San Jose adopts new gun control measures SEE PAGE 4



Nearing normality What does California reopening mean for Santa Clara County? SEE PAGE 15 Local musicians provide joy and entertainment to community SEE PAGE 8



YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR





National Night Out celebration slated for Aug. 3

n Tuesday, August 3, 2021, neighborhoods participating in National Night Out events throughout San José are asked to join in a city-wide effort to strengthen their community by planning an event with their neighbors.

Residents are encouraged to light up their street by turning on outside lights and spending the evening with your community and local police department.

National Night Out is an annual crime prevention event and community-building campaign that is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San José Police Department.

More than 38 million people across the country are expected to participate in National Night Out efforts to strengthen partnerships between neighbors and local law enforcement agencies. National Night Out is designed

to:

• Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships

• Heighten crime prevention awareness

• Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention efforts

Neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of events ranging from small potlucks and BBQ's to block parties. Some additional event ideas include, but are not limited *See NIGHT OUT, page 21*



Connor Magliolo said referring students to campus police gets them labeled as criminals. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

MOUNTING PRESSURE

San Jose school district considers kicking cops off of the campus

By Lorraine Gabbert Article courtesy of

San José Spotlight fter months of delaying a decision, the San Jose Unified School District will consider later this month whether to keep police on school campuses.

Students protested against officers at district middle schools and high schools at a board meeting this month. They said being under con-

stant surveillance is intimidating and makes them feel uneasy and anxious rather than protected.

"When I go to school, they're on the campus staring us down," said Annavae Sifuentes, a recent graduate of Foothill High School. "Students shouldn't feel like the school they attend is for bad kids or made to feel uncomfortable."

After mounting pressure from advocates, the school board agreed to put a resolution on the June 24 agenda. But it might not be the Derrick Sanderlin resolution the San Jose Unified Equity Coalition has asked for.

"It's certainly possible the direction of the board could be to bring *See COPS, page 19*

"When I go to school, they're on the campus staring us down," said Annavae Sifuentes, a recent graduate of Foothill High School.

Crime prevention specialists share their tips for preventing identity theft

Almaden meeting reveals victim responsible for proving crime occurred

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer dentity theft and fraud can result not only in stolen funds, but also can destroy someone's credit rating.

According to ConsumersAdvocate.org, protecting personal information has become a must, especially in the growing digital world.

San Jose Police Department Crime Prevention Specialists Sandra Avila and Jorge Casillas shared tips for avoiding becoming a victim of scams and identity theft at a June 14 Almaden Valley Community Association meeting.

Avila said identity theft leaves people feeling violated and may take years to recover from. Unfortunately, she said, the victim is responsible for proving crimes occurred.

She said people should be aware of what information they're giving away. Adults may fill out information for sweepstakes or surveys and kids might answer questions asked by online video games to get free upgrades.

Casillas said after he purchased a vehicle from a car company, he was asked to fill out a survey offering a \$500 Amazon sweepstakes award. He said it was unlikely he'd win and meanwhile, the company was collecting his information to sell to others.

He suggests creating an email strictly for sweepstakes and loyalty store programs and making up pretend words for online passwords rather than using real birthdays, children's and pet's names that can be found on social media sites.

Good passwords have eight or



San Jose Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist **Jorge Casillas** suggests making up pretend words for online passwords rather than using real birthdays, children's and pet's names.

more characters, numbers, letters and special characters, upper and lower-case letters, Casillas said. He suggests having different passwords for each account and changing them every six months. Randomly made-up names are recommended.

Casillas said to doublecheck emails are legit; helpfully, some websites say "official website" after their name. He also advises against jumping from app to app without closing browsers.

Data Collection

The California Consumer Privacy Act, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020, empowers consumers in controlling how their data is collected, processed, shared or sold. Violations are punishable with fines up to \$7,500 per record, in addition to opening the door for possible class-action suits.

Avila said consumers have the ability to request privacy of their personal information from any website they frequent.

"You don't realize how many companies are collecting your information," she said.

But consumers do have some See IDENTITY, page 20



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A San Jose business owner shows a gun with a trigger lock in his shop in this file photo.

San Jose adopts new gun control measures

Gun shop owners required to video record all firearm purchases

By Lloyd Alaban Article courtesy of San José Spotlight an Jose will be one of the few cities in the nation to require gun shops to record firearm purchases after a unanimous latenight vote Tuesday.

