

Doris Malmin
selected as Evergreen
School District
Teacher of the Year
SEE PAGE 4



Pandemic fall-out
Loss of in-classroom instruction
impacting current generation of
students – **SEE PAGE 7**

SJ Library welcomes
back the public for
limited indoor services
after 14 month closure
SEE PAGE 10



JUNE 4 – JUNE 17, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 12

EvergreenTimes

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Neighborhood wide Garage Sale coming Sat., June 12

Bargains! Bargains! Bargains! Norwood Neighborhood Association is sponsoring this exciting 'Get your great deals' 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.



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Evergreen High School junior's non-profit raises awareness of diseases through creative mediums

By William Bellou
Publisher

Khushboo Teotia, a junior at Evergreen Valley High School, has positively impacted more than 5,000 individuals globally through her valued multimedia approaches regarding disease study with the establishment of her 501(c)3 nonprofit-Edupod Inc.

As founder and president of Edupod Inc., Teotia and her non-profit organization team strive to raise awareness about various diseases through several creative mediums. They focus on one disease for a period of 4-6 months while using fundraisers, webinars, articles, *See KHUSHBOO, page 3*

MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT



Khushboo Teotia, along with her admin team, have made a positive impact on numerous societies with research and projects on Cancer, Genetics, and Mental Health. Pictured (left to right) are: **SriVibha Yellamraju**, **Tiarra Wu**, **Khushboo Teotia**, and **Sourish Saswade**.

Quimby Oak student receives 'Best In Class' 2021 *Growing Up Asian in America Art, Essay and Video Contest* award

Vivian Tran, an eighth grade student attending Quimby Oak Middle School, received the "Best In Class" award for her age category in the 2021 Growing Up Asian in America Art, Essay and Video Contest.

Vivian submitted an original essay for the contest hosted by Asian Americans for Community Involvement in partnership with NBC Bay Area. She received a monetary award and "Best in the Class" title.

Growing Up Asian in America (GUAA) is an annual art contest, including video and essay, that reaches thousands of Bay Area students, grades Kindergarten to 12.

Founded 26 years ago, GUAA encourages young Asian Americans to take pride in their identities and helps others understand the varied experiences of our youth growing up in the Bay Area's diverse communities.

"The entire Evergreen School District community could not be more proud of this great accomplishment," said Evergreen School District Superintendent Emy Flores.

Essay by Vivian Tran

Ideals and reality. Paragons and palpabilities. Utopia and dystopia. In America, where I can get harmed solely because of my race, utopia seems like a very distant dream.

As I watch the news, I see on the screen an old Thai man pushed to the floor and he ultimately died from his injuries; an Asian man robbed at gun-point outside of his own home; a 61-year-old Filipino man in New York slashed across the face on the subway and so many more. I catch my reflection of me on the TV when the screen goes dark. A Vietnamese girl who may be seen as nothing more than another bothersome Asian harboring the virus. Who's to say that I won't be the next victim? That it won't be my picture on television as the latest victim of some hate crime?

We are not bat consumers or accent bearers. We are not harboring a harmful virus. We are Asians but we are not just Asians. We are

Asian-Americans. We are Vietnamese-Americans, Chinese-Americans, Thai-Americans, Korean-Americans. We value our culture and we have the right to be here in America.

Parallel to clay, we are able to be fashioned and molded. When people see me, a Vietnamese-American, my clay takes on a yellow tinge. They give me small depressions for my eyes and paint the back of my head brown, forming straight hair that reaches the middle of my back. My mouth a small, close-lipped, compliant smile. My average height and flat chest. A bowl of pho in my hand and a shirt that says "Kung-Flu." A smog of minuscule corona-shaped germs swarms me.

People don't get to mold me. I shape myself. I am more than some mud created to fiddle with. I stomp over and I say, "I belong to myself, and myself only. Get your hands off me."

See ESSAY, page 3



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



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Times **Community News****Khushboo***Continued from page 1*

podcasts with experts, and campaigns to reach the public.

While there are several other organizations with similar missions, Edupod enhances their goal by emanating the voice of their generation through a simplified but accurate lens. They're known to provide credible information with their 3+ source fact check. Their podcasts with other medical experts help to educate their generation in a way most situated for them. For instance, Khushboo's interview with Dietician Kamini Kelkar on the correlation between Dietary Needs and Cancer educated people around the world on the importance and impact of diets.

With the breakout of COVID-19, Edupod was quick to switch its focus on the emerging virus and its effect on communities. The organization helped more than 250+ medical workers at the Good Samaritan Hospital with a Thank You Lunch and recognized their selfless work through thank you cards, funded by money earned by their fundraiser. The event celebrated and saluted the hard work of the COVID-19 warriors.

Edupod was one of the earliest organizations to recognize the inevitable downfall trend in the mental health of the public with the rising COVID-19 cases. To target this issue, the Edupod team re-oriented their efforts towards the mental health of students at high schools with the media usage of webinars.

Edupod recently assisted and educated students of Andrew Hill High School by presenting significant research, assessed populations with similar symptoms, and gave treatment choices. They have continued to spread this idea of media and medicine through their local, national, and international expansions: Los Angeles, Irvine, and Berkeley are a few chapters located in California while they have members located in Maryland and Texas along with their chapters in the process in Vietnam, Canada, and Philippines, to name just a few.

"With such a strong and bold movement, it is important to recognize the reason behind such an initiative, Khushboo said. "I made this organization so it is efficient and easier for



Khushboo Teotia, Founder and President of National, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization- Edupod Inc.

others at any age to learn about their health and people's health. It is important to educate ourselves on diseases because we hold the power to change a survivor or victim's life. By educating individuals, we are able to raise money for specific causes; by the community, for the community."

When asked what makes her organization unique, Khushboo responded, "Edupod is one of the only organizations that continues to educate others in a creative and advanced way. It is rare to see an organization merge media and arts with medicine; however, I believe we have and will continue to do our best to cater towards this precise mission and merge."

Khushboo and her organization Edupod Inc. have continued to make an everlasting impact on societies around the globe. And, to express this recurring theme, they are preparing to launch their biggest event yet, the USA National "Edupod's Young Research Creativity Contest." With support from media companies, sponsorships from business, and support from school districts, they're hosting a 3-division contest- elementary, middle, and high school that urges children to express their disease research through a creative lens. (For example, high schoolers are given a choice to design a website full of research information of a specific disease subtopic.)

To learn more about this competition, the organization, and to join its team check out <https://edupodorganization.wixsite.com/edupod> and follow them on @edupod.inc for weekly updates and infographics.

Essay*Continued from page 1*

I snatch the model out of their hands, turn my back, and walk away. I glare at the figure clenched in my fist. Then, I set to work.

I make my skin a bit lighter and form a fierce, grinning mouth, displaying all my teeth. I raise the arm with the bowl of pho, flaunting it proudly. I set the other hand on my hip and blow away the cloud of germs hovering around me. I discard the shirt and put on an ao dai instead. I add some details, too. I carve a crease into my eyelids and forge round cheeks.

You see, I have control of myself and I have control of how I want people to perceive me. I'm not going to stand off to the side and watch as people sculpt me as they see fit.

I am the composer. The commander. The instructor. I am going to mold myself as I see fit.

I place the clay figure of myself down and close my eyes. There, I can picture it. I stand on the Earth, but I am not alone. Races of all kinds are by my side. Myriads of traditions

and foods and attire are all around me. I see dark skin and light skin; round bodies and slim bodies; green eyes and brown eyes; long, dazzling dresses and gaudy tops. I see rice noodles, bibimbap, empanadas, curries, lavash, sushi, spaghetti, couscous. Most importantly I see the smiles that light up everyone's faces. I hear the laughter that tinkles in the air. I see a place where diversity is embraced, not feared or hated. I see a vision of a possible future.

We take a step in the right path by accepting. By welcoming the differences and the things that set us apart. By empathizing and giving your all in understanding. Instead of viewing this pandemic as an obstacle in the way of peace and equality, view it as an intermission to reset oneself and one's way of thinking. Speak up. Let your voice be heard loud and clear. Support one another.

To a new era post-pandemic, we need an open mind and all the love to offer. We need lessons of empathy and forgiveness. Hate is a virus and the only way to eliminate it is with compassion.

Maybe then will we reach utopia.

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California State Board of Equalization adopts \$126.8 billion in assessed property values for fiscal year

Schools and local communities set to receive \$1.99 billion

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) unanimously adopted \$126.8 billion in assessed property values of 341 companies within California last week.

The assessed property values include telephone, gas, and electric companies, independent power producers, regulated railroads, and intercounty pipelines. In the upcoming fiscal year, schools and local communities statewide will receive a total of approximately \$1.99 billion in property tax revenue resulting from the Board exercising one of its core constitutional functions.

"The BOE's critical role protects the tax dollars schools and local communities depend on every day," said BOE Chairman Antonio Vazquez. "On behalf of the entire Board, I commend BOE staff for their expertise and hard work as today's action translates to funding teachers, public safety officials, parks, and roads across California."

Whereas most property in California is assessed by the 58 County Assessors, the BOE serves as the "59th assessor" by directly assessing certain public utilities, regulated railroads, and intercounty pipelines throughout the state. Also, since these properties are not subject to Proposition 13, the BOE annually determines the market value or the

See PROPERTY, page 6

Valley Currents

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

Doris Malmin selected as Evergreen School District Teacher of the Year

One of the celebrations last month was Evergreen School District (ESD) Employee Appreciation Week for both classified and certificated staff.

This year, Doris Malmin has been selected as ESD Teacher of the Year.

Doris Malmin was selected as ESD Teacher of the Year because of her contributions not just to her students, but to the greater Katherine Smith community as well," said Kevin Armstrong, Principal, Katherine Smith Elementary School. "Mrs. Malmin continues to be steadfast in putting the well-being of her students first by recognizing their social-emotional and academic needs, setting high expectations, advocating for supports, and building strong relationships with families."



Armstrong said that Malmin was a driving force in helping get students back to in-person learning as an early pilot teacher. "The lessons learned from her experience were invaluable and paved the way for a broader return across our school and the entire district,"

Armstrong said. "Doris embraces challenges and sees them as opportunities for growth to better engage students in rigorous learning experiences. She selflessly supports her colleagues in problem-solving and in sharing best practices."

'Wheelie' good news from Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park

Skatepark, bike park reopen for members

Following a temporary closure due to the pandemic, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services' (PRNS) Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park in Evergreen is welcoming back skaters, scooter-riders and bikers. All guests must have a membership to make a timed reservation in advance.

The 68,000 square-foot facility is home to California's largest skatepark with the world's largest full pipe and vert wall, and an 8.5-acre bike park with seven diverse riding zones to challenge riders of all skill levels. The Park is designed for skateboards, scooters and bikes.

Action Sports Park is following all City, County and State health and safety guidelines, including timed reservations, wearing masks at all times, a health screening upon entry, social distancing protocols and enhanced disinfecting measures throughout the facility.

"The pandemic really brought to light how critical outdoor recreation is for physical and mental wellness," says Parks Facilities Supervisor, Joe Albayalde. "We want all of our visi-



tors to feel safe when they come to visit, which is why Action Sports Park is reopening in COVID-modified phases."

During the first phase of reopening, the Pro Shop will remain closed. Guests must bring their own refreshments and safety gear. Safety gear, including helmets, knee pads, and elbow pads are required to enter the skate park. While riding in the bike park, a proper helmet is required.

"It's exciting to get the park back in action," says Parks Specialist, Kyle Lussier. "Our mem-

bers are eager to get back to shredding the park, and our staff are thrilled to host our Action Sports Camp this summer."

Action Sports Camp

Action Sports Camp provides youth ages 6-12 with an unforgettable camp experience in skateboarding, scootering and biking from June 14 to August 13, Monday through Friday from 8 – 11 a.m.

Summer camps are modified to follow all state and county health and safety guidelines. All camps require face coverings, daily health screenings will be performed, and all programs are limited to 12 or fewer children. The City of San José will continue to monitor all state and county health and safety guidelines and will make any necessary adjustments.

Scholarships are available for families and individuals who meet the qualifications for both memberships and camps. Families must apply in-person at Action Sports Park's information booth or a community center. Scholarships can be used at any program location.

For more information about Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park, to purchase a membership or register for Action Sports Camp, please visit bit.ly/sj-lcasp or contact Action Sports Park directly at 408-794-7574.

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Norwood Neighborhood Association



Community Event - Neighborhood Wide



On Saturday, June 12th, 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 area 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 at 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 12th

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

Times **Community News**

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

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



Property

Continued from page 4

"unitary value" of property that includes improvements, personal property, and land. The BOE develops the fair market value by considering market conditions, use of and income generated by the property, replacement costs, investments in the property, regulatory climate, depreciation, and other factors as of the January 1 lien date.

For fiscal year 2021-22, there was a 6.7% increase in the total value from last year in the amount of \$7.9 billion which will generate approximately more than \$124 million additional tax dollars. County governments will use the values set by the BOE to levy the local property taxes.

The entire list of assessed property values and more information on the State-Assessed Properties Program is available on the BOE website: <https://www.boe.ca.gov>.



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Times **Feature**

Loss of in-classroom instruction impacting current generation of students

Parents can help kids make up for lost classroom time over the summer

While the number of lost classroom hours due to the pandemic varies by school district, no one can deny the large impact the loss of in-classroom instruction will have on this generation of students.

Consider this: About 84% of U.S. parents are worried that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their child's learning, according to a recent Brainly survey of 1,600 moms and dads.

Patrick Quinn, 'Parenting Expert' at Brainly, the world's online learning platform, is well aware of the risks over a year without in-classroom instruction can have on students and has some sage tips for parents.

Quinn, a father himself, says his first tip for parents is to stay in close contact with their child's teacher and make sure they know the key concepts their child should be able to master at their grade level. Quinn says after that, it's important for parents to follow their instincts, saying, "You know if your child has fallen significantly behind, and you know if they're in need of extra help to catch up on certain subjects."

So, how can parents help their kids make up for lost classroom time over the summer?

Here are 7 helpful tips:

1. Form a neighborhood or friends book club. This can be done in a couple of different ways, depending on the age of your kid and pandemic restrictions. Kids of similar ages can choose one book each week for everyone to read. Then they can meet to talk about the book they read. They can discuss the plot and characters, what they liked about it, didn't like, and their takeaways from it. Another type of book club, especially for younger kids, will require more parent involvement. Create a logging system so each child can keep a record of the books they've read. At the end of the summer, hold a pizza party for all the participants. Create homemade certificates and give out inexpensive prizes to all the participants. Then honor the winner with the most books read with a special award.

2. Incorporate learning into your travel. Before you go on your family vacation, do some research in advance. Look for science centers, history museums, and historical sites to build into your trip. Have your kids join you in mapping out the trip. This will help keep geography fresh in their minds while they are also learning map skills.

3. Hands-on project-based learning activities. With all the screen time kids are getting from online learning (not to mention their non-educational screen time), sometimes the best thing you can do to get kids flexing their brain muscles is to have them physically design and create something with their own two hands like a 3D puzzle, pop-up storybook, or time capsule, to name a few examples. Another idea is to turn a game into an art activity by having your kids create their own board game to play.

4. Summer journaling. Give your kid a journal. It can be fancy or just a spiral notebook. If your child hasn't kept a journal before, suggest they spend 20 minutes writing in it every night about their day's adventures and activities. Let your kid know it is their private journal and promise not to read it unless they choose to share it with you. This might encourage your child to invest more time and thought into their journaling.

5. Enroll them in an e-learning course and/or encourage daily educational screen time. Think of it as a virtual summer camp. But before you blindly sign up for some online programs, look for some specialized programs designed to keep children learning with engaging activities and personalized instruction. There are also many free online resources and services, like Brainly, where children can ask questions, learn new things, and keep stimulated to prevent the COVID slump. Your kids may not love the idea at first, but they'll thank you for pushing them to take advantage of the slower months to boost problem areas when Fall season rolls around and it's back-to-school time.

6. Take up a new educational hobby. Now is the perfect opportunity for students to take up a new hobby. Learning a musical instrument, taking a coding class, or joining an online trivia league can help students of any age stay sharp throughout the summer and beyond.

7. Move the learning outdoors. It may seem basic, but a little sunshine and fresh air are excellent for everyone's mental health and can help bored students reinvigorate their learning by helping them escape the monotony of their home learning space. Physical activity can also help memory recall and increase mental dexterity. Try passing around a soccer ball in the backyard while learning the state capitals, or playing hopscotch while reciting new vo-

cab terms.

Regardless of what you choose, staying mentally active throughout summer can give your child a much-needed leg up come this Fall season.

"Now more than ever, many parents like me are realizing it's imperative for us to make sure our kids don't fall behind or slip between the cracks of the education system. We're all still trying to understand the full effect of the pandemic on students' long term educational outcomes, but one thing is clear: as we return to the 'new normal,' we're going to have to get creative to make up for lost time and do everything possible to empower students to learn so we don't end up with a lost generation on our hands," says Quinn.





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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.

Any questions? Email:

Mrs. Eva Marlow - emarlow@eesd.org

Mr. Derrick Watkins - dwatkins@eesd.org



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The courts have decided the law applied to all land use development projects, both public and private. As a result, projects ranging from low-income housing developments to hotel construction projects are required to conduct costly and time-consuming EIR studies.

Can we fix CEQA?

By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

If Bay Area Housing stakeholders are to ever address factors that have led to construction delays and to the rise in costs for constructing desperately needed housing, we must delve deeper into how a well-intentioned law has inadvertently led to difficulty in producing sufficient housing.



The California Environmental Quality Act, better known as CEQA, was adopted under Governor Ronald Reagan in 1970. The law was meant to mitigate the environmental impacts of public projects.

CEQA requires state and local agencies to deliver an Environmental Impact Report, or an EIR, to document all possible harms of a proposed land use project. It also requires decision-makers to seek out alternatives to reduce adverse impacts and to conduct public hearings for formal comment. Over time, the courts decided this law applied to all land use development projects, both public and private. As a result, projects ranging from low-income housing developments to hotel construction projects are required to conduct costly and time-consuming EIR studies. Even inner city infill development projects are subject to this expensive and lengthy process that can result in EIR studies that are thousands of pages in length and can take six months to over a year to complete.

In my years as a council member, I have seen CEQA abused to prevent development projects from proceeding. Examples include a disgruntled neighbor who did not want a proposed development next door to "block their view", a convenience store owner who filed a lawsuit against the expansion of a competing gas station, a union that used CEQA to extract valuable contracts, and cities that sued to halt housing and hotel construction near their borders. It is these types of abuses and frivolous lawsuits that hold up projects until the courts decide the validity of the studies. These delays are all factors leading to high-

er construction costs in the form of labor contracts and materials, unnecessary legal fees as appeals take up to two years or more to resolve, and interest and loan fees accumulating as projects are placed on hold.

A 2015 Holland & Knight study on CEQA abuses concluded that, "The largest single target of CEQA lawsuits... are residential projects," and these projects, "overwhelmingly [involve] non-polluting land uses." The study found that of all CEQA lawsuits filed between 2013 and 2015, over 14,000 were challenges to housing construction. If we really want to start addressing the causes of our housing crisis we must work on CEQA reforms. Some fixes that have been discussed but have yet to be implemented include:

1. Requiring all entities that file CEQA lawsuits to fully disclose their identities and their environmental interests. Currently, claims can be filed anonymously.
2. Disallowing procedural gamesmanship that pushes CEQA proceedings past a year and beyond.
3. Ordering the losing party to pay court costs on CEQA lawsuits.
4. Making infill land development in urban non-riparian areas exempt from challenges.

In recent years, CEQA exemptions and streamlining legislation have passed, highlighting the need for larger comprehensive reform. Just last week, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 7 into law at the site of Google's proposed Downtown West project in San Jose. SB 7 will allow dense affordable housing projects to move through the CEQA process at an exponentially faster rate. Although this bill received overwhelming bipartisan support, overarching reform to streamline the arduous CEQA process rarely gains much support.

It is often said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. California is losing businesses and housing costs are out of control. We cannot afford to ignore CEQA reforms any longer. Let's take this well-intentioned law and make it work for California.



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Evictions in Santa Clara County continue during state eviction moratorium

By **Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee**
Special to the Times

For many Santa Clara County residents, the pain of the housing crisis is deeply felt due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The loss of stable income only accelerated the unfolding of a crisis and although the State acted to put in place an eviction moratorium, evictions in Santa Clara County continued to take place. Sheriff Laurie Smith and her Sheriff Department are largely responsible for the continued devastation that home evictions cause to families across the county.

Should evictions have been paused in Santa Clara County during the pandemic?

Why did this occur during a global pandemic that forced people to shelter in place, where a high number of evictions are happening in our county? Other counties like Alameda, San Francisco, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma had less than sixty-five evictions take place in the same time period. While the neighboring county Sheriffs stopped conducting lockouts, Sheriff Laurie Smith decided to continue to enforce evictions. Many of the sheriffs in other counties made the decision to stop enforcing evictions while there was a shelter in place order. In total 27 out of 58 California county sheriff's departments had stopped enforcing lockouts. The Press Democrat, San Mateo, The Daily Journal and the Marin Independent Journal reported that in their respective counties the Sheriff was public about pausing evictions. Considering that Santa Clara County's Sheriff did not take the same precautions, it resulted in Santa Clara County being #1 in eviction rates. From March 19th to Dec 31st 2020, 145 evictions were documented in Santa Clara County.

Should a collaborative model been put in place regarding evictions in Santa Clara County?

Aside from pausing lockouts, a majority of the other county courthouses across the state adopted a collaborative model in which landlords were forced to talk to their tenants and negotiate before initiating an eviction. The Santa Clara Superior Court refused to adopt that model when it had the chance. This could have potentially helped influence the way the Sheriff participates in enforcing evictions

but due to negligence this was not even considered important by the department.

Do evictions during a pandemic cause safety and health issues for families?

Early this Spring, the Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee and the Survivors of the Street Committee asked Sheriff Smith for a meeting in order to demand the end of lockouts and eviction enforcement. Continuing an established pattern of lack of accountability, Sheriff Smith did not follow up with our request for a meeting nor responded to our demands to end lock outs during the pandemic. At a moment when Sheriff Smith is facing public scrutiny for allegations of corruption, abusive

practices in jails, and pay-to-play schemes, we understand that her deliberate decision to continue to enforce evictions further proves her inability to do right by this community. The people are done waiting for Laurie Smith to change for better, we are now demanding she follow the lead of other Bay Area counties and to be held accountable for her negligence that put the safety and health of our families and communities [that are] in danger by the traumatic threat of lockouts and evictions.

Get connected with Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee by contacting: estefaniab@sacredheartcs.org or by calling (408)775-5760.



The Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee (SHHAC) and the Survivors of the Streets Committee (SOS) are community-led organizing efforts seeking housing justice for all. Photo credit: Beth LaBerge/KQED



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Times **Feature**

San José Public Library reopens select branches

SJ Library welcomes back the public for limited indoor services after 14 month closure

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San José Public Library (SJPL) has reopened seven branch libraries and welcomed everyone back to browse its shelves, check out materials, access public computers and printers, pick up holds and tech devices, and get answers to refer-

The seven locations selected to resume services are prioritized branches located in lower-resourced communities based on the Library's equity index.

ence questions.

The first seven of SJPL's 25 locations that reopened its doors are: Alum Rock, Biblioteca Latinoamericana, Joyce Ellington, Tully Community, Alviso, Evergreen, and West Valley. These branches have reopened at a 50-percent capacity, and hours of operation are from 1-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday.

The seven locations selected to resume services are the first set of branches outlined in SJPL's phased approach to reopen its buildings, which prioritizes branches located in lower-resourced communities based on the Library's equity index.

"The day we were forced to temporarily close was a hard day for so many of our staff, residents, students and their families, especially for those who depended on the library's public computers and internet access during the pandemic," said Jill Bourne, City Librarian. "We have been waiting for the day we could start to safely reopen to the public. This is the beginning of a new chapter in SJPL's history and a promising future ahead for our city."

Since the library was forced to temporarily close due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 17, 2020, it had to quickly adapt its services to online only. A few months after, in June 2020, SJPL introduced Express Pickup to provide residents a safe and contactless way to access items from its physical collections including SJ Access tech devices and educational activity kits; and on April 9, 2021, select libraries started to provide limited indoor computer use only.

Library officials continue to work alongside the City of San José's Emergency Operations Center to ensure more library locations are prepared to open safely based on the Santa Clara County Health Orders and the City's safety guidelines. In the meantime, residents can still access the Express Pickup service at closed locations, indoor Tech Access at select locations, virtual programs, online chat services, and phone assistance, 7-days per week. During this time, the library will continue to not assess any late fines on overdue materials.

For more information and details about the Library's reopening, visit www.sjpl.org/reopening.

Editor's Note: In returning check out items, a four day quarantine is done inside the library hold area. That means the items will not show up as immediate returns to one's card till they are checked in after a 4-day period.

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Times **Feature****TENNIS TIPS****Four mistakes that slow your serve**

By Ken DeHart

Special to the Times

We all want to serve faster. We want to ace our opponents. We want to get free points each time we serve in a match. We study with our pro, look at UTube videos.

And practice - well, maybe.

BUT, here are 4 mistakes you make that can make your serve slower.

Mistake #1

Not having a target. All ball sports require you to have a target. It is how you create a game plan and evaluate the success of your performance.

- "In the court" is not a very precise target for intermediate and advanced players.
- The mind needs a more defined location to help recruit the correct muscles to maximize your serve speed and location. Without a target before you start, you are more likely to look to see where to serve just before you even make contact with the ball.

- The movement of the eyes prior to contact will move the head and decelerate the service motion.

The 5 tactical priorities of serving are:

1. Get the ball in the court
2. Plan the direction of the serve
3. Plan the depth of the serve
4. Select the right amount of spin
5. Select the correct speed to get to the target

These 5 priorities apply to all skill levels, they just become more important and need more precision as the players skill level increases.

Mistake #2

Not using your eyes correctly. Players often complain about not having a good toss. That is the easiest thing to fix in your serve. Your tossing hand will place the ball where ever you look with your eyes.

- It is called eye-hand coordination for a reason - not hand eye. The eye tells the hand where to place the ball

- Sneaking a peak. If your eyes or head move during the tossing motion, so will your tossing hand

- Moving your eyes as you start to swing at your serve will change the path of the

racquet toward the ball. This will also cause a deceleration of the racquet head speed

- Observe the pros, they look up first to create a target for their toss. Their eyes will tell their hand where to place the ball. Disclaimer - there is one lady pro who tosses the ball then looks up?

- Keep a quiet mind. Any thought during the tossing motion will disconnect the eyes from the target

Mistake #3

Applying too much grip pressure. The instinct to serve faster is to grip the racquet tighter. The thought is that you can swing at the ball much harder if you apply more grip pressure.

However:

- The tighter the grip, the less speed you can develop on your serve
- The tight grip interrupts the kinetic chain
- The hands need to be relaxed during the swing path to the ball to be able to accelerate the racquet head faster than the hand could normally move

- Tension in the hand also affects the tension in the arm and shoulder

- On a scale of 1-5, the grip pressure, the grip tension, should be around 2-3 for maximum speed

Mistake #4

Not practicing. The serve will not get better by itself. It is the most important shot in your game.

- The serve starts every point
- 70% of all the points you will play in a match are either a serve or return of serve. Improve your percentages by practicing your serve to take control of the points.

- Taking a few practice serves at the start of a match will not improve your serve. It only warms up the serve motion. How many ground strokes and volleys did you hit before you started to play vs number of serves before you start to play?

- This is the only opportunity you have to decide how you will put the point in play the way you want to against your opponent

- It is one part of the game you can practice by yourself

- When you go out to practice with friends, instead of feeding the ball in underhanded to start a rally, start the rally by hitting an easy second serve to your partner to start the point.

- Hit the courts practicing the most important shot in the game - your serve.

- It will serve you well.



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Times **Feature**

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 pan-

demie 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.



Workers are looking to change jobs during or after the pandemic at a very high rate.

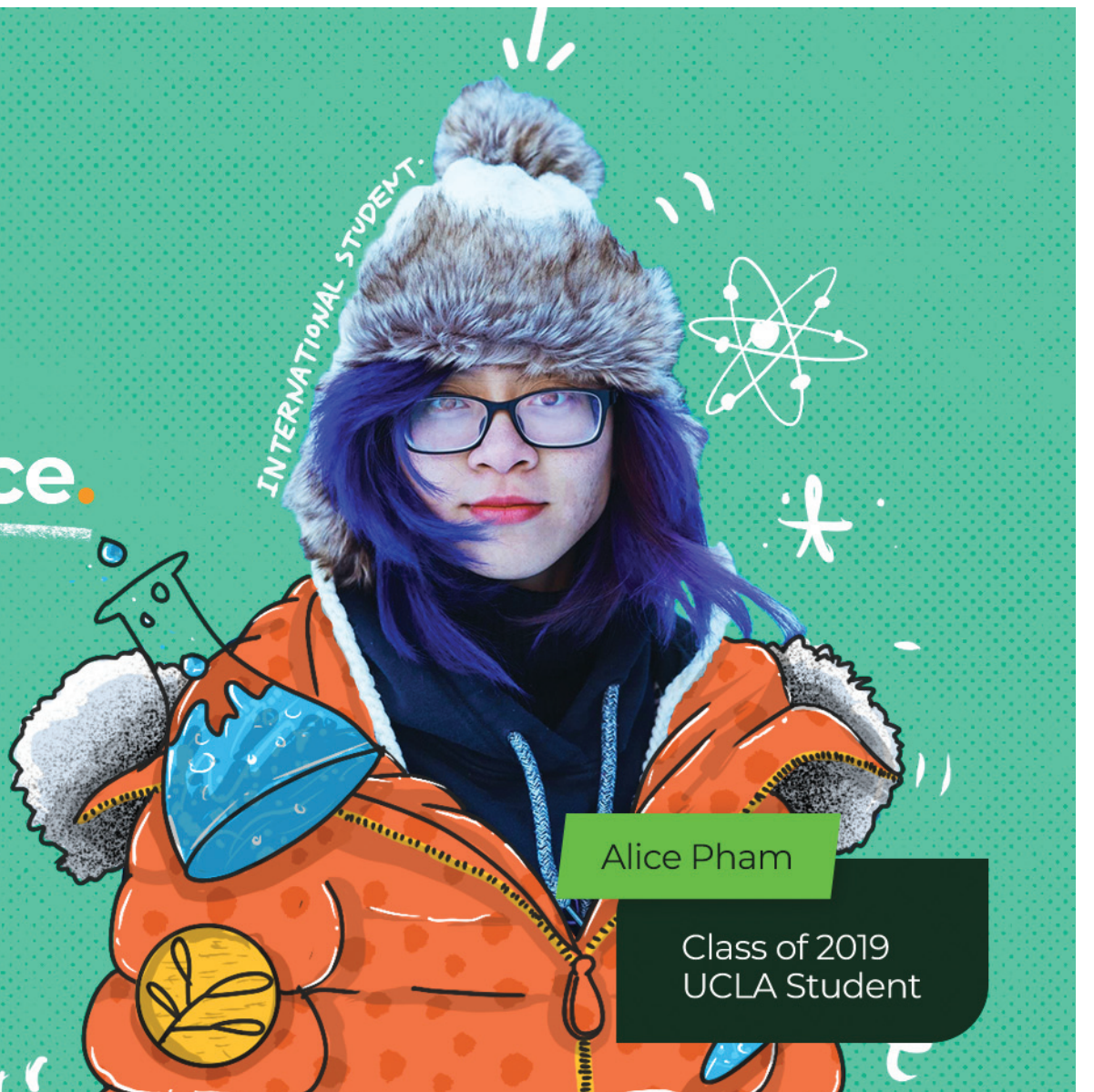


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Times **Feature**

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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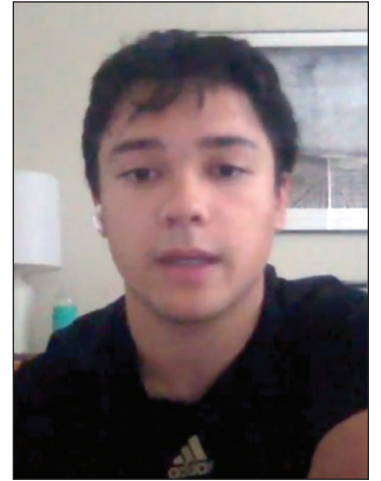
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Times Local News



Pinewood School student selects East San Jose for his little free library

By William Bellou
Publisher

Jacob Tidalgo, a senior at Pinewood School in Los Altos Hills in Social Entrepreneurship, created and placed a little free library in East San Jose.

In his two-year Social Entrepreneurship class, students focused on creating projects for the well being of the surrounding community. For his project, Tidalgo decided to construct a little free library.

"After seeing lots of little free libraries

around my neighborhood and others that I would visit, I decided I wanted to place a library where it wasn't so common," Tidalgo said. "I placed a little free library in East San Jose and then one at my own school."

Tidalgo's motivation was driven by the prospect of others being able to share and exchange books where they might not have otherwise.

While the new little free library was an instant success, most of the books were specialized books and novels. Tidalgo decided he needed to also add children's books to the collection.

"Now more than ever in the pandemic and while people have been stuck at home, reading is a great way to pass time while stimulating your brain at the same time and to those who don't have as easy access to literature these libraries are most valuable," Tidalgo explained.

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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/makeasplash.



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Times Op Ed

Deciphering Taylor Swift and the Krabby Patty Secret Formula: The brief basics of cryptography

By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

Before we get started, let me tell you why I've decided that it is my duty to write this article to help equip the masses with the bare basics of cryptography. My sister is a major Swiftie and literally every week she claims that Taylor Swift will be releasing something huge! (Every week she is wrong.) Apparently, the legendary T. Swift is notorious for the hidden messages within her beautiful lyrics, stunning music videos, and general social media presence, and I unashamedly admit that I have recently gotten caught in her web of intrigue.



Gems in STEM
By Apoorva Panidapu

ed military commands using an alphabet shift cipher—now known as the **Caesar Cipher**—and decides to use this to encrypt his message.



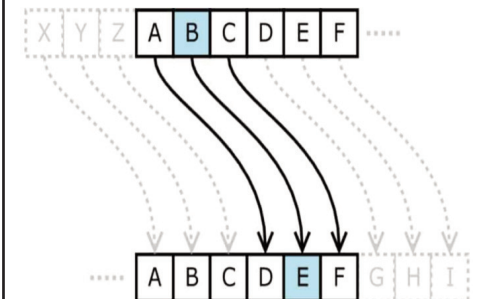
But first, some quick definitions! The ordinary information or message we want to pass along is called the **plaintext**. For simplicity's sake, let's just consider "This is the Krabby Patty Secret Formula" as



Spongebob's plaintext. Now, we want to convert this, or **encrypt** it, into an unintelligible form called the **ciphertext**.

So how does the Caesar Cipher work? Well, there's a reason it's called a shift cipher—all it does is shift each letter by a fixed number up or down the alphabet.

Here's an example of what it looks like for a shift of 3:



As you can see, A → D, B → E, C → F, ..., X → A, Y → B, Z → C, so it loops around when you reach the end of the alphabet.

Let's now encrypt our message! Taylor's favorite number is 13, so naturally we'll apply the cipher for a shift of 13. Then, T → G, H → U, I → V, S → and so on (I'll spare you the details). Thus, our plaintext: "This is the Krabby Patty Secret Formula" becomes the ciphertext: "Guvf vf gur Xenool Cnggl Frperg Sbezshyn." (Yes, I did use an online encoder, sue me.)

Voila! Formula encrypted! Secret kept! Mission accomplished!

...Or is it? There's an obvious problem with this—Plankton can easily crack the code by just trying every possible shift of 1-25 (a shift of 26 would just be the same message). Even if he was too lazy to do it, his wife Karen is literally a waterproof supercomputer that can do it for him, and the message would be decrypted in (way) less than a second.

Okay, Spongebob is not afraid of a challenge (for proof, see driver's license episode). So, let's make it harder! Instead of a constant shift, let's shift each letter by a

See GEMS, page 20

So far, the messages (at least the ones I know of) haven't been extravagantly encrypted, but recently they have gotten rather tricky so we must be prepared to decipher more complex clues in the future.

Thus, began my journey into learning a couple things about encryption, or cryptography. If you haven't already figured it out, cryptography is the science of encrypting information and it is everywhere—including the very website you're on right now (see that little lock at the top and/or the https://? That means your computer is using public key encryption to exchange data securely with the website! It's kinda cute <3).

Secrets have been alive for as long as people have (oops). Naturally, we need to find a way to keep these secrets, or bad things™ happen. To figure out how we can do this, suppose we have two people. Now, it's some sort of cryptography tradition to have these two people be named Alice and Bob, but I'm tired of their secrets and I want them to live honest lives. So, instead we'll be eavesdropping on Patrick and Spongebob, just because I think that would be interesting and I apparently haven't matured since kindergarten (but honestly Spongebob is for forever).

Let's say Spongebob wants to pass the message: "This is the Krabby Patty Secret Formula: <redacted for security reasons>" to Patrick. Obviously, this formula cannot be leaked and if someone (Plankton) intercepts this message, Mr. Krabs will collapse. Luckily, Spongebob has heard of a Roman general named Julius Caesar who encrypt-

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.

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.

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.

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

See VACCINES, page 19



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.

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Times **Feature**

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 veter-

an 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 million.

VTA faces a sea of change and a tough recruitment process following Fernandez's departure. Gonot is replacing VTA General Counsel Evelynnn 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.

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Times Community News

Vaccines

Continued from page 17 with this experimental COVID-19.”

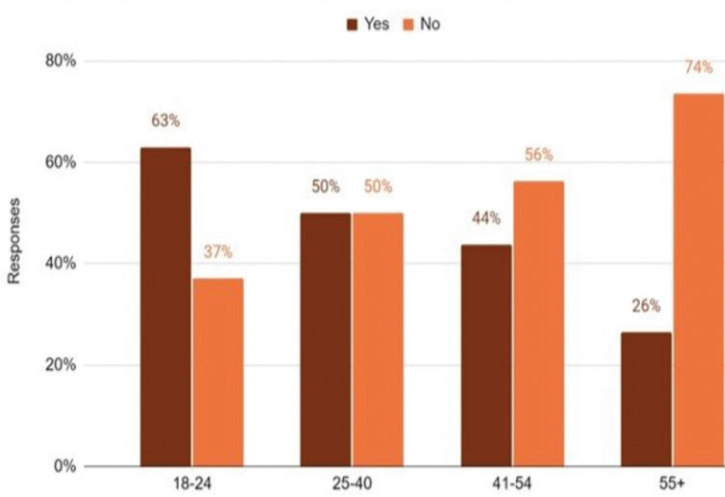
Some residents are undecided. Joy Etraude said she may wait as her children are both under 6 years old. “I would not want them to have the same reaction I did when I got mine,” Etraude said.

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 offi-

Do you plan on getting your child the Covid-19 vaccine? (select one only)



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

cials 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 **Community News**

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GEMS

Continued from page 16
different amount. This method of encryption is called the **Vigenère cipher**. Note that this combination of shifts is the **key**, as Patrick (the star receiving the message) needs to know said key in order to decrypt the ciphertext.

There's a couple ways this key can be expressed. The most common way is by a letter-message, something like "folklore." To encrypt our message, we match up each letter of the plaintext with the key and take the intersection in this table, which called the **Vigenère square** or **tabula recta** (see image above).

As always, here's a quick example to make sense of the cipher!

Keyword	GREENGREENGREE
Plaintext	hellohowareyou
Ciphertext	NVPPBNFAEEKPSY

Now, let's encrypt our message once again!

Plaintext: THIS IS THE KRABBY PATTY SECRET FORMULA

Keyword: FOLK LO REF OLKLOR EFOLK LOREFO LKLORE F

Ciphertext: YVTC TG KLJ YCKMPP TFHEI DSTVJH QYCALPF

(If you want, you can double check my work as a fun exercise!)

Why is the Vigenère cipher better than the Caesar cipher? Well, for one, guessing it is clearly much harder! Plankton definitely would not be able to crack the code by hand. However, Karen unfortunately could crack this encryption in just a couple seconds. Moreover, you could potentially do a pattern analysis on the ciphertext and figure out the key based on the letters that are the most common, like the letter "e."

So, today, how do we encrypt sensitive information and messages (such as the

Krabby Patty Formula) securely enough that Karen can't crack them? We use something called **256-bit encryption**, one of the most secure methods right now. Why 256-bit? Well, 256 is the length of the encryption key used to encrypt a file or data stream. The reason it works is because there are too many possibilities to compute in a reasonable amount of time, specifically 2^{256} . Using even the world's fastest computers, computing these possibilities is virtually impossible.

What's even better is that using longer keys doesn't make the encryption process that much harder, but it exponentially increases the difficulty of decrypting information, as the number of guesses it would take to crack a cipher shoots skyward.

Okay, if longer keys are more secure, why don't we use 10,000 bit keys? 100,000 bit? 1,000,000 bit?? Well, it's a performance tradeoff. Longer bits mean a longer time to access information and sites securely, which will result in lack of users. Thus, encryption methods must balance security and performance in order to use cryptography practically.

Now, this is barely a scratch on the surface of all the secrets cryptography holds. In general, there are four primary types of cryptography: symmetric, asymmetric, hashing, and key exchange. Today, we've touched on symmetric cryptography and a teeny tiny bit on asymmetric. The most traditional form is symmetric encryption, which is when the same key (previously agreed upon by both parties) is used to encrypt and decrypt messages, such as in Caesar's Cipher and Vigenère's cipher. (In future columns, we'll talk about the other types and the history of more advanced encryption methods such as Diffie-Hellman, RSA, and more!).

However, on the Internet, it is clearly impossible for any two computers to "meet" in private and agree upon a secret key to encrypt and decrypt messages. So, instead,

See next page

Times **Community News**

Report: 2021's Best Places for Summer Jobs

With summer approaching and the leisure and hospitality sectors of entertainment and tourism recently gaining 331,000 jobs that were restricted during the pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub took an in-depth look at 2021's Best Places for Summer Jobs.

To help job seekers find the best summer employment opportunities, WalletHub compared more than 180 markets in the U.S. across 23 key metrics. The data set ranges from the median income of part-time workers to the availability of summer jobs to COVID-19 cases.

Top 20 Cities for Summer Jobs

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Scottsdale, AZ | 11. Missoula, MT |
| 2. Bismarck, ND | 12. Columbia, MD |
| 3. Cheyenne, WY | 13. West Valley City, UT |
| 4. Billings, MT | 14. South Burlington, VT |
| 5. Salt Lake City, UT | 15. Minneapolis, MN |
| 6. Overland Park, KS | 16. Rapid City, SD |
| 7. Juneau, AK | 17. Tempe, AZ |
| 8. Charleston, WV | 18. Dover, DE |
| 9. Boise, ID | 19. Chandler, AZ |
| 10. Portland, ME | 20. Fargo, ND |

GEMS, continued

they use **asymmetric encryption**. In this type of encryption, there are different keys for encrypting and decrypting. There is a public key that can be exchanged with anyone, which is used to encrypt a message and that anybody can use to create a secret message. Then, there is a private key that is not shared, and the secret can only be decrypted by a computer with access to the corresponding private key.

As computers are becoming faster and faster, we need to start developing new ways to make encryption too hard for computers like Karen to break. But hopefully, Taylor doesn't join in on this, finding and deciphering her messages is hard enough as is.

So there you have it folks, my not-so-secret motivation for this column! I hope we can all put these basic methods to use and accurately figure out what Miss Swift is try-

Best vs. Worst

• **Orlando, Florida**, has the most part-time job openings per 1,000 people aged 16 to 24 in the labor force, 317.59, which is 23.4 times higher than in New York, the city with the fewest at 13.59.

• **Scottsdale, Arizona**, has the highest median income for part-time workers (adjusted for cost of living), \$27,317, which is than 3.5 times higher than in New York, the city with the lowest at \$7,817.

• **Portland, Maine**, has the highest labor-force participation rate of people aged 16 to 24, 78.12 percent, which is 2.1 times higher than in Irvine, California, the city with the lowest at 37.25 percent.

• **Portland, Maine**, has the lowest unemployment rate for people aged 16 to 24, 4.57 percent, which is 6.2 times lower than in Detroit, the city with the highest at 28.31 percent.

• **Gilbert, Arizona**, has the lowest share of people aged 16 to 24 living in poverty, 6.91 percent, which is 8.1 times lower than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the highest at 55.81 percent.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-places-for-summer-jobs/21137>

ing to say to us. In the meanwhile, eagerly wait for the next album by streaming folklore and evermore! I also have a sneaking suspicion that current up-and-comer Olivia Rodrigo is taking after Taylor Swift and is leaving secret clues for her fans—does anyone else think her next album will be called Sweet? Seems a little suspicious... Case in point, we must exercise constant vigilance!

Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvap-writes@gmail.com.

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

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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 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.churchsanthony.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

or 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 5:00 PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00 AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
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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SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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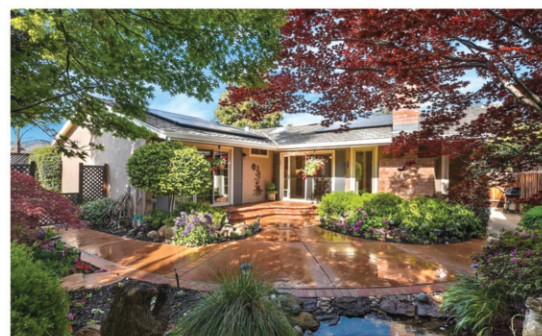
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