If you want to switch careers completely, take an inventory of your transferrable skills. Set up networking calls, and get yourself back out there.

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

Vaccine

Continued from page 9

San Jose residents said on Nextdoor that even if they were immunized themselves, they are not comfortable giving their children the COVID vaccine. Some, like Valery An Joaquim, expressed concerns with the lack of a long-term study of side effects.



Invisibly's COVID vaccination survey found parents age 55+ were less likely to have their children get the vaccine. Image courtesy of Invisibly.

Sogol Matin, 36, who has three kids under 5 years old, said COVID-19 vaccines are unnecessary for kids due to the high survival rate and low infections in children from COVID. "My kids are fully vaccinated for all mandatory vaccines," Matin said. "However, I will not vaccinate my kids with this experimental COVID-19."

Some residents are undecided. Joy Etraude said she may wait as her children are both under 6 years old. "I would not want them to have the same reaction I did when I got mine," Etraude said.

Kryis Lindseth Reed, 49, said she will wait to have her 10-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son vaccinated until she sees what side effects children in those age groups suffer. "I want to know more before deciding," she said, "but I am not against vaccines."

But others like Deneen Marie want their children vaccinated right away. "Why would you want your child to get sick with something that could have been avoided?" she said. Kids or not, vaccine hesitancy is not uncommon in Silicon Valley. Newly-released data shows one in 10 Santa Clara County residents are refusing a COVID-19 vaccine due to fear of side effects or safety concerns, misinformation and scheduling issues—a problem that county health officials are quickly trying to ameliorate.

The top three reasons why county residents are saying no to vaccines are fear of side effects or safety concerns, not having done enough research and not having enough time or availability, the survey found.

Erin Fitzgerald said she understands people's hesitancy, but contracting the virus can result in cognitive dysfunction, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle pain, headaches, dizziness and more.

"Well after the virus has cleared," she said, "some cannot walk without getting winded, and even simple tasks like brushing hair can be exhausting. I will vaccinate my child."

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Times **Feature**



Councilmember **Matt Mahan** speaks at a press conference about Laura's Law.

Laura's Law a key tool in approach regarding homelessness, mental health issues in our community

By **Matt Mahan**
Special to the Times

We've hit some major milestones as May comes to a close. While I'm writing this before Tuesday's pivotal vote, by the time you read this, the County Board of Supervisors will have voted on whether or not to implement Laura's Law. Also known as assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), Laura's Law is court-ordered mental health care for community members who most need it.

This vote has been 20 years in the making. On January 10th, 2001, Laura Wilcox, the law's namesake, was killed by a man who had not received sufficient treatment for his severe mental illness. Following her parents' advocacy, California passed Laura's Law, allowing individual counties to opt into AOT programs. So far, 20 counties have done so, including four in the Bay Area. Many community advocates, including my predecessor former Councilmember Johnny Khamis, have lobbied tirelessly for years to bring AOT to Santa Clara County.

Laura's Law aims to care for a targeted subset of people: individuals suffering from severe mental illness who have experienced repeated visits to jail cells and emergency rooms yet continue to refuse treatment. Some of these community members, many of whom are unhoused, suffer from anosognosia – the inability to perceive their own condition. They don't know they need help.

While the County offers plenty of volun-



District 10 Report
Matt Mahan
Councilmember,
District 10

tary treatment options, they offer no value to those who refuse help. This has led to the unintended consequence of making jails a primary provider of mental health care.

San Francisco implemented Laura's Law in 2014 and has seen great success. A March 2019 three-year evaluation by the San Francisco Health Network found that, among other positive indicators, 91% of patients experienced reduced psychiatric hospitalization and 88% spent less time incarcerated. Overall public dollars

spent per Laura's Law patient decreased by 83% compared with pre-treatment figures.

Laura's Law is far from being the only solution to homelessness or mental health issues in our community, but it would be a key tool in the "yes, and..." approach that we need.

We also need to ensure that Laura's Law is implemented humanely and effectively. I propose creating an independent oversight commission made up of individuals and family members with relevant lived experience, mental health experts, case managers, and others who can ensure that the AOT program is administered properly and achieving positive outcomes.

In other milestone news, Santa Clara County has entered the Yellow Tier for the first time! This progress wouldn't be possible without you doing your part by getting vaccinated. Personally, I'll be hitting the two-week post-vaccination mark over the weekend before this hits the (digital) presses, just in time for our office's first Neighbor Day in Shadow Brook.

We have a lot to look forward to, but only if we keep looking out for each other and working together to build a better normal. My team and I are honored to serve our District 10 neighbors as we build that future. As always, feel free to reach out to us at district10@sanjoseca.gov.

Laura's Law aims to care for a targeted subset of people: individuals suffering from severe mental illness who have experienced repeated visits to jail cells and emergency rooms yet continue to refuse treatment.



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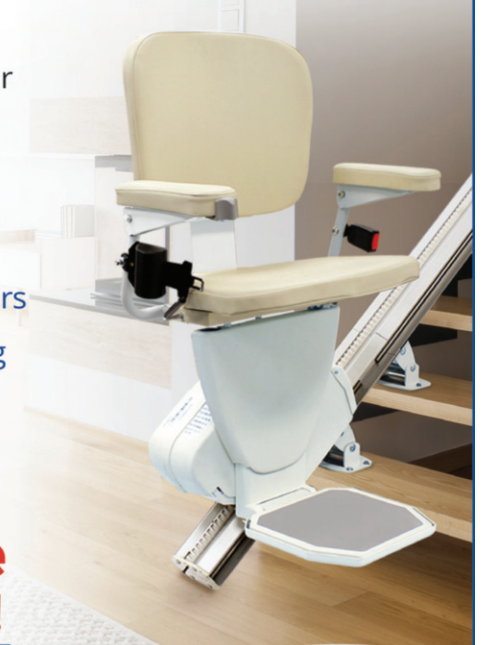
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Times News

Smith Named to Dean's List at Iowa Wesleyan University

Zoi Smith of Almaden Valley (right) has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Iowa Wesleyan University.

Criteria to be a part of IW's Dean's List include degree-seeking students taking 12 or more units per semester with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



Star member of wrestling team gains award in athletic leadership

Zoi is a 2020 graduate of Leland High School where she was a member of the marching band, track and field team, and the wrestling team. She received many honors and awards such as Rookie of the Year for Wrestling, 4th Place in the Blossom Valley Athletic League, 2nd Place in the Blossom Valley Athletic League, received the Pat Tillman Award for Athletic Leadership, and took 5th placed at the CIF Central Coast Sectional.

"My older sister, Jezzia Smith, is my biggest

inspiration in life," Smith said. "She set high expectations for me following in her shadow. In middle school, she was one of my only role models because I was always compared to her success as a student. From watching her experiences in school, I picked up the importance of doing well in school and being able to get work done."

As Southeast Iowa's regional comprehensive university, Iowa Wesleyan University is a transformational learning community whose passion is to educate, empower and inspire students to lead meaningful lives and careers.

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Times **Feature**

Morgan Hill Mayor **Rich Constantine** with his wife **Andrea** and daughter **Emma**.
Photo courtesy of Rich Constantine's Twitter page

Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine running for County Supervisor

By **Lorraine Gabbert**

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine has joined the contest for Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman's seat.

Constantine joins former councilmember Johnny Khamis, County Board of Education President Claudia Rossi and Los Gatos Vice Mayor Rob Rennie in vying for the District 1 seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Wasserman's term will end in 2022 after serving the typically Republican district for 12 years. The largest of the five districts, District 1 includes South County, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, parts of southern San Jose and unincorporated areas.

Constantine said he felt it was important that somebody from South County ran for the Board of Supervisors to ensure it was represented. "Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Martin tend to be forgotten sometimes," he said.

Constantine said another motivation for throwing his hat in the ring was his frustration with a lack of resources from the state for building affordable homes. "Morgan Hill per capita has more below market rate housing than any city in Northern California," he said. "That's pretty bad that we're leading the way per capita."

In addition to focusing on economic recovery from COVID, Constantine said the county needs to partner with its cities on issues. "There are people who get missed in the system," he said. "That's where the county comes in. We can't fix problems like the homeless issue by ourselves. It has to be something we do as a team."

Morgan Hill Councilmember Rene Spring said he's rooting for a candidate who doesn't live in San Jose. "The areas of Gilroy, San

Martin, Morgan Hill and Los Gatos are so vastly different than the needs of the city of San Jose," Spring said. "They already have four supervisors. I don't think they need that last seat as well."

Spring said he has a good relationship with Constantine on the council and likes his stance on protecting agricultural land and open space, as well as his support for the LGBTQ community. He said he respects Constantine and that he would be "a wonderful supervisor."

Former Congressman Mike Honda said Constantine protected open space in South County, combatted traffic congestion, strengthened the workforce and ensured families had access to healthcare. "District 1 residents deserve a representative like Rich who knows the unique issues and strengths of the district," Honda said, "and who can get to work on day one."

Constantine has served on the Morgan Hill City Council since 2010 and as mayor since 2018. In addition, he was a firefighter with the San Jose Fire Department and volunteered with the search and rescue unit of the United States Air Force Civil Air Patrol.

Morgan Hill Unified School District Board of Education President Wendy Sullivan said she supports Constantine for supervisor. "Our children and families need a champion on the board who understands that access to childcare, health services and critical social service programs are needed throughout the county and that champion is Rich," Sullivan said.

Constantine has served on the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission, Santa Clara Habitat Conservation Agency and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. He is the committee chair of the Governance, Transparency & Labor Relation policy committee for the League of California Cities.



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State Farm Neighborhood Assist returns for its tenth year

Forty causes will each win a \$25,000 grant to assist their neighborhoods

Neighbors across the country will soon have an exciting opportunity to help change their communities for the better through State Farm Neighborhood Assist®. The program awards \$25,000 grants to 40 nonprofit organizations to help fund neighborhood improvement projects.

According to a recent State Farm research study, one-quarter of respondents say that they are “extremely” or “very” involved in trying to improve their neighborhood and six-in-ten are trying to improve their neighborhood in some capacity.

State Farm Neighborhood Assist can be a catalyst for that change. Here’s how the program works:

Submission Phase: Starts June 2



and ends when 2,000 submissions are reached.

Individuals can submit a cause at www.neighborhoodassist.com starting June 2. You can prepare now by going to the website and downloading the submission guide. We will accept the first 2,000 submissions. The State Farm Review Committee will then narrow the field to the Top 200 finalists using a scoring rubric.

Voting Phase: August 18-27

Ultimately, voters will decide which community improvement projects win big. The public will have a chance to vote 10 times a day, every day for 10 days, from August 18-27, for their favorite

causes from the list of finalists. Voting will take place at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

Winners Announced: September 29

The 40 causes that receive the most votes will each win a \$25,000 grant. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

“State Farm is pleased to bring back Neighborhood Assist for its tenth year,” said Rasheed Merritt, Assistant Vice President at State Farm. “This program is all about building stronger neighborhoods together. Last year, 145,000 people cast 3.9 million votes in support of their favorite causes, selecting winners from small towns and big cities.”

Since the program began, more than 340 causes have received a total of \$9 million to enact change in their communities.

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

AI Assistant

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms?

Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words: AI Assistant

Google announced all kinds of goodies at last year’s Google IO, and one of the most interesting one was the AI assistant, Google Duplex.

It is an Artificial Intelligence agent that can make phone calls for you – and I don’t mean just dialing the number. It can hold actual conversations with real life people, complete with a natural-sounding

human voice instead of a robotic one.

Google Duplex isn’t designed to replace humans altogether. It’s designed to carry out very specific tasks in what Google calls “closed domains”. So, for example, you wouldn’t ask this AI assistant to call your mum, but you might ask it to book a table at a restaurant.

For the beta version, the assistant will focus on three kinds of tasks: making restaurant reservations, scheduling hair appointments, and finding out businesses’ holiday opening hours.

From the tech perspective, the AI uses recurrent neural network (RNN) built using Tensor flow Extended (TFX). RNN’s are useful in processing sequential, contextual information and that makes them well-suited for machine learning, language modelling and speech recognition.

So, what’s so different about this Assistant?

Duplex talks like a normal person, and that makes it a natural extension to the existing Google Assistant functionality. For example, supposed you want to book a table for eight in any Greek restaurant in your vicinity for Saturday. The assistant would call restaurants on your behalf, hold a conversation and check whether there is any availability for eight people for Saturday. If not, the assistant would call another Greek restaurant and hold a conversation again. It would arrange the booking and let you know the confirmation. The key here is that this is all happening in the background. You tell Google to do something, and it goes and does it, only reporting back after the task is complete.

The benefits of using this assistant are many. People with hearing disabilities can use duplex to get some chores done. Also, sometimes when you travel, you might not know the local language, but the duplex knows – so it can converse in a language you don’t speak. And it can be asynchronous, so you can make the request and then go offline while Google Duplex gets on with the job: it will report back when you’re online again. That’s useful in areas of patchy connectivity, or if you’re just really, busy.

Artificial Intelligence has come a long way, and Google duplex is just one more example of how technology can be used to save our time and make it perform some of our tasks.

About the Author

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

WAVES OF FUN

Swimming safety tips for summer

FAMILY FEATURES

Playing in or around water is one of the joys of summer, but this treasured seasonal pastime comes with some serious risks. Drowning is the second-leading cause of accidental death for children under the age of 14 in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, many families will have more informal gatherings and take trips to the beach, increasing the potential for children to have unsupervised access to water sources. Because of this, it’s important for children to take swimming lessons to learn water safety skills and create safer habits in and around water. As swimming lessons begin across the country, many are being conducted safely with COVID-19 precautions in place.

Protect your family’s safety around water this summer with these tips from the Make a Splash Tour, presented by Phillips 66 and the USA Swimming Foundation.

Designate a Water Watcher and Closely Monitor Children. Designate a water watcher when you are in, on or around water. Watch all children and adolescents swimming or playing in or around water, even if they know how to swim. Keeping young children or inexperienced swimmers within arm’s length at all times can help ensure you’re able to provide assistance if and when it’s needed.

Wear a Life Jacket. Anyone participating in any boating, paddling or towed water sports, regardless of swimming ability in pool or open water situations, should wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Preschool-aged children (5 years old and younger), who are not protected by touch supervision, in particular, should always wear a life jacket. Swimming aids and water toys – such as water wings, inflatable water wings and rings – are not intended to be life-saving devices. They may provide some buoyancy in the water but do not prevent drowning.

Swim with a Buddy. When possible, choose swimming locations where a trained lifeguard is watching for dangerous conditions and helping keep an eye on swimmers. Also make it a practice to always have at least two people swimming together. That way, if someone has a problem, the other can get help.

Learn to Swim. Research has shown formal swimming lessons reduce the risk of childhood drowning by 88%. Through the annual Make a Splash Tour, the USA Swimming Foundation, with the support of Phillips 66, encourages children’s swim lessons. By equipping your child with the skill of swimming, you’ll open doors to a lifetime of safety, fun, fitness and even employment opportunities.

While lessons progressively teach a variety of swimming strokes, some of the most important things swimmers learn – even in beginner classes – are breath control and how to float. These basic skills are essential for staying above water should someone find himself or herself unable to touch or too tired to swim to safety. Children can participate in swimming lessons before they can walk, and parent-child swim lessons provide bonding opportunities along with water safety education.

Enter Water Feet First. Diving in a pool that is too shallow or into water where you’re not certain what’s below the surface, like a lake, can have dire consequences. Teach children to dive only in designated diving areas and to always enter water of unknown or non-visible depth feet first.

Swim in Designated Areas and Obey Posted Signs and Flags. Ropes, buoys and flags in larger bodies of water like lakes or oceans are commonly used to mark off safe swimming areas and provide visual cues about changes in depth, underwater surfaces and currents. Teach children what these signs and markers mean and that they’re in place as safety tools, not toys to play with or float on.

Learn CPR. If the unthinkable does happen, knowing how to perform CPR allows you to take immediate action, which has been shown to significantly better the outcome for children with submersion injuries. In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, you could save someone’s life. Seconds count; the more quickly lifesaving CPR is started, the better the chances of recovery. There are many places that offer CPR training, including community organizations and nonprofit groups. Remember to keep your certification current once you have completed the initial requirements.

Make safety a priority for your summer water fun. Find more information, including swim lesson providers in your area, by visiting usaswimming.org/makesplash.



Jaylen Ivey of San Jose 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 San Jose, 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 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 that school children practice flying rings as part of their physical education classes.



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

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 generous 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."

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San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** and state Senator **Jim Beall** are pictured in this file photo.

POLITICS

What's former Sen. Jim Beall eyeing next?

By **Lorraine Gabbert**

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Four months after terming out of the California Legislature, former Sen. Jim Beall is now eyeing a local seat.

But it's not the San Jose mayor's race — a rumor that has followed Beall around for months. He is considering running for a seat on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's board of directors.

"As an urban planner, city councilmember, county supervisor, assemblymember and senator, I think I can add my experience to the water board that's different than what others can offer," Beall told San José Spotlight. "I can help with their long-range strategic planning to provide clean water for their constituents, deal with the drought and especially with state and federal government relations."

If elected, Beall would replace Linda LeZotte in District 4, whose term ends in Dec. 2022.

Beall said he's always had an interest in clean creeks and water management and brings a wide breadth of experience to the job. Although he hasn't made a final decision, Beall told San Jose Spotlight he's looking at running for the seat "very closely." In fact, for the last three months he has been reviewing the water district's meeting agendas and budgets.

Beall has been in politics for 40 years. He entered public office at the age of 28 and served as a San Jose councilmember, Santa Clara County supervisor, state assembly member and senator.

Beall said he brings "great strength" and new ideas to the board, including plans to house the homeless living along the creeks and financing infrastructure, transportation and water projects. He said he would ensure projects were on time and on budget.

Terry Christensen, SJSU political science professor emeritus, who served as Beall's faculty advisor when he was an undergraduate and has been following Beall's career, said he would be a formidable candidate and an activist board member, if elected. "What's always been impressive about Jim in public office is that he's always been attentive to the needs of his constituents, and his district...but he always sees the big picture, too," Christensen said.

Beall said he cares about water conservation and tore up his lawn years ago to plant native species. A self-described conservationist, he led an annual cleanup effort along Los Gatos Creek for about 20 years. Beall said he is interested in recycling water and climate change issues. "We have to adjust our thinking and planning and listen to new ideas and approaches," he said.

Beall said the city's General Plan in the 70s and 80s to create parks and trails along creeks remains unfinished. He said with sheltering in place, it's especially important now to take walks along creeks to keep healthy. He said the water district is too isolated and needs to work more closely with other government agencies. He would like it to correct the errors which led to the Coyote Creek flood. And as an advocate for social issues, he also sees homelessness, affordable housing and racial equity as issues the water district should address. "The water district can be profoundly impactful in some of those areas," Beall said, "Although, of course, its meat and potatoes is to maintain the creeks and clean water."

Beall said he's been calling key people to ask what they think about him running for the seat, but says he first needs to convince his wife. "She likes the idea that it's local," Beall said. "She's happy about that. Very happy."

Times **Feature**



KUDOS

Volunteers make dramatic transformation on Clean-up Day at Cahalan Park May 15

On Saturday, May 15th, members of Menlo Church Community held a Cahalan Park Clean-up Day.

The church made arrangements with the PRNS Volunteer Management Unit (VMU) who supplied the tools and equipment and brought in mulch.

This hard-working crew removed a large truck worth of weeds and green waste, and displayed what great teamwork looks like in moving five yards of chip mulch, placing it around the park sign, the horizontal plant bed, and around the tennis court.

The amount of work these volunteers faced did not intimidate them one bit and you can see the dramatic results in these before and after photos.

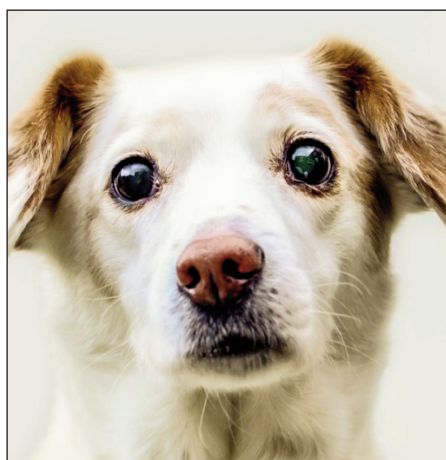


BBB: Watch out for scams when adopting a rescue dog

During COVID-19, so many people adopted dogs that they emptied local shelters. If you are looking to rescue a furry friend, watch out for scams targeting people who want to adopt a dog.

How the scam works

You are looking to adopt a dog, and you find an animal shelter or individual wanting to rehome a puppy. You message them for more information and receive a convincing, heart-tugging backstory. In one recent BBB Scam Tracker report, a scammer claimed to be finding a new home for her poodle after a car accident left her unable to care for the dog. In other cases, scam-



mers impersonate real animal shelters. In this version of the puppy scam, the scammer may not charge for the dog. Instead, they ask for a refundable deposit
See *DOG SCAM*, page 19

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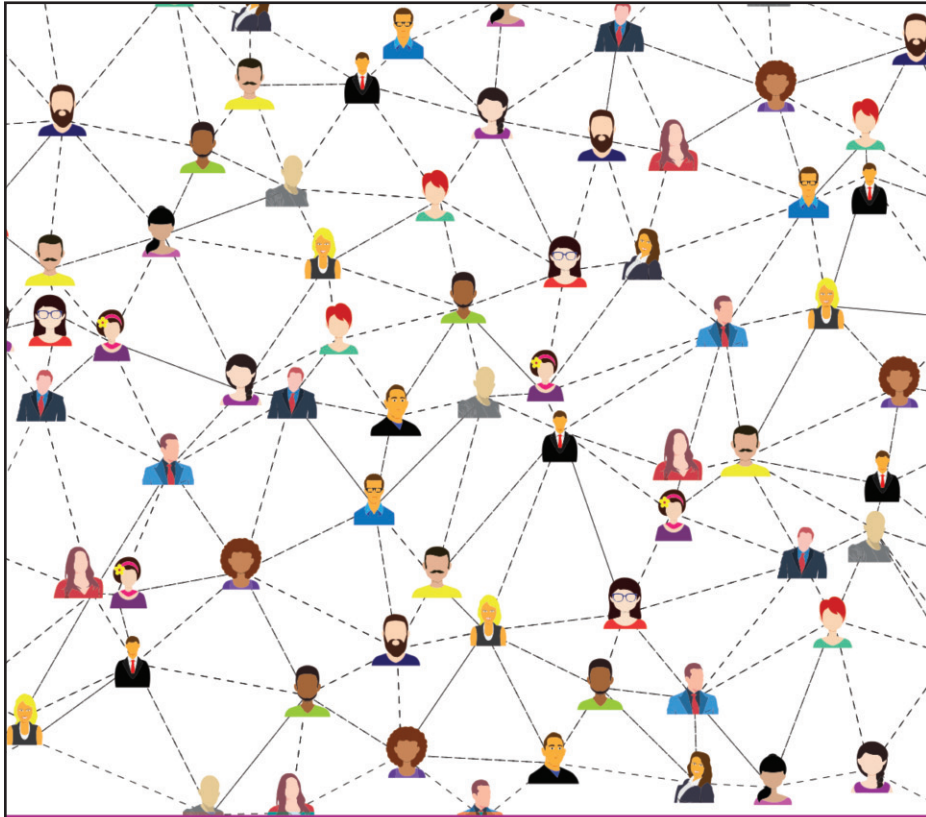
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Valley Water

Valley Water Board Chair Tony Estremera statement on unanimous approval by Board of Directors on water rates

Valley Water's main priority remains providing Santa Clara County with a reliable supply of safe, clean water for public health and the economy, especially as we face extreme drought.

The modest increase in water rates that was unanimously approved by my fellow Board Members and I will help pay for emergency water needed this year to meet demand and keep groundwater at normal levels. It will also allow our community to prepare for droughts and other natural disasters by bolstering our water conservation programs, expanding the use of recycled water and starting work on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, which will protect public safety and increase water storage capacity in the county.

We understand the frustration by many who see their water bills go up. These decisions are not made lightly by the Board. Making these investments now is worth it to ensure a safe and reliable supply in the future. The average resident in Santa Clara County will see an increase ranging from \$4.30 to \$4.82 per month in their water bill.

A lot of discussion has taken place recently regarding the proposed Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The Board feels it's important to do our due diligence and move forward with completing the Draft Environmental Impact Report in 2021. This will allow us to decide when to move forward with the project at a later time based on all the facts. The water bill impact of including the Pacheco project in the FY 22 budget is about .28 cents per month for the average household.

Also, my fellow Board Members and I approved the development of a one-year, Low-Income Residential Water Rate Assistance Program to help low-income Santa Clara County households pay their water bills during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've seen the devastating effects on communities across the country when water supply infrastructure is not prioritized. My fellow Board Members and I know how important it is to invest in technology and infrastructure to make sure Valley Water can provide safe, clean water to Santa Clara County. - Tony Estremera

Limit the Spread of Germs

that could make you & others sick.



WASH YOUR HANDS:

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- Before you touch your eyes, nose & mouth.
- After you touch dirty tissues or dirty surfaces.
- Before you prepare food and before you eat.

Wash your hands **with soap & warm water** -OR- clean your hands **with alcohol-based hand cleaner.**

Santa Clara County
PUBLIC HEALTH

Times **Events**

Report: 2021's 'Best Places to Be a Real Estate Agent'

With real-estate inventory down by more than half compared to last year, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's Best Places to Be a Real Estate Agent, as well as accompanying videos.

To determine the best markets for real-estate agents, WalletHub compared more than 170 U.S. cities across 22 key indicators of a healthy housing market, ranging from sales per agent to the annual median wage for real-estate agents to the housing-market health index.

Real-Estate Careers in San Jose (1=Best, 90=Avg.):

- 92nd – Sales per Agent
- 3rd – Annual Median Wage for Real-Estate Agents
- 84th – Home Turnover Rate
- 4th – Housing-Market Health Index
- 1st – Days on Market
- 22nd – Real-Estate Employment Growth
- 6th – Avg. Ratio of Home Sale Price to Home List Price
- 1st – Median Home Price
- 29th – Average Daily COVID-19 Cases in the Past Week per Capita

For the full report, visit: www.wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-to-be-a-real-estate-agent/18713

Top 25 Cities for Real-Estate Agents

Overall Rank	City	Total Score	Job Opportunity & Competition	Real-Estate Market Health
1	Seattle, WA	59.40	1	43
2	Pearl City, HI	58.65	7	14
3	Sacramento, CA	57.17	9	10
4	Salt Lake City, UT	56.78	20	5
5	Denver, CO	56.44	6	51
6	Nashville, TN	55.80	17	12
7	Washington, DC	55.13	2	116
8	Huntsville, AL	54.67	35	6
9	Austin, TX	54.50	48	7
10	San Jose, CA	54.30	3	134
11	Vancouver, WA	53.98	24	24
12	Reno, NV	53.52	78	2
13	West Valley City, UT	53.05	44	21
14	Billings, MT	52.87	31	9
15	Portland, ME	52.86	40	23
16	Portland, OR	52.79	18	44
17	San Diego, CA	52.69	10	72
18	Atlanta, GA	52.60	16	53
19	Boston, MA	52.47	4	145
20	Irvine, CA	52.17	15	66
21	Jacksonville, FL	52.12	11	75
22	Overland Park, KS	52.11	47	28
23	Sioux Falls, SD	51.99	33	25
24	San Francisco, CA	51.92	8	105
25	Durham, NC	51.89	59	22

Dog scam

Continued from page 17

to "hold" the pup. Most scammers ask you to pay through a digital wallet (Zelle was mentioned in several reports) or use a pre-paid debit card or gift card.

In other versions of the scam, the con artists offer to ship the dog. But first you need to pay up for emergency vet visits, additional shipping fees, or even a COVID-19 test. The scammers ask for more money to resolve the problem, often promising to refund it after the pet is delivered. They may even claim that the pet will be euthanized if you don't pay up.

In either case, once they've gotten your money, scammers disappear. The dog never existed.

How to avoid pet adoption scams

- Never buy or adopt a pet without seeing it in person. This is the best way to ensure you aren't caught in a con.
- Do an internet search of the pet's image. If you do find a puppy online, upload the pet's photo to a reserve image search. If you find multiple pet adoptions sites using the same picture, it's probably a scam.
- Use money transfer with friends. Protect yourself from scams by only using money transfer apps for their intended purpose -- sending money to people you personally know.



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Times **Community News**

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

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

Residents decried EVC's lack of degrees and programs, forcing students to attend other community colleges

Times staff report

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

The vacant land wraps around the CVS/Well 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 Evergreen 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 educational 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 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 East-side 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



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Almaden Times

Times **Community News**



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.

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.

Chancellor's reaction to the meeting

"I was very pleased to see so many community members participate and share their ideas,"

Cliff 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.

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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Senators call for permanent monthly child benefit

Monthly child benefit checks could cut child poverty in half

By William Bellou
Publisher

Monthly checks to American parents are slated to begin this year in July.

Just two weeks after passage of the American Rescue Plan that created this revolutionary policy, 41 US Senators signed on to a letter released by Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)'s office, calling on President Biden to make that policy permanent.

The new-and-improved Child Tax Credit was expanded to \$3,000 (\$3,600 for children under 6), made fully refundable so virtually all American parents are entitled to it, and broken up to be distributed "periodically," which IRS Chief Charles Rettig has assured will be done monthly. The program is set to begin in July, with the final 6 payments coming in a lump sum in January 2022.

Among other demands, more than 40 Senators have called for this program to continue beyond 2021 into perpetuity.

"These 41 Senators are well aware of how

effective the monthly checks will be in cutting down child poverty, and how popular they will be with the 70 million parents receiving them," said Humanity Forward Chief Spokesperson, Greg Nasif. "Humanity Forward stands ready to work with Congress and the White House to put cash in the hands of the American families and take the weight off their monthly budgets."

Humanity Forward will continue working with legislators on both sides of the aisle in support of monthly cash assistance for American families.



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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 3sixty 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.

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


thepoint.church

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

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



God is One
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.San-JoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfranciscatholic.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!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.



Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected
We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.
For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com

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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Notices

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The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-650-383-1785

Singles

Almaden Valley (Senior) Singles

The organization that brings single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and take part in community service.

Come and join us for our monthly breakfast which is held at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Cup and Saucer, Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375 Blossom Hill Road.

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Best Views in All of Almaden Valley



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

Therese Swan
408.656.8240
tswan@tswan.com
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com
DRE 01355719



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