The new rules will seek to prevent so-called "straw purchases," or a firearm purchase where someone buys a gun and passes it off to someone else who should not own a weapon.

There have been 30,000 such purchases in the U.S. in the past year according to the Giffords Law Center, though it is unclear how many happened in San Jose.

"We know a significant number of crooks and gangs get firearms through straw purchasing," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "This set of ordinances is really focused on narrowing the flow of guns to those which are clearly legal, and hopefully doing something to deter the flow of guns that are unlawful to own."

Gun shops in San Jose will be required to video and audio record all purchases to ensure each purchase is legal. Buying a firearm from or inside a residence would



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Employees and owners will be required to question potential buyers to ensure they're not looking to start a straw purchase. The ordinance will also require shops to display suicide prevention posters and perform at least one inventory check each year.

"For obvious reasons, this issue is very important to me," said Sarah Huff Brancato, whose son Michael Munns was the first homicide in San Jose in 2020. She called in to support the proposal.

The proposal follows calls for stricter gun control measures after the May 26 mass shooting at a VTA light rail yard in downtown San Jose left 10 dead, including the gunman. Liccardo's office, however, has been working on gun safety measures for more than a year.

The council approved an initial draft of the ordinance in 2019, but implementation paused due to the pandemic. Chicago already has similar laws in place, and San Francisco almost adopted similar rules in 2015, but its last gun shop closed before the city could do so.

Councilmember Dev Davis felt conflicted about the new measure because she grew up around guns and worried it might alienate lawful gun owners.

"I feel like I'm in the middle of this issue, and it's a tough place to be in the middle because the issue has gotten so polarized in the past decade and decade and a half," Davis said.

Like Davis, Councilmember Raul Peralez grew up around guns and shot recreationally, but said he always believed in stricter gun control measures.

"In addition to that history, I have always welcomed a more restrictive gun industry. And I've felt that way since I was a child," Peralez said. "It's really baffled me as to how this particular industry has been, in essence, untouchable in many places throughout the country."

Gun rights activists say these *See GUNS, page 6*





Happy Hollow Park & Zoo's twin lemur pups named 'Alina' and 'Ala'

More than 800 people participated in naming the Zoo's newest additions

H appy Hollow Park & Zoo welcomed twin female endangered black and white ruffed lemur pups last April. The public was invited to participate in naming the new babies.

With 844 total votes, the winning names, with 330 votes, are Alina and Ala, meaning "night" and "forest" in Malagasy, the National language of Madagascar where all species of lemurs are found.

The voting kicked off on June 1 with a buzz of excitement. Online

voters lobbied on Happy Hollow's social media for their favorite name out of three sets of choices — Sampana and Ravina, Tahina and Tapia, and Alina and Ala — which all carry special meanings in Malagasy.

Alina and Ala live as a family unit with their parents, Vintana and Nify, their brother, Loka, and their sister, Koa, as they would naturally if they lived in the wild. Groups or families of lemurs are referred to as a "conspiracy," due to the way these animals work together to attack predators.

"We are ecstatic to have

healthy black and white ruffed lemur pups two years in a row," says Rachel Atkins, Veterinary Technician at Happy Hollow. "Vintana and Nify have proven themselves to be successful parents several times over, and we are so excited to add Alina and Ala to Happy Hollow's lemur family and to the black and white ruffed lemur species as a whole."

These new healthy females make this critically endangered lemur species two pups stronger and provide an opportunity for the Zoo to educate the public about the conservation of the species and their habitat. Threats to black and white ruffed lemurs in the wild include



habitat destruction, climate change, and a demand for lemurs as part of the illegal exotic pet trade.

"Every animal at Happy Hollow is an ambassador for their species," says Zoo Curator, Heather Vrzal. "Few people from our community may have the opportunity to see a lemur in the wild, but getting to experience their antics here at Happy Hollow allows people to connect with them and to learn about the importance of conserving their species and their wild habitats."

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has been continuously accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for over 26 years and partic-

ipates in Species Survival Plan programs to safeguard animals like Alina and Ala against extinction. These programs help improve the genetic diversity of animals that are born in zoos, while educating and inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is currently open to the public by reservation, and lucky visitors can catch a glimpse of the lemur pups in their habitat in the Zoo on the Hollow.

To book a reservation online, visit: www.happyhollow.org/visit

Times Community News



'The Largest Annual Antique Auto Show in the West'

21st annual Antique Autos in History Park Sunday, Sept. 19

Presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San Jose

he 21st annual Antique Autos in History Park presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San José will take place on Sunday, September 19, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Designated as a "Living History Day," this year's event fills History Park (Kelley Park, 635 Phelan Ave, San José, CA) with 200 period-correct pre-1946 vehicles, fire equipment, bicycles, and motorcycles of all makes.

The featured vehicle this year is Pierce-Arrow, (1901 - 1938). A special presentation on Pierce-Arrow Co. Automobiles will be held at 2 p.m.

Registration not required

There is no registration required to enter a vehicle. Just bring your antique vehicle to the gate at History Park. All vehicles permitted on the grounds of History Park, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., were manufactured between the late 1800s and 1945 and are period-correct. No vehicle will be displayed on the grounds of History Park during the show that is newer than 1945.

Also located on the grounds will be the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. There will be antique crafts demonstrated and antique collectibles displayed. A Dixieland Jazz Band will provide music

and songs will be sung by The Fabulous JewelTones.

Food may be purchased from Double-H Catering and ice cream from O'Brien's Cafe. Activities are provided for kids.

- Scheduled activities:
- 11:15 **Dance Performance**
- 12:00 The Fabulous JewelTones
- 12:30 Music by Toot Sweet Jazz Band Video: Pierce-Arrow,
- 12:30 Jay Leno's Garage
- Presentation on Pierce-Arrow 2:00 Co. Automobiles
- 2:30Barbershop Quartet
- 3:30 Drawing for Door Prizes

Entrance Fees: Adults: \$ 10; Children [6 - 12] & Historical San Jose members: \$5. Participants and children under 6: Free

Editor's note: NO alcohol, NO pets (except service dogs), and NO BBQs are allowed inside the park. These are park rules and must be followed.

San Jose Police Department participates in **Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run**

he San José Police Department raised funds and awareness for Special Olympics Northern California (SONC) by participating in the 2020 Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 17.

The Torch Run featured more than 3,000 law enforcement personnel from hundreds of local agencies carrying the Special Olympics Flame of Hope throughout Northern California.

This year's Torch Run was run through San Jose which included a ceremony at the Center for the Performing Arts and then continued into the Summer Games @ Home virtual event for athletes.

Northern California law enforcement per-



sonnel fundraise for SONC through a variety of events, including the Torch Run, and have raised more than \$15 million for local athletes since 1996. About SONC

SONC is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and

adults with intellectual disabilities through inclusive sports, education, leadership and health programs. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization offers free year-round training and competition programs for 26,218 athletes who compete in nearly 400 competitions annually. On school campuses, SONC impacts more than 130,000 schoolaged students by promoting inclusion through the Unified Champion Schools.





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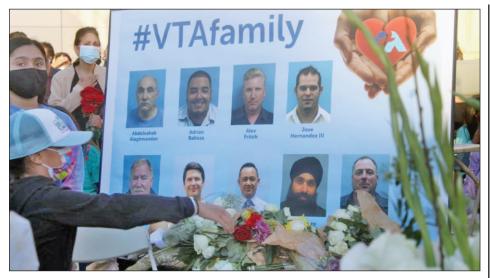
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A poster displaying the nine VTA workers killed in the mass shooting at a light rail yard in downtown San Jose. *Photo by Vicente Vera*

Guns

Continued from page 4

regulations will restrict law-abiding firearm owners of their rights and will run gun shops out of the city. "These are small businesses. It's already hard enough to do business in the gun retail market," Brian Wang, owner of the San Jose-based gun safety school Monarch Defense, told San José Spotlight. "But now the city of San Jose is taking arbitrary control, arbitrary schemes just to make life hard on these gun stores. It's very clear they're trying to take the last couple of gun stores in the city and just kill them." Another caller, who declined to identify himself, said the regulations would restrict lawabiding citizens with guns who could help stop a mass shooting. He called the regulations a "wrongheaded and simplistic effort to solve the problem of gun violence." "Tragedies like the one at the VTA that you are attempting to respond to will not be eliminated by this regulation," he said.

The rules are part of sweeping reforms Liccardo announced last week to require gun owners to carry liability insurance—something he proposed in 2019 after a mass shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival before shelving plans due to the pandemic.

Liccardo also wants to require gun owners to pay fees to support emergency med-

ical and police response related to gun violence. It's unclear how much gun owners could pay in fees, a decision left up to the full City Council.

Neither of those two measures was up for a vote last Tuesday.

Gun lobby groups vowed to challenge the new law. "It is outrageous that Mayor Liccardo wants to use big brother-style 'omniveillance' to record gun owners' every move," Taylor Svehlak, director of public affairs for the Firearms Policy Coalition, told San José Spotlight. "This Orwellian requirement would be rightly universally opposed were the city to impose similar video- and audio-recording mandates in mosques and churches, book stores or abortion clinics."

City Attorney Nora Frimann said gun laws are challenged often, but expressed confidence the city would prevail. "We think we've threaded the needle on this and what we're bringing forward is defensible," Frimann said.

The VTA mass shooter, a 57-year-old employee, had three 9mm pistols and 32 high-capacity magazines, according to the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. Authorities said the shooter fired 39 bullets. The magazines, which held more than 10 rounds, are illegal in California. The three guns were legally obtained and registered, according to FBI Special Agent in Charge Craig Fair.

"Even preventing one of these straw purchases from happening would be a success," said Councilmember David Cohen. "I'm excited we're thinking of creative ideas here in San Jose. That we're not scared or shying away from this debate. That we're using the opportunity to try new things to make our communities safer."



San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo introduced numerous local gun control measures on June 8, including requiring gun owners to have liability insurance. *Photo by Lloyd Alaban*

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Sam (Apoorva) Hebbar awarded international fellowship and scholarship

ochester Institute of Technology announced that Sam (Apoorva) Hebbar (pictured above) of Almaden Valley has been awarded an international fellowship and scholarship.

Hebbar, a Biomedical Engineering Major, was awarded the DAAD Research Internship in Science and Engineering (RISE). His research at Technische Universitat Kaiserslautern in Germany will focus on developing a simple, easy-to-use, portable electric photometer to measure the quality of wine in an industrial setting in summer 2021

The financial award supports study, research, or work abroad. Eligible students are selected through an often competitive application process.

"I hope to combine the technical skills and experiences I have gained along my way with my passion for community service and help engineer a better, healthier future," Hebbar said.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, the university is internationally recognized and ranked for academic leadership in business, computing, engineering, imaging science, liberal arts, sustainability, and fine and applied arts.



Chae Eun Kim of Almaden named to the Dean's List at Lehigh University

Chae Eun Kim of Almaden Valley (above) has been named to the Dean's List at Lehigh University in the Spring 2021 semester.

Kim is a graduate of Leland High School, where she was a member of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team. She traveled to Uganda last year with an organization called Pathways Development Initiative (PDI). The nonprofit organization's mission is to empower individuals through means of education, which includes an Education Centre, Sports Clinic, as well as a Village Savings and Loan Association.

'PDI has graciously allowed students from Lehigh University to partner with them in the wonderful works that they are doing in the communities of rural Bududa, Uganda," Kim said. "PDI is continuously pouring everything that they have into building more sustainable livelihoods for the Bududa community. Although we are unable to be there physically this year, we would like to extend our greatest support via fundraising for their programs." Dean's List status is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses. For more than 150 years, Lehigh University (lehigh.edu) has combined outstanding academic and learning opportunities with leadership in fostering innovative research. The institution is among the nation's most selective, highly ranked private research universities.

San Jose's Alexandria Jimenez named to University of Iowa Dean's List for 2021 spring semester

Alexandria Jimenez of Almaden Valley was named to the Dean's List for the 2021 spring semester at the University of Iowa.

Jimenez is a second year undergraduate student in the UI's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is majoring in Biochemistry.

The University of Iowa brings art and science together to create a unique interdisciplinary education with more than 200 areas of study to choose from. Students are encouraged to mix and match majors, minors, and certificates to earn a degree that reflects their unique interests.

Samford U names **Almaden's Rachel** Harris to Spring 2021 **Dean's List**

Rachel Harris of Almaden Valley (inset) has been named to Samford University's 2021 spring semester Dean's List.

Harris, a Musical Theater Major, is a graduate of Valley Christian



High School. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade point aver-

age out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester

Samford is a leading Christian university offering undergraduate programs grounded in the liberal arts with an array of nationally recognized graduate and professional schools. Founded in 1841. Samford is the 87th-oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. The Wall Street Journal ranks Samford 2nd nationally for student engagement and US News & World Report ranks Samford 86th nationally for best value.



Report: 2021's Most Patriotic States in America

ith Fourth of July celebrations able to proceed this year due to the fact that 45% of the population is vaccinated and states have largely reopened, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's Most Patriotic States in America.

To determine where Americans have the most red, white and blue pride, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 13 key indicators of patriotism. Our data set ranges from the state's military enlistees and veterans to the share of adults who voted in the 2020 presidential election to AmeriCorps volunteers per capita. Below are some additional highlights from the report.

Top 20 Most Patriotic States

- 1. Montana 11. Utah
- 12 Idaho 2. Alaska

17 Kentucky

18. Missouri

20. Colorado

19. South Carolina

- 3. Maryland 13. Wisconsin 14. Washington
- 4. Vermont
- 5. New Hampshire 15. Arizona
- 6. North Dakota 16. Iowa
- 7. Wyoming
- 8. Minnesota
- 9. Oregon
- 10. Virginia **Key Stats**



• Red states are more patriotic, with an average ranking of 25.32, compared with 25.68 for blue states (1 = Best).

• Alaska has the most veterans per 1,000 civilian adults, 137, which is 2.7 times more than in New York, the state with the fewest at 51.

• New Jersey has the highest share of adults who voted in the 2020 presidential election, 78.30 percent, which is 1.5 times higher than in Arkansas, the state with the lowest at 54.00 percent.

Utah has the highest volunteer rate, 51.00 percent, which is 2.2 times higher than in Florida, the state with the lowest at 22.80 percent.

To view the full report and your state's rank, please visit www.wallethub.com/edu/most-patriotic-states/13680



BLAST FROM THE PAST San Jose Club Almaden picnic scene, 1954.

Local drop-in vaccination sites

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Expo Hall

2542 Monterey Highway, Gate D San Jose, CA 95111 Evening and weekend hours Monday: 8:30am-4pm Tuesday-Thursday: 1:00pm-8pm Closed Friday, June 18 Saturday-Sunday: 8:30am-4pm

Eastridge Mall (Aloha Roller Rink) 2190 Eastridge Loop #1402 San Jose, CA 95122 Weekend hours Monday-Friday: 11am-6pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am-4pm

Valley Specialty Center 751 S. Bascom Ave., Building Q San Jose, CA 95128 Evening and weekend hours Monday-Thursday: 12pm-7:30pm Closed Friday, June 18 Saturday: 9am-4:30pm

Bay Area Community Health VTA Santa Teresa Station 6360 Santa Teresa Blvd San Jose, CA 95119 Monday – Thursday: 9am-4pm

Blanca Alvarado Community Center San Jose, CA 95127 Evening hours

Andrew Hill High School 3200 Senter Road San Jose, CA 95111

Oak Grove High School

285 Blossom Hill Boad San Jose, CA 95123 Evening hours Wednesday, June 16: 12pm-6:30pm

Santa Clara High School

3000 Benton Street Santa Clara, CA 95051 Evening hours Wednesday, June 16: 2pm-7pm

Overfelt High School 1835 Cunningham Avenue San Jose, CA 95122 Evening and weekend hours Thursday, June 17: 10am-5:30pm Friday, June 18: 11:30am-7:30pm Saturday, June 19: 10am-5:30pm Sunday, June 20: 9:30am-4:30pm

408 N. Capitol Ave Tuesday, June 15: 1pm-7pm

Tuesday, June 15: 12pm-7pm

High school band gains 'Altitude'

Intellectual musicians provide joy and entertainment to community

Hellen Keller succinctly summarized the impact of teamwork in a quote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

The Altitude Band consisting of 4 middle-high school boys from Evergreen, San Jose, came together in 2019 with a strong desire to combine the talents of each member and form a band solely focused on providing joy and entertainment to the community.

Roshan Amble, the band's drummer, achieved a level in drumming where he needed to embark on the process of creating and leading a band to bolster his musicianship. Roshan, current freshman at BASIS, reached out to his friends in the artistic field and collaborated on auditions to select the members of the band consisting of bass guitarist Marco



Ruiz, sophomore at Evergreen High, lead guitarist Sathvik Nookola freshman at BASIS, and lead vocalist Prateek Satish, 8th grader at Stratford Middