

Thieves ransack a mail truck near Quimby Road; caught on video
SEE PAGE 4



Chaboya victories
Chaboya Middle School Science Olympiad teams win 342 awards, finish fourth in Nor-Cal finals – **SEE PAGE 4**

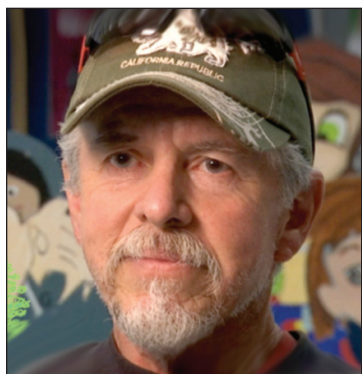
Sikh Gurdwara provides 85 oxygen concentrators and 250 ventilators to India through donations
SEE PAGE 12



JUNE 18 – JULY 1, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 13

EvergreenTimes

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James Herrera named ESD 2021 Classified Employee of the Year

By William Bellou
Publisher

James Herrera (above) has been named 2021 Classified Employee of the Year for the Evergreen School District (ESD).

Herrera, who works as a custodian at Holly Oak Elementary School for more than eight years, is recognized by staff and students alike as “artist in residence.” You see, he is much more than a custodian due to his incredible talent of cutting out young person-sized images on cardboard, then sending them home for students to decorate.

See HERRERA, page 2



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L-R: **Jasleen Randhawa** and **Daksh Jain** have won The National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand Nationals tournament debate.

Two Silver Creek High School seniors win national debate tournament championship

Silver Creek High School seniors Daksh Jain and Jasleen Randhawa have won The National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand Nationals tournament debate held virtually with USDA Campus May 28-30.

After going undefeated and winning ten rounds of debate, Daksh and Jasleen earned the titles of NCFL national champions. NCFL is one of the two major speech and debate associations in the United States.

Daksh and Jasleen participated in four years of after-school practices, weekends devoted to tournaments, and summers spent at debate camp, which all paid off. They both graduated

from Silver Creek High School last week, and are both headed off to UC Berkeley in the fall.

“Winning this tournament really felt like it validated all four years of our debate career,” said Daksh and Jasleen. “So often, even after putting in hours of prep with Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL) coaches, we ended up close but it was never enough to make it to the top. Well, today we changed that, and all it took was taking a step back for the year to focus on coaching our team.”

Jasleen and Daksh said they improved the most this year during the

See DEBATE, page 2

East Side Union High School District projects \$39M deficit in two years

The estimated enrollment decline for 2022 is approximately 500 students

By Times staff writers

At the East Side Union High School District (ESUHS) Board meeting held June 3, Chris Jew, Associate Superintendent of Business Services explained that ESUHS has a projected deficit of \$39M in two years.

The deficit revelation, a worst-case scenario, was presented to provide the Santa Clara County Office of Education a written agreement promising ESUHS will find a way to remove the deficit.

The presentation revealed that education is being funded at a level never before seen in the past. However, the economic situation of ESUHS is dependent on a stable enrollment. Unfortunately, there’s an enrollment decline in the feeder districts which roll over to the high school district. The projected enrollment decline for 2022 is estimated to exceed 500 students.

A few different one-time federal stimulus funds gave the district a “life preserver” in that it pushed off deficit issues for two years.

The recent four percent pay raise for teachers at ESUHS and other costs associated with retirement funds create additional funding requirements that must be dealt with year after year. Additionally, the district added many new FTE (Full Time Employees) which were presented in charts during the presentation.

To address the deficit nightmare, the ESUHS starts with its LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) and builds the budget according to how the district plans to lead its future.

The ESUHS will need to grapple with how to solve this \$39,600 in projected needed cuts just two years away. It was stated that budgets are updated and change year-to-year.

To view the budget presentation on YouTube, including PowerPoint graphs addressed during the ESUHS Board meeting, type “ESUHS June 3 board meeting,” or use this abbreviated link: tinyurl.com/yyz9tt73

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed by scrolling ahead to the 3hr, 15 min mark. (3:22 and 18 seconds (chart on educational funding); 3:35 and 43 seconds (chart on future deficit); 3:38 and 12 seconds (chart on fiscal solvency resolution)).

Editor's Note: The East Side Union High School District welcomes public input. One can email the Superintendent and or School Board at esuhsd.org

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

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L-R: **Daksh Jain** and **Jasleen Randhawa** have won The National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand Nationals tournament debate.

Debate

Continued from page 1

COVID-19 pandemic.

"While it might seem counterproductive, we probably improved the most this year, while minimally debating. Coaching our freshmen made us think more critically about the arguments we were making, and understand debate from both a judge's and coach's perspectives. After this weekend, we are very excited to see what our win can

do for SVUDL and urban debate in general. We're glad to prove that you don't need to be as well funded to win, all you need is dedication and smart arguments."

About SVUDL

Silicon Valley Urban Debate League helps low-income youth tap the power of their voices to compete, excel, and change the world. A coalition of local educators and community leaders founded the group in June 2014 to fill a startling gap in opportunities in the high-poverty schools of San Jose and the Peninsula.

Herrera

Continued from page 1

Herrera's creations are all over Holly Oak: sculptures, paintings, and mosaics adorn almost every building at the school. Herrera now has more than 100 displayed on the school's playground, bringing "life," back to Holly Oak during the pandemic.

The school's principal, Kyle Sanchez, says in all his years as an administrator, he's never worked with someone quite like Herrera. "His commitment to bringing up the morale of our students and teachers has been remarkable."

"The moral was down," Herrera said. "So, what I did was help build them up," Herrera said.

"James knows that distance learning has left many students feeling disconnected from their school community and he wanted to let them know they were missed," Sanchez said. "I know he is and has been looking forward to the day when ALL his 'kids' will safely return to school."

In addition to his duties as a custodian, Herrera created a variety of student activities and after school programs for student participation.

One activity created by Herrera is the After School Art Club, sponsored by classroom teachers.

In addition, he makes a point to know each student's name and acknowledges them whenever he sees them on campus.

Herrera was featured on NBC Bay Area for his "Still Together, Safe Together" cardboard cut-out project that connected stu-



dents to the school while they were distance learning which according to the ESD Superintendent, Emy Flores, "brought joy our parents, students and the community."



Times **Community News**

Evergreen School District hires new principal Armando Lara of J.F. Smith Elementary School

The Evergreen School District (ESD) Board of Trustees approved hiring Armando Lara as the new Principal of James Franklin Smith Elementary School at its meeting on June 10, 2021.

Lara has worked in the Evergreen School District for nearly 20 years and has served ESD as a Teacher, Project Specialist, Assistant Principal, District SARB Chair, and Interim Principal at O.B. Whaley Elementary School, LeyVa Middle School, and James Franklin Smith Elementary School.

Lara began his assignment as Interim Principal at James Franklin Smith School in January 2021 when former Principal, Roberta Ortega retired. He worked closely with his staff and adjusted well to the Distance Learning, Pilot Phase, and Hybrid Model. Along with his commitment, perseverance, and the dedication of his teachers, he led the school to continue learning together to achieve everyone's highest potential.

Lara said he firmly believes every child can exceed, and the cooperation between home and school builds trust and self-esteem in students. He promotes for students

to use their highest potential to shape their futures. It is his priority to advance the school culture of excellence. He is devoted to continually exploring new ideas to meet all students' needs and interact with parents and community members efficiently.

During his early years, Lara grew up partly in Mexico and Watsonville, California. He graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelors in Child Development and a Masters in Educational Leadership. He holds a Multiple Subject and Administrative Credential and authorization for Bilingual, Cross-Cultural, Language, and Academic Development in Spanish.



ESD Board President, Chris Corpus stated, "Mr. Armando Lara is the ultimate student-centered leader. He leads not for

personal attention, but to make sure that children, parents, and staff have everything they need to be successful. He takes the time to communicate, get every detail taken care of, and be sure that each person feels heard. If someone ascribed superpowers to Mr. Lara, they would say kindness and fairness."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Facebook scam leaves victims to deal with consequences

Dear Editor,

I believe this is a public safety concern.

I'm writing regarding falling victim to a scam. The imposters got a hold of me on Facebook through an application name telegram. I believe they may be luring people to invest by posing as bitcoin.cryptomaxinvestmet.com.

This event has severely impacted my life. There is nothing one can do when they fall victim. We are left with the consequences of our actions. Followed by health concerns that consist of high blood pressure, tunnel vision, sensitivity to sounds, mental health issues also are prevalent forms of psychosis, compulsions, somatic, depression.

Unfortunately, there are only three detectives who work on these types of cases which involve high crimes. The police department will not investigate if you don't have a suspect. There is no way to recuperate money loss. Anxiety is manifesting on its own.

In society there seems to be an agreement with the universe. One person alone cannot distinguish truth from false. It takes a team of trusted individuals to reverse such harm. For that I'm very grateful

to have the Silicon Valley medical system stepping in to help me. There is help out there for those who have been impacted by any traumatizing event. It's very hard to go out in public it's hard to keep a good spirit. I'm asking for some support from the community. I created a go fund me <https://gofund.me/b28550f3> please check it out, Thank you.

I would like to say thank you to the first responders who are very brave when confronting such unfortunate events like the Gilroy garlic festival and the Light Rail Station. There are many things that can be done to overcome this pain. Suicide, or homicide is not one of them, it will not make things better. I plead for some help to keep it together, I know this is a long shot; it's one of many options.

If you report a crime and they cannot investigate; one takes matters into their own hands. Not everybody has the same coping mechanisms to deal with life's problems. Mental health awareness needs more attention. Since the incident which began in May i have had little to no appetite. I've exhausted my resources to no avail, these crimes go unpunished and the perpetrators get to roam free!

If anybody has been impacted by this type of event, please reach out to me for support; I can use any or all information. Thank you for your time in reading my plea for help.

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Silver Creek Academy offering week-long academic summer camps

Silver Creek Academy is offering a variety of week-long academic camps this summer to meet the individual needs of students in the Evergreen Community.

The demand for these camps has been high as the county rolls back Covid restrictions. Taught by credentialed teachers, the academy is offering academic programs and weekly summer camps in the areas of writing and grammar, reading comprehension, mathematics, leadership, study skills, and public speaking and debate.

"We have structured our academic camps to provide each child with the individualized support needed to get him or her back on track given the challenging academic school year the students have experienced," Silver Creek Academy's founder Shelley Swircek said.

To prep for the summer, the academy has restructured the center to allow for social distancing and lowered the student/teacher ratios even further to provide more individual support. Students can attend the academic camps and programs live online or in person at Silver Creek Academy.

"We are dedicated to helping our students thrive after this unique academic school year and are working hard to fully prepare them to enter the upcoming 2021/2022 school year," Swircek said.

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

Valley Currents

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

Chaboya Middle School Science Olympiad teams win 342 medals, ribbons and finish fourth in Northern-California State finals

By William Bellou
Publisher

Chaboya Middle School in Evergreen Valley has a reputation for outstanding achievements in STEM.

This year Chaboya's Red team finished 4th at the Nor-Cal State finals, 3rd in Santa Clara County Regionals followed by White and Black teams in 7th and 10th overall team ranking.

The theme of this year's tournament was innovation where 45 students from Chaboya Middle School participated in various competitions across the nation, winning 342 medals during the competition.

The 2020-2021 academic year resulted in the National Science Olympiad to provide an opportunity for remote tournaments. Despite the challenges due to the pandemic, students competed against some of the best national winning teams.

Some of the notable tournaments were Harvard and Brown University Invitational Massachusetts-Rhode Island, University of Chicago, Rickards Florida, Cumberland Pennsylvania, Solon & Rustin-Ohio, and Sierra Vista So-Cal.

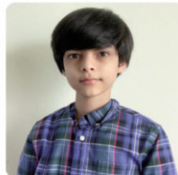
Chaboya teams competed in a total 16 Tournaments including the Santa Clara Regional winning 342 medals, team ribbons and 8 team trophies throughout the season.

Chaboya's students demonstrated talent, collaborative spirit, perseverance and dedication indicating a strong commitment to STEM education.

The coaches said, "We are extremely proud



Chaboya Red



- Top Left: Ojasvi Mudda, Meha Sridhar, Ansh Singhal, Audrey Chiu, Anaya Jain
- Nisa Keshwani, Vinay Singamsetty, Sreekar Baddepudi, Laya Krishnan, Tanvi Sudireddy
- Deshna Shekar, Soham Palaiya, Punnet Nalluru, Zhitong Zou, Nithin Lokesh

of our students' as they have shown what could be achieved through vision, creativity, hard work and drive. We are thankful to Principal Dr. Marena Doxie; competing this season would not have been possible without her support from helping us in organizing a virtual open house to working alongside the coaches throughout the registration process."

Parents of participating students' were instrumental in leading their children towards

success. Science Olympiad is a national organization that is primarily known for hosting academic tournaments across America for K-12th grade students. Founded in 1984 nearly 8,000 teams in all 50 states compete in various invitationals, regional, state and national tournaments.

The tournaments are structured to incorporate approximately two dozen different

See CHABOYA, page 8

Thieves ransack a mail truck near Quimby Rd.

Many Evergreen Valley residents are worried their personal information, credit cards, and other packages could be in the hands of thieves.

This week a video was released and shown on NBC Bay Area of a surveillance camera which captured someone last week clearing out a postal truck near Quimby Rd.

The US postal inspector is asking for the public's help to capture the suspect committing what they said is a very serious federal crime and an award is being offered of up to \$10,000 for anyone



who identifies the suspects in the video. Postal inspectors investigating the incident are reviewing the surveillance video.

Surveillance video from Sturla Drive shows a man, who is not a postal service employee, opening the sliding back door of a mail truck. He then brings in a woman, and the two of them stuff their car with mail.

There is no explanation of how the thief was able to unlock the truck's door, which is locked whenever a mail carrier is delivering mail by a foot route.

Pictured: Surveillance video shows thieves ransacking a mail truck in San Jose. © Provided by NBC Bay Area

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Here's where you'll still have to wear a mask

California officially reopened on June 15 after over a year of restrictions and closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those fully vaccinated will be allowed to do almost everything they did pre-pandemic without wearing a mask including grocery shopping, drinking at a bar, and going to the gym, according to Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's Health and Human Services Secretary.

If you're not vaccinated, you're still going to have to wear a mask in "indoor public settings." That includes grocery stores, shops, restaurants, movie theaters and other indoor businesses.

There are other situations and places where masks will be required regardless of vaccination status. It all can be a bit confusing,

so we've broken down the rules below.

Masks still required for everyone in the following places in California

Any form of public transportation (think commuter buses and railroad systems) including airports and planes. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended their mask requirement through September 13, 2021. So yes, you will be required to wear a mask for your next trip out of LAX, regardless of whether you are vaccinated or not.

Hospitals and long-term care facilities: Even if you are fully vaccinated, you are still required to wear a mask in healthcare set-

tings like hospitals and long-term care facilities such as assisted living and nursing homes. When the new mask guidance for vaccinated individuals was initially released in May, the American Hospital Association (AHA) asked for a clarification to which the CDC emphasized that new masking recommendations for people fully



vaccinated against COVID-19 do not apply to health care settings.

Indoors at K-12 schools and childcare facilities: Dr. Ghaly announced Wednesday that people, including teachers and students, who are vaccinated are still going to need to wear masks when they are indoors. However, they don't have to wear masks while outdoors, like on a playground.

Prisons and homeless shelters: In accordance with CDC guidance, masks will still be required in correctional and detention facilities as well as homeless shelters.

Indoor workplaces (with one important exception): Last Thursday, the California Occupational

Safety and Health Standards Board approved controversial rules that will require masks to stay on in the workplace for the time being. The exception? Workers can go maskless only if every employee in a room is fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Disneyland: If you want to visit the most magical place on Earth vaccinated individuals will not need to mask. After California's reopening is that the capacity limits at Disneyland and Disneyland California Adventure will be lifted.

Masks required for unvaccinated individuals

Dr. Ghaly announced that unvaccinated Californians will still have to wear masks at all indoor public settings, like stores, restaurants, salons and the like. This is an update that goes further than CDC guidance, which suggests masking but doesn't require it.

Additional information you should know regarding mega events

Indoor mega events (examples: NBA games, Staples Center events, or any other indoor conventions, conferences, expos or concerts)

Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result will be required of all attendees. If you do not meet these requirements, you will not be admitted to the event or venue.

Outdoor mega events (examples: MLB games at Dodger Stadium, Hollywood Bowl concerts or any music or food festivals, car shows, marathons, etc.)

Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result will be strongly recommended for all attendees per state guidance, but not required. However, if you are not fully vaccinated nor have a pre-entry negative COVID-19 test, you will still be admitted to the event as long as you wear a mask.

How will businesses verify if customers are vaccinated or not?

If you don't need a mask when you're vaccinated, but you do need one if you're not -- how is a business supposed to know? They have three choices, according to Dr. Ghaly:

- Allow individuals to "self-at-test" they've been vaccinated
- Implement a vaccine verification system
- Require everyone to wear a mask

If a business has information posted visibly about the new guidelines (that unvaccinated people still need to wear masks) and someone walks into a business without a mask on, that should be interpreted as someone self-attesting they are vaccinated, Ghaly said.



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Times Feature

Evergreen School District hires new Director of Fiscal Services

The Evergreen School District (ESD) Board of Trustees approved hiring **Jenina Moreno** (inset) as its new Director of Fiscal Services at its regular board meeting on June 10, 2021.

Moreno has been working in finance since graduating from U.C. Santa Barbara starting in the technology sector then moving to public education. She was instrumental at Santa Clara County Office of Education assisting school communities and district staff learn and understand school business areas such as Attendance Accounting, Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

As Chief Business Officer of her previous school district, she handled all operations - Finance, Facilities, Technology, and Nutrition. She kicked off the Facilities Master Planning Process including preliminary design of the multipurpose room expansion and track & field renovation. Her work in refinancing bonds saved taxpayers millions of dollars. Under her leadership, the District expanded technology adoption, increasing computing devices and internet connectivity on campus, creating a path to a one-to-one environment, which prepared all students to adjust to distance learning.

"I'm so happy to be able to work where I consider 'home,'" Moreno said. "I grew up in the East Side and Evergreen Valley."

Moreno and her husband are proud parents of Evergreen School District students (two current and two graduates).

ESD Board President, Chris Corpus stated "We welcome Ms. Jenina Moreno to the Evergreen family. We look forward to her finance expertise, especially in these rapidly changing times."



William Florentino named to Dean's List of College of William & Mary

William Florentino of Evergreen Valley (inset) has been named to College of William & Mary Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester.

Florentino, an Environmental Science & Policy major, serves as ASB (Associated Student Body) Commissioner of Public Service for Bellarmine's student government. He works with several service clubs and nonprofits at Bellarmine and around the Bay Area in the creation of service projects and events. Projects created and or run include book drives, annual blood drive, an inter-scholastic beach clean-up, and the AGAPE club's CRS Rice Bowl campaign. Florentino served as a Teacher Assistant for Math Enrichment Services in 2018.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

The College of William & Mary is a public research university in Williamsburg, Virginia. Founded in 1693 by letters patent issued by King William III and Queen Mary II, it is the second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States, after Harvard University.



San José Police Department holding DUI checkpoint June 26

The San José Police Department will hold a DUI Checkpoint June 26 from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. at an undisclosed location within City limits.

Checkpoint locations are chosen based on a history of DUI crashes and arrests. The primary purpose of checkpoints is not to make arrests, but to promote public safety by deterring drivers from driving impaired.

During the checkpoint, Officers will look for signs that drivers are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"The safety of our community is and always will be our mission," Sergeant Connolly said. "We are still proactively working because driving under the influence is still danger-

ous and puts a further strain on critical resources."

The San José Police Department reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or "operating heavy machinery," which includes driving a car. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal.

If you plan on drinking or taking medications that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying at home.

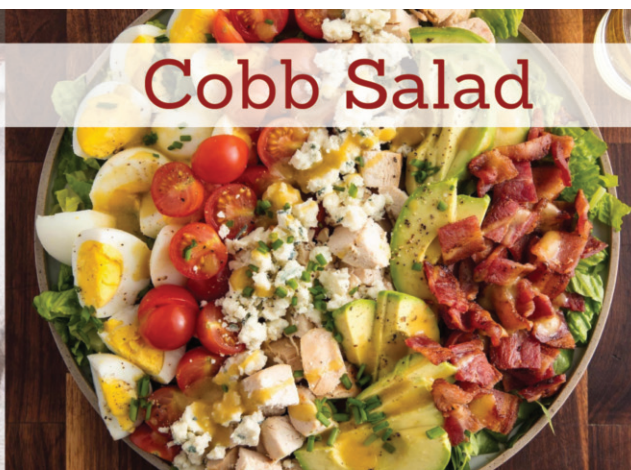
Drivers charged with DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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Times **Feature**

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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Chaboya White



- Top Left: Vidarth Anbu, Krish Siddhiwala, Tanishka Taware, Shreyas Vinchurka, Saathivka Sripathi
- Keerthi Kalluri, Arnav Praveen, Sriaditi Yellamraju, Sri Keerthana Jandhya, Anoushka Vijay
- Neha Reddy Janga, Shivangi Kumari, Sahiti Rayaprolu, Swarasai Mulagari, Saanika Wanzakhade

Chaboya

Continued from page 4

team-based events; the format offers a naturally engaging option for young students to learn more about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through an extracurricular investigation-based curriculum thus including many facets of science education.

Coaches, Administrators and Team Captains

This year's coaches and administrators included Chaboya's Principal Dr. Marena Doxie, Head Coach Rekha Chowlur (CMS and SCHS); Co-Coaches Preeti Mudda, Jagannathrao Mudda, Vijay Parmar, Richa Singhal, and Karthik Krishnaswamy (2016-2020). Team Captains: Dhruva Chowlur, Junior Silver Creek HS (2016-Present). Space & Physical Science, Technology & Engineering: Sahana Chowlur, Freshman Silvercreek HS (2018-Present); Space Science, Chemistry, Technology & Engineering: Ojasvi Mudda, Freshman Evergreen Valley HS (2018-Present) Life Science, Nature & Enquiry of Sciences.

Alumni Subject Experts & Resource Contributors: Felicia Chiu-Freshman Evergreen Valley HS, Shiven Pandey-Sophomore Bellarmine College Preparatory, Sashank Balusu-Freshman Archbishop Mitty HS, Rishit Agarwal-Freshman Evergreen Valley HS, Prajwal Vandana-Freshman Evergreen Valley HS, Rashiq Mazumder-Freshman Archbishop Mitty HS.

2020-2021 Season medal winners:

2020-2021 Season medal winners: Ojasvi Mudda(32), Meha Sridhar(22), Ansh Singhal(18), Audrey Chiu(16), Anaya Jain (16), Nisa Keshwani (14), Vinay Singamshetty (14), Sreekar Baddepudi (13), Laya Krishnan (13), Tanvi Sudireddy (13), Deshna Shekar (13), Soham Palaiya (10), Zaki Shaikh (8), Riya Virajpet (7), Anya Iyer (7), Puneet Nalluru (6), Parth Ganga (6), Arya Kamat (6), Rish Kamity (6), Tarun Dinesh (6), Vidarth Anbu (6), Zhi-tong Zou (5), Sainithishraj Omprakash (4), Abhinav Gorrepati (4), Rajvir Singh (4), Suditi Kedemdadi (4), Nithin Lokesh (3), Shrinand Bangalore (3), Krish Siddhiwala (3),
See CHABOYA, next page



Chaboya Black



- Top Left: Zaki Shaikh, Riya Virajpet, Anya Iyer, Parth Ganga, Arya Kamat
- Rish Kamity, Tarun Dinesh, Sainithishraj Omprakash, Abhinav Gorrepati, Rajvir Singh
- Shrinand Bangalore, Aarnav Nagabhirava, Zaki Abbasi, Mahika Gar, Varini Kadakia

Times **Feature****Chaboya**

Continued from previous page
Aarnav Nagabhirava (2), Tanishka Taware (2), Shreyas Vinchurkar (2), Zaki Muhammad Abbasi (1), Saathvika Sripathi (1), Keerthi Kalluri (1), Saanika Wanzakhade (1), Arnav Praveen (1), Sriaditi Yellamraju (1). Top 15th placements: Mihika Garg, Varini Kadakia, Sri Keerthana Jandhyala, Anoushka Vijay, Neha Reddy Janga, Shivangi Kumari, Sahiti Rayaprolu, Swarasai Mulagari.

Chaboya Red Team places 2nd

For the 2019-2020 Season Teams, Chaboya Middle School competed in various in-person competitions throughout the year and ended the competition on a high note winning 112 medals for the season. For the first time in Chaboya's Science Olympiad tournament history, the Chaboya Red Team placed second overall team rank followed by Black and White teams placing 10th and 14th Place. The teams could not progress to regional and state competition as a result of state shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and overall cancellation of all future tournaments.

**Chaboya Administrators, Coaches and Captains**

- **Principal:** Dr Marena Doxie, **Head Coach:** Rekha Chowlur, **Co-Coaches:** Preeti Mudda, Richa Singhal, Jagannathrao Mudda, Vijay Parmar, Karthik Krishnaswamy
- **Co-Captains:** Dhruva Chowlur(SCHS), Sahana Chowlur(SCHS), Ojasvi Mudda(EVHS)
- **Alumni Resources Contributors:** Rishit Agarwal(EVHS), Felicia Chiu(EVHS), Prajwal Vandana(EVHS), Rashid Mazumder(AMHS), Shashank Balusu(AMHS), Shiven Pandey(BCP)

2019-2020 Season medal winners

2019-2020 Season medal winners are: Ojasvi Mudda (8), Rishit Agarwal (8), Anuj Seth(8), Akshita Raghuram (8), Sahana Chowlur (7), Audrey Chiu (7), Felicia Chiu (6), Meha Shridhar (5), Prajwal Vandana (5), Anisha Shukla (5), Rashid Mazumder (4), Ritwin Narra (4), Vinay Singamsetty (4), Sashank Balasu(3), Ritvik Ivuturi (3), SreeKarthik Govindraj (3), Aditya Karthik (2), Raghva Garmila (2), Parth Mehta (2), Anya Iyer (2), Sophia Li (2), Nisa Keshwani

(2), Tanvi Sudireddy (2), Hrishikesh Lakshman (1), Vaishali Jha (1), Zaki Shaikh (1), Atharava Ahir (1), Arya Kamat (1), Kashvi Jain (1), Parth Ganga (1), Amlan Mahapatra (1), Ruthivk Sengireddy (1), Jay Parekh (1).

Top 15 placements: Nihira Kalapatapu, Pavan Jaganathan, Pranati Prashanth, Anish, Srikanth Bangalore, Sainithesh Omprakash, Isha Desai, Riya Virajpet, Ansh Singhal, Abhiram Manuguri, Zaki Muhammad Abassi, Esha Shivakumar, and Deshna Shekar.

SCHOOLS REPORT**Getting outdoors is good for physical and mental health**

By Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

We are so fortunate to live in an area of the country that provides legendary scenery and diverse landscapes, coast to coast.

Being able to get outside and enjoy nature is a prescription for better health. It is an endorsement for exploration, recreation, and reinvigoration of our physical and mental well-being.

June is Great Outdoors Month. While connecting to the outdoors means different things to different people, spending time outside lowers stress, blood pressure, and heart rate. In 2020, researchers at Cornell University found that as little as 10 minutes in a natural setting can help us feel happier and lessen the effects of both physical and mental stress. So,

whether you're walking, biking, or digging around in the garden this weekend, start by exploring the great outdoors that is in our

very own backyards and experience all it has to offer. Then, should you choose to travel a little farther, the Santa Clara County parks & trails have ample choices for visitors.

For those who visit any of Santa

Clara County's 28 magnificent parks, be sure to capture the moment! Santa Clara County parks & trails hopes to collect images capturing a moment in time found in nature. Be sure to post your photos on social media, and tag the photo with #SCCParksCalendar and #WeAreSCCOE so we can journey with you.

For more information, visit: sccgov.org/sites/parks/Pages/County-Parks-Calendar-Contest.aspx



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Times **Feature**

Valley Water Board Chair Tony Estremera issues statement on declaration of water shortage 'EMERGENCY' condition

Landscape Rebate Program amount to be increased beginning July 1

Valley Water Board Chair Tony Estremera issued a statement on declaration of water shortage emergency condition June 9.

"Santa Clara County is in extreme drought. We can't afford to wait to act as our water supplies are being threatened locally and across California. We are in an emergency and Valley Water must do everything we can to protect our groundwater resources and ensure we can provide safe, clean water to Santa Clara County residents and businesses.

To better deal with these threats and the emergency they are causing, today my fellow Board Members and I unanimously declared a water shortage emergency condition in Santa Clara County. This declaration, which is among the strongest actions we can take under law, allows Valley Water to work with our retailers, cities and the county to implement regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water. We also are urging the County of Santa Clara to proclaim a local emergency and join us in underscoring the seriousness of the threats posed by the extreme drought.

A call for 15% water reduction

Increased conservation is also necessary to protect local water supplies and guard against groundwater overdraft, subsidence, and dry domestic wells, especially if the drought extends into next year. That's why my fellow Board Members and I also are calling for a mandatory 15 percent reduction in water use compared to 2019.

Largest reservoir drained

These actions are necessary as we face further challenges to our local water supply. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ordered Anderson Reservoir to be drained for public safety as we strengthen the dam. This means the largest surface reservoir in Santa Clara County is out of service while performing this critical work.

Import of water cut

Our imported water supplies are decreasing because of the historic dry season. About 50 percent of our water supply comes from outside our county, and the depleted Sierra Nevada snowpack caused a significant reduction in the amount of imported water we will receive this year.

Emergency water being purchased

Valley Water is addressing this by working to withdraw previously banked supplies and purchasing emergency water from our partners.

We thank the many people who acted during the last drought and beyond to reduce their water use significantly. Water saved through the years is water we can use now. We urge the community to keep up that great work.

I ask our residents, businesses, and farmers to do your part to help us weather this extreme drought by taking part in our many rebate and conservation programs. Valley Water offers robust conservation programs that can help you save water and money, including an increase in our Landscape Rebate Program beginning July 1.

Learn about all our rebate programs, conservation tips and how to get free water-saving tools at watersavings.org

Volunteer events provide a safe way for residents to enjoy outdoor spaces

PRNS (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services) offer opportunities

Lake Cunningham Park in Evergreen Valley will host a Community Clean-up Day June 26.

PRNS (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services) now offer volunteer events throughout the month of June to provide residents a safe way to enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces and make a difference during their weekend.

All sessions will require volunteers to follow current COVID-19 safety protocol measures such as face coverings, social distancing, and symptom checks. All sessions have a limited capacity of volunteers to ensure ample space for social distancing.

Volunteers are provided with all necessary tools and training, and are asked to bring a water bottle, snacks, and wear closed toed shoes. All sessions will be held, rain or shine.

Garden Cleanup at Japanese Friendship Garden

1300 Senter Rd., San José, CA 95112

June 19; 8:45 a.m. - noon
40 volunteers max
www.eventbrite.com/e/japanese-friendship-garden-work-day-event-tickets-154757647289

Lake Cunningham Park Community Cleanup Day

Lake Cunningham, San José, CA 95148
June 26; 8:45 a.m. - noon
40 volunteers max
Community Day Cleanup at Lake Cunningham Park | City Calendar | City of San Jose (sanjoseca.gov)

www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3629/5117

Metcalf Park Community Cleanup Day

Forsum Rd., San José, CA 95138
June 26; 8:45 a.m. - noon
40 volunteers max
www.eventbrite.com/e/metcalf-park-community-day-tickets-154754638289

Those interested in volunteering must register in advance in the events. For more information, send email to: ParkVolunteer@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-595-3483.



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Times **Feature**

Sikh Gurdwara provides 85 oxygen concentrators and 250 ventilators to India through donations

By Kirpal Atwal

Board Director, San Jose Sikh Gurdwara

During the last three months, India has gone through a bad Covid-19 crisis and is still struggling against the pandemic.

The problem: India ran out of medical oxygen resulting in many patients not being able to breathe and they subsequently died.

Sufferers were crying. There are videos of terrible consequences of this pandemic.

Sikh Gurdwara of San Jose takes initiative

We had to start from scratch.

We researched where to get medical equipment.

For Sikhs it does not matter to whom or where, help goes as best as it can be provided to any race or religion. It is our way!

Members of the Gurdwara got on the phone and began to explore where ventilators could be purchased in support of the less fortunate. We discovered that the pow-

er converters in America do not work well with ventilators because America's plug-in power works on 110 volts whereas in India, the plug-in usage of power is 220 volts.

Mayor Sam Liccardo's staff helped direct us to those who might be able to help us in our questions.

We learned more about power conversion from the Santa Clara County Health Department. The County informed us that when shipping items to India it is best to purchase 220-volt equipment for it will work well there.

With more research, we learned that converters of electricity do not work well with such medical equip-

ment. Thus, our search went out over the internet to find ventilators and oxygen concentrators which make oxygen utilizing 220 volts.

We began Googling the makers of medical equipment items. This took us to China in which suppliers could deliver at a special price directly to India. We were on the

move and marching forward to help those in need. Helping lifts one's spirits!

Congregation answers call for help

We announced to our congregation the opportunity for donations for this important once in a lifetime historical cause. Outreach to our members resulted in enough donations to ship 85 oxygen concentrators and 250 (non-invasive and invasive) ventilators to different places in India last month. We are also planning to send more supplies in the months ahead.

Each of our donated oxygen concentrators are now placed in service producing medical oxygen which can be hooked up to two patients at a time, free of charge. This is a wonderful thing for so many struggling. It builds hope!

While working with an export agent in China we were asked, "Why are you donating these and not selling them?" I explained it is our way of helping the needy and one can Google Guru Nanak to learn more.

Editor's Note: To learn more about our free ventilator program and if you wish to donate to the Gurdwara to help the needy, visit their website: sanjosegurdwara.org



Oxygen concentrator helps COVID-19 patient in India.

Each of our donated oxygen concentrators are now placed in service and can be hooked up to two patients at a time, free of charge.



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Times **OpEd****Grass Roots letter requesting action by state leaders to strengthen, create new gun laws**By **Bob Dhillon***Community Peace Activist*

The following letter has been drafted by many in the Evergreen community on behalf of those who were senselessly murdered by lone gunmen. It is a letter of request for ACTION by government leaders in California and beyond. This situation goes beyond Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose, California and has become a horrible norm in California. Legislation has not been sufficient to ensure safety of the general public. This is not a time for appeasement but instead a time for ACTION.

BACKGROUND

In 1999 two teens killed 13 people and injured 20 in 16 minutes at Columbine High School and then turned the gun on themselves. Also, it is determined that some depression drugs can set off strange ideas of death to some, and warning signs perhaps can be seen on this too. New legislation needs to be made with regard to such drugs.

Columbine High School shooting brought mass shootings to the fore. More than 10 other school shootings have happened since then. One of the school principals said he worries the constant mass shootings have desensitized people and such actions are becoming more common place.

On December 14, 2012, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, shot and killed his mother at their Newtown home, after which he drove to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. He shot and killed twenty-six people -- 20 first-graders and six adults and then he shot himself in the head. Were their warning signs not acted upon? An enhanced RED FLAG LAW needs to be done so that people will better report odd behaviors of those who they believe could be a threat.

After Sandy Hook, we said never again. And then we let 2,654 mass shootings happen to July 21, 2020 plus many more since then. The average is once a day all over the United States. In California alone there have been 20 mass shootings from January to May 2021.

Mass Shootings spread from schools, to shopping malls, theatres, concerts, mosques, Gurdwaras and work places. No place is safe from mass shooters.

GUN CONTROL LAWS NEED CHANGING

Almost all mass shooters are determined mentally unstable. So called background checks are only for criminal history and probably only very serious crimes are entered in the FBI data base. Mental stability is not a requirement for gun ownership in the existing laws. This needs to be changed and we request California leaders to take action on this!

California's Red Flag laws are good but complicated often taking too long to get a restraining order. People are afraid to use these laws for fear of retaliation. Police should be able to confiscate firearms prior to the hearing before the judge. The Red Flag law is flawed and needs your help in updating it.

All firearms manufacturers should be re-

quired to put an electronic device with serial number and locator on each firearm. All licensed owners should be required to retrofit by renewal of their firearms license. All licensed firearms need to have liability insurance (Proposal by Mayor Liccardo of San Jose).

Only a limited amount of ammunition should be issued to each licensed firearms owner. At the time of purchasing additional ammunition, a new mandatory statement must be given by the owner as to where prior ammunition was used.

Sale of semi-automatic and automatic guns that practically spray the bullets should be banned. Such weapons should only be available to the Military.

California needs to control entry and exit of firearms and ammunition on all entry and exit points including air land and sea.

A call to ACTION

This letter has come about to ask for help from Governor Newsom and State Legislature, County Supervisors, San Jose Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members.

We need to strengthen the Red Flag Law in California and more.

History shows us a repeating situation where mass shooters kill others they do not know and then themselves. However, before they do this act, many around them notice that their behavior is suffering, that they have mental issues, yet no one acts.

Even management in companies get fed warning signs by employees but repeatedly do not act. For example, if you google this CNN article headline, it seems to point out possible warning signs, "The San Jose shooter was disciplined for 4 separate incidents prior to killing 9 coworkers, transit company says."

Often words are said about the upcoming act such as "I'm gonna kill you," yet the family members or work associates remain mum and do not even know what the "Red Flag Law" is.

At the Saturday VTA vigil one member of the County asked if the crowd "felt helpless." The crowd did not answer. So, we believe that yes we do feel helpless because our society and laws do not protect those who are killed.

Here is the video of the Vigil for the Valley Transportation Authority victims. It shows caring but it does not address this reoccurring situation in our minds (to see the vigil go to YouTube and type in VTA shooting vigil).

Some comment, never leave home without giving your loved one a kiss goodbye because you could be a victim of mass shooting. This is the feeling in the Bay Area after 9 died in San Jose at the VTA building early morning at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

What is the Red Flag Law

Why is it no one knows about the Red Flag Law and should management act when employees come to leaders and say they are concerned about how an employee is acting? Is management and residents afraid to use the Red Flag Law due to push back in the way the current law is worded?

See GUN LAWS, page 16



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Times Local News



Helpful tips to help save water amid drought

Residents doing their part to reduce daily water usage can alleviate emergency

Much of California is in a state of emergency due to serious drought conditions, which pushed up the beginning of the fire season. To make matters worse, a heat wave is predicted for later this week.

Valley Water's Board of Directors declared a water shortage emergency condition in Santa Clara County due to the extreme drought.

The Board of Directors also called for a mandatory 15% reduction in water use compared to 2019. Valley Water is the wholesale provider to Santa Clara County, and is collaborating with water retailers as they work to achieve the water use reduction target and communicate with their customers.

Many residents have already started doing their part to reduce their daily water usage which helps mitigate the water shortage emergency.

We thank the many people who acted during the last drought and beyond to reduce their water use significantly," said Tony Estremera, Chair of the Valley Water Board of Directors. "Water saved through the years is water we can use now. We urge the homeowners to keep up that great work, and ask businesses, and farmers to do their part to help us weather this extreme drought by taking part in our many rebate and conservation programs."

Here are some tips provided by homeowners that have experienced previously drought conditions and also from administrators at Valley Water.

The following tips and services can help residents track water usage, install simple water-saving devices in the bathroom and kitchen and even get serious about buying new water-efficient appliances and redoing their yards with sustainable landscaping.

- Run full loads of laundry and dishes. Washing dishes by hand, in most cases, could result in using more water than a fully loaded dishwasher.

- Scrape food off plates, instead of rinsing, before loading the dishwasher.

- Turn on the tap only when you need to rinse while brushing your teeth or shaving, or washing vegetables and dishes.

- Take showers instead of baths and make them short, five-minute showers. Showering uses almost a fifth of all water in the home and each minute you cut can save up to 5 gallons of water.

- Use buckets to capture water while your kitchen, shower or bath water is heating up, which you can use for watering your plants.

- In the summer, water your garden early in the morning or at night, preferably between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.

- Check and adjust sprinklers to make sure they're watering your plants and not wasting water spraying the sidewalk.

- Add mulch to planting areas to reduce water loss, as well as improve soil quality, and keep soil temperatures cooler.

- Don't use your hose to wash your patio or driveway.

- If possible, take your car to a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you must wash your car at home, use a bucket and sponge, not a hose.

- If you have a pool, keep it covered and reduce the temp to prevent evaporation.

- Only run garden fountains or waterfalls when entertaining.

- Check your local water district for water-conservation services, rebates and devices, such as apps or kits that can help you calculate your water usage or detect potential leaks in indoor or outdoor plumbing or irrigation systems.

Low-flow devices available

Valley Water in Santa Clara County and some other districts offer free low-flow showerheads and aerators for faucets to residents residing within each district. By replacing old showerheads with high efficiency showerheads, residents can save hundreds of gallons monthly.

Most homes have water-efficient toilets as well as clothes and dishwashing machines in order to save water, energy and money. If your home does not have low water use toilets, replacing them could save nearly 30 percent of your indoor water use.

The districts also offer different rebates, mostly for replacing lawns with water efficient landscaping. Valley Water, for example, offers rebates of up to \$2,000 for qualifying residences.

To apply for Valley Water landscaping rebates and learn about free low-flow devices, visit www.watersavings.org

Times **Local News**

This year's Villages Tennis Club Scholarship winners (left to right) are: **Rajeev Singh, Juliana Abuan, and Benny Le.**

Three Silver Creek High School students awarded Villages Tennis Club Scholarships

By **Claire Hintergardt**
Special to the Times

Three Villages Tennis Club Scholarships have been awarded to outstanding graduating students of Silver Creek High School, which was challenging this year due to remote schooling and COVID-19 restrictions.

The scholarship winners earned a superior academic record and they were each awarded a \$4,000 scholarship in honor of a person who has made a significant impact within the Villages Tennis Club.

The scholarship winners are: Raj Sheth, who will attend UCLA, earned a GPA of 4.52; Juliana Abuan, who will enroll at UC Davis, earned a GPA of 3.78; and Benny Le, who will attend San Jose State University, graduated with a 3.8 GPA.

Raj Sheth (Bob Peters Scholarship) – Raj is a computer science and engineering major. In addition to playing on the tennis team, he plays the bassoon.

Juliana Abuan (Dee Ramirez Scholarship) – Julia feels being a tennis doubles player has taught her many life lessons. Her interest in learning about people, how we think, interact and problem solve has led her toward the study of psychology.

Benny Le (M. A. Sridhar Scholarship) – Playing tennis taught Benny that when he faces a challenge, “I only need to step back, play around a bit, and then see what went wrong. It’s as simple as that.”

Contributors, Encouragers thanked

The Tennis Club thanks:

- Each person, family, school personnel and the scholarship contributors “who encouraged and provided their personal growth and opportunities.”

- Bob Peters, a former Tennis Club President, a founding member of the Tennis Club Scholarship Committee and a retired high school educator and administrator.

- M. A. Sridhar, a Tennis Club member who excelled in computer technology, made significant impact within the technology world and worked tirelessly on the Tennis Club website.

Dee Ramirez, of Ramirez Realty, recognized the scholarship benefits to the students and the value of higher education within our community.

To contribute to the Villages Tennis Club Scholarship program, send your check or money order to: The Villages Tennis Club Scholarship, C/O The Villages Golf and Country Club, 5000 Cribari Lane, San Jose, CA 95135.



The Villages Tennis Club Scholarship Co-Chairs **Phyllis Seeger** (left) and **Wendy Ferguson**.



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School District

“WHEREAS, to help each child grow academically, socially, and emotionally, Evergreen School District will open for 100% in-person learning in Fall 2021. Beginning on August 18, 2021, the Evergreen School District will utilize the same 180 days-a-year full-day schedules employed on March 13, 2020, prior to pandemic-related school closures and schedule changes, barring any county or state guidelines prohibiting it.

BE IT RESOLVED that today, Thursday, June 10, 2021, the Evergreen School District Board of Trustees declares its commitment to return to 100% In-Person Instruction during the 2021-2022 school year.”

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Times Feature

Gun laws

Continued from page 13

We ask for help from leaders. We request you ACT and not just talk and we request a response from you.

At this time, the Red Flag Law needs to be updated to mandate that anyone who has situations happen with co-workers or family members or neighbors which lead them to consider that the person is a danger to others, need to file a Red Flag complaint. Note, some girlfriends and wives

are raped by such perpetrators but they do not know about the RED FLAG LAW and it goes unreported due to fear of retaliation. This mindset needs to change.

Law enforcement must prioritize the follow up of exploring the complaint. Data collected must be shared with places of employment without fear of retribution. Also, law enforcement must share findings with employers without fear of retaliation or entanglement of law suits.

New Red Flag Law informational signs need to be posted in every workplace and

too, an annual review of the Red Flag Law needs to be done at mandated safety meetings.

We do not feel safe and we do feel hope-

Law enforcement must share findings with employers without fear of retaliation or entanglement of lawsuits.

less because the Red Flag Law and other proposed laws to cut down on gun violence are not being acted upon by government leaders.

With condolences to the families of those who lost their lives on Wednesday, May 26, 2021:

Paul Delacruz Megia, 42; Taptejdeep Singh, 36; Adrian Balleza, 29; Jose Dejesus Hernandez III, 35; Timothy Michael Romo,49; Michael Joseph Rudometkin, 40; Abdolvahab Alaghmandan, 63; Lars KeplerLane, 63; and Alex Ward Fritch, 49.

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Times **Feature****2021 Sacramento Bus Trip provides students an opportunity to speak earnestly with state representatives about education**

By Senator Dave Cortese

Special to the Times

Every year, students, teachers, school administrators, as well as local education advocates across our community, fill up a handful of school buses and head to our state's capitol to share their ideas and concerns about California's public education system with members of our State Legislature.

A tradition hosted by my office for the past two decades, the Sacramento Bus Trip for Education brings community members right to the decision-makers – this year, we carried on our tradition through a completely virtual format!

The 18th Annual Sacramento Bus Trip for Education shaped up to be another informative and earnest conversation with “Bus Trip participants” and my colleagues in the Senate and State Assembly: Senators John Laird, Josh Becker, Steve Glazer and Bob Wieckowski, as well as Assemblymembers Ash Kalra and Alex Lee.

There was much to discuss with students returning to their classrooms and schools navigating our educational landscape amid COVID-19 and beyond. Topics brought up during this year's trip ranged from school reopening to school-based mental health support systems, closing the digital divide for students, the State's education budget and more.

The dialogue was led by students of all ages who provided personal testimony that reflected on their educational experience during a time of drastically altered learning conditions.

Recounting her experience, first-generation college student and political science major at San Jose State University, Britney Ortiz, told Legislators, “Like many of my peers, I have had to face barriers throughout my academic journey. I have had to work a job, and sometimes two, throughout my college career in order to support myself, while anxiously striving to attain a 4.0 GPA.”

“I quickly found a community at my campus's Chicanx/Latinx student success center, where I was provided with so much support from staff who shared my similar background and motivated me to do well in school,” said the resilient Ortiz, who joined the Bus Trip to advocate for the adequate funding of our California State Universities.

Recognizing the financial challenges that today's college students face, especially here in our District, we discussed State efforts underway to ease this economic burden.

Assemblymember Kalra spoke on AB 1456, the Cal Grant Reform Act, that would improve accessibility to the Cal Grant program and ensure the program can cover non-tuition expenses such as basic needs and living expenses, while Senator Glazer touched on his bill, SB 785, that would expand student participation in the “California Promise Program” at CSU's that develops pathways to a more affordable college experience for students from first-generation, low-income, or underrepresented backgrounds.

But there is so much more work to be



Members of the public share their ideas and concerns about California's public education system with members of our State Legislature.

done these next few years as we exit a time of sweeping economic instability brought on by COVID-19.

By the same token, we've also seen a rise in levels of stress, depression, and anxiety for our students as a result of the pandemic.

Steven Luo, a junior at Evergreen Valley High School, spoke on the importance of accessibility in mental health services to support the behavioral well-being of every student and the fight for eliminating the stigma around accessing support, citing that nearly 50% of mental health issues are established by the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 24,

See BUS TOUR, page 19

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Times Op Ed

The first thing a spy must master is... Mathematics? An intro to Diffie-Hellman and Cryptography

By Apoorva Panidapu

Special to the Times

As a recap: 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.

I remember watching *Spy Kids* when I was younger and wishing that I, too, was a spy. I would daydream about doing killer gymnastics between sharp red laser beams and flying with those insane gadgets that they somehow let tiny children use. Then I grew up and realized that I am not at all physically fit enough for all the running they do, and that it was essentially free child labor (not once did I see those kids receive monetary compensation for their hard work).


**Gems in
STEM**

 By Apoorva
Panidapu


examples of this include Caesar's Cipher and Vigenère's cipher (both of which are discussed in the other article)!

But, there's a clear, enormous disadvantage of symmetric encryption: the lengthy process of creating and relaying keys. If you truly wanted to send secure spy messages, you presumably would not use the same key for each message. So how do you efficiently exchange keys to send more and more messages, maybe to hun-

dreds of different people—each with a different key? Simply put: you can't. Your spy mission will probably fail if you try to manage this many key switches, thus resulting in the end of the world (as these things typically go).

So what do we do? Do we just make all our secret messages public and hope for the best? As you have hopefully figured out, no! (In fact, this would probably end the world faster.) Fear not, we do not have to solve this problem all by ourselves—smart people have been working on it for a while! Indeed, American cryptographers **Whitfield Diffie** and **Martin Hellman** proposed a solution to this glaring problem in their innovative 1976 paper.

Diffie-Hellman

Their method is creatively called the Diffie-Hellman key exchange (but should officially be Diffie-Hellman-Merkle to recognize computer scientist Ralph Merkle's equal contribution), and was one of the first protocols to make use of public-key cryptography. To explain this method properly, let's set up a situation: me, an intelligent and experienced™ spy, wants to send you, a new spy with lots of potential, a secret message about my corrupt boss (who is actively trying to eavesdrop on our messages), but I can only send it on our public network. Now, unlike in symmetric encryption where there is one key, we have two keys: one that is public and one that is private. While the actual method involves big, big numbers, let's first think about it with a paint analogy!

First, we publicly agree on a key that doesn't need to be secret. In this analogy, we suppose this public key is a paint bucket filled with yellow paint that anyone can use. Now, we both separately select a secret paint color that we keep private. I select red and you select turquoise (the left and right column, respectively, in the picture at the top of page 20).

Now, here's the important part: we both take that public yellow paint bucket and mix it with our respective secret colors. After this, I now have an orange-ish paint (left column) and you have a light-blue paint (right column). Now, we can publicly exchange our new mixed paints. Finally, I mix

See GEMS, page 20

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Anyways, a lot of the trouble in spy movies seems to lie within the inability to communicate safely or securely, often-times because of an inside mole who has access to sensitive information that they use to thwart the 'good' spies. So, while I may not be able to contribute physically as a spy, perhaps we can do so intellectually—like one of those characters who rapidly types on like three different computers while relaying crucial information to the main characters.

To do this, today we will be talking about one of the four primary types of cryptography: **public-key cryptography** (also called asymmetric key cryptography)! To learn more about some other basics of cryptography, make sure to check out my last article!

As we learned last time, symmetric encryption (another one of the four types) is when the same key is used to encrypt and decrypt messages, and said key is previously agreed upon by both parties. Some

Times **Community News****Bus tour***Continued from page 17*

with 79% of youth and young adults experiencing mental health struggles not accessing care.

Responding to student mental health impacts is a priority for the State Legislature, with many looking to the model we championed here in our county: School-Linked Services. By connecting students and families to county mental health counseling and case management right at their school site campuses, partnerships between counties and local school systems like School-Linked Services can help reach those students that are not yet able to access existing services. With this concept in mind, the Legislature's Version of the 2021-22 State Budget includes an augmentation of \$200 million for Mental Health Student Services Act programs to provide grants for school and county mental health partnerships.

Our youngest Bus Trip participant was Erin, a brilliant 4th grade student attending Ben Painter Elementary School.

"The need for upgrading laptops and use of technology is a must and would be awesome if it happened," Erin said. "Students with advanced working technology would get higher grades than students without advanced technology."

As Erin fittingly pointed out, the pandemic has made clear that many students and families are being left behind due to

the significant digital divide in our community. Lack of digital access and broadband infrastructure inequity is an overarching issue that the State is committed to addressing for the long term.

We have learned from this pandemic that there is a poverty and racial divide that is very real across our state, and has led to social, psychological, health, and academic impacts on our students.

Equity was a common theme raised throughout the Bus Trip, for participants and Legislators alike, and is a lens through which many Legislators are viewing all policy and budget decision-making, myself included.

We were able to cover even more wide-ranging topics during this year's virtual Bus Trip and for those of you who would like to view a full recording of the discussion, visit the video gallery that is posted on my Senate website: <https://sd15.senate.ca.gov>.

I am eagerly anticipating next year's Bus Trip and the opportunity to bring this tradition back to our State Capitol building.

Senator Dave Cortese represents District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the San Jose City Council, and the East Side Union High School District Board.

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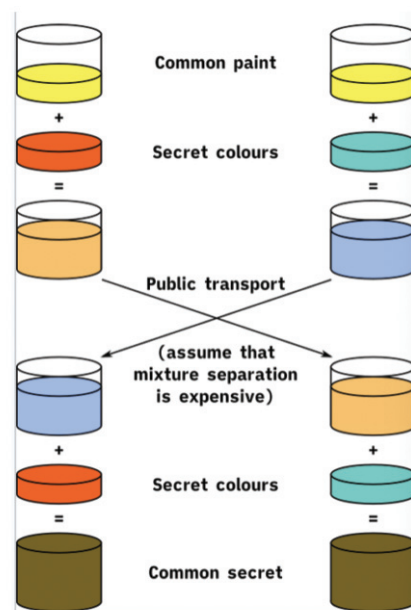
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Times Community News



Gems

Continued from page 19

the light-blue paint I got from you with my original secret paint (red), and end up with a muddy brown. Similarly, you mix the orange-ish paint you got from me with your original private paint (turquoise), and you end up with the same muddy brown color! Voila! We both now have a shared secret (the paint color) that no one else knows.

But what's to stop my corrupt boss from eavesdropping on our art exchange and recreating it? Well, he has access to the yellow paint and our public exchange of our first mixed colors (orange-ish and light-blue paint). However, he can't easily figure out our secret paints because, while it's easy to mix paint, it's not so easy to reverse this process and isolate the paint mixtures that went into it. Therefore, it's very difficult for him to create our final secret paint message. Hooray, corruption exposed!

Obviously, we can't really use this paint method to send our secret messages, so how does this translate to real-life numbers? Well, we can replicate the difficulty of "un-mixing paint" with prime numbers. It's easy to multiply two huge prime numbers together, but reversing the process of trying to factor a number into two huge primes is much, much harder. Intuitively, it does make sense because multiplication is, well, multiplication (which can also be thought about as adding)—it's pretty straight-forward for a computer to compute and is thus quick. But factoring an enormous number (I'm talking hundreds of digits long) requires a computer to run through and check prime after prime after prime, which therefore takes a super long time.

Alright, enough theoretical talk—let's see first-hand how Diffie-Hellman works with a numerical example! To make things clear, I'm choosing a simple example with small primes (which would not be used in real life) and brushing over some technical conditions. As a heads up, this example does require a little familiarity with modular arithmetic, so if that means nothing to you—feel free to skip! If you understand the above analogy, you're pretty much set.

Once again, I am trying to send you a secret message! (It's getting kind of tiring, to be honest. We should take this boss down soon.)

First, we publicly agree on a public prime $p = 37$ (which is our modulus) and base number $m = 5$.

Then, I choose a secret integer $a = 6$, and I calculate the number 11, as seen below.

$$A = m^a \pmod{p} \Rightarrow A = 5^6 \pmod{37} \equiv 11$$

(For those unfamiliar with modular arithmetic, note that taking a number A "mod p ," for any p , is just finding the remainder of dividing A by p . For example, 38 is equal to $1 \pmod{37}$ because $38/37$ has remainder 1.)

Now, you choose a secret integer! ...I'm waiting...CHOOSE FASTER. Okay, $b = 3$ it is! Then, you calculate the number 14, as seen below.

$$B = m^b \pmod{p} \Rightarrow B = 5^3 \pmod{37} \equiv 14$$

Bringing it back to the paint analogy, we see that the yellow paint is like our prime $p = 37$ and base number $m = 5$ here (both of which are available to everyone), and our secret integers are akin to our secret paint colors. Then, computing these congruences is like mixing our private paint with the public paint, as both the public values and private values are intertwined in the calculation!

Now, we exchange our numbers: I give you 11 and you give me 14 (just like how we exchanged our mixed paint colors).

Finally, I compute the below and get the number 36!

$$X = B^a \pmod{p} \Rightarrow X = 14^6 \pmod{37} \equiv 36$$

Similarly, you compute the below and get...36 too! (Feel free to check this yourself!)

$$Y = A^b \pmod{p} \Rightarrow Y = 11^3 \pmod{37} \equiv 36$$

Just like how we previously mixed our exchanged paint with our private paint, in the last step we involved our secret numbers in the computation and ended up with the same secret (the number 36), like we ended up with the same paint color at the end of the other example.

The reason, or proof, for why this works out numerically is actually fairly straightforward, but in the interest of time and keeping things simple, I'm not going to discuss it here. If you're interested, definitely search it up!

Like I mentioned before, real-world execution of this method would involve much bigger and badder primes and values (with hundreds of digits), so that even the fastest computers today would take at least hundreds of years to crack it, if at all. It's brilliant, incredible, amazing, show-stopping, spectacular...

Hold on, what do we even do with this shared secret? How does it allow us to pass secret messages? Well, since no one else has this number, we can make it our secret encryption key! With this key that only the two of us know, we can securely send messages on our public network. Mission accomplished. Now when do I get paid?

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

Times **Community News**

The secret way to get your vaccination today

COVID-19 Vaccination Center: Aloha Roller Rink – Eastridge Mall

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Even if you are covered by a major health coverage or have no coverage at all, the 7 day a week Aloha Roller Rink Vaccination Center is there for you to utilize.

Individuals who live or work in Santa Clara County and are age 12 or older are eligible for vaccination at the Aloha Roller Rink Vaccination Center at Eastridge. There is no cost to you for the vaccine. Schedule an appointment or drop in.

You can just get in your car and get your vaccination today! But be patient and if there is a line (which often there isn't), remember to be kind and thank the Stanford workers for all they do.

The location is at Eastridge Shopping Mall. Parking is easy. The Stanford nurses have everything all prepared and ready. Everyone gives rave reviews on the professionalism and too, there are many workers to properly take care of those coming in to take their Covid-19 vaccination.

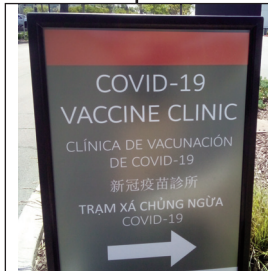
As far as what type of vaccination you

get goes, the center is allocated different vaccines so all you can do is drive up and ask and find out if it the one you like and can get that day.

Making an appointment is a breeze, why not make a date for your whole family for they are now vaccinating children 12+.

It is easy to schedule on line by doing a websearch for "Aloha Roller Rink Vaccination." Or, you can also schedule by phone Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. by calling (650) 498-9000. The last day to receive your vaccination at the Aloha Roller Rink clinic is June 28th.

Editor's Note: The visit is free, you can learn more by just typing into your computer web search; Aloha Roller Rink Vaccination. Also, our Times Media staff has checked the appointments for this week and they are vast, meaning there are plenty of openings and you can go any day you choose! Important: The last scheduled day for vaccinations at the clinic is June 28th. The address for Aloha Roller Rink Vaccinations is Aloha Roller Rink – Eastridge Mall 2190 Eastridge Loop #1402 San José, CA 95122.



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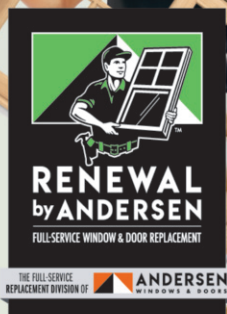
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Q) What is Islam, who are
Muslims, and what is the
Quran?

A) Islam is a faith and way
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7th century. People who
follow Islam are known as
Muslims. The Quran is the
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Reconciliation is every
Saturday at 4 p.m. or by
appointment. Our Parish
Office is open Monday -
Thursday 8:30 a.m. -
4:30 p.m. and Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Call 408-997-5100 for
recorded information or
408-997-5101 to speak
with someone in our
parish office. Information
on Faith Formation for
children and adults can
be obtained by calling
our Catechetical Office at
408-997-5115. Get in
the loop with our Sixty
High School Youth Min-
istry by calling 408-997-
5106. Holy Spirit School
serves grades Pre-K
through 8th, and is locat-
ed at 1198 Redmond Av-
enue. You can reach the
school office at 408-
268-0794.



thepoint.church

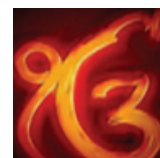
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3695 Rose Terrasse Cir
San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service:
Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00
AM
Spanish Service:
11:00 AM
Cambodian Service:
11:00 AM
Cantonese Service:
11:00 AM
Mandarin Service:
11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point
(7th-12th grade):
Every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

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nity, promoting spiritual

growth, reaching out to
people in need and
where you get to know
people by name. We offer
children's religious edu-
cation (CREATE); Youth
Ministry (BLAST & X-
STATIC); Scripture Study
(day & evening); Se-
nior'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 Thurs-
day, 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 "stu-
dent." A Sikh is a practi-
tioner of the faith founded
in the 15th century by
Guru Nanak in Punjab of
old British India. A Guru
who is a "teacher" or "en-
lightener" 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 Gur-
dwara (House of God) in
San Jose we welcome all.
We pray daily for peace
and prosperity for every-
body in the world. Come
to visit and enjoy Langer
(food) in our kitchen
which is open 365 days
of the year and serves
complementary vegetari-
an meals. We also en-
courage you to enter our
history room on site and
walk the beautiful

grounds. Learn more
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<http://www.SanJoseGur-dwara.org>

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or www.stfrancisofassisi.org

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nity striving to serve as Dis-
ciples of Jesus Christ in
the footsteps of St. Fran-
cis, offering prayerful and
joyful liturgies; evangeliza-
tion, fellowship, and serv-
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tual opportunities for all
ages, including children's
liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O -
Jr. High, IGNITE - High
School and North Star -
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and Preschool are all lo-
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tions:
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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 Gath-
ering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sun-
day 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 Com-
munity (Cribari Auditori-
um) 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.
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SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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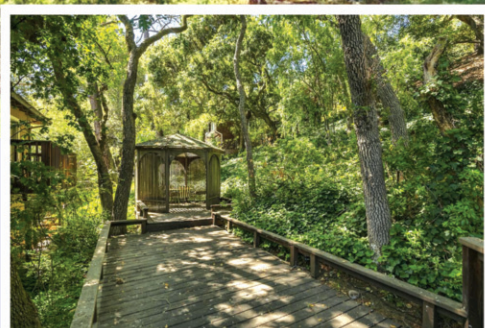
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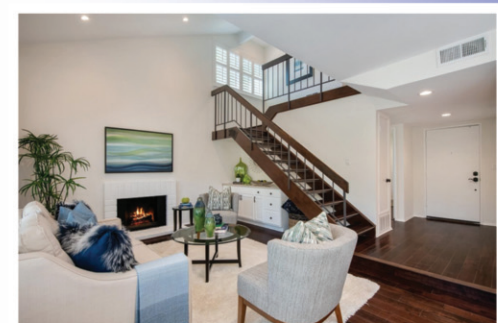


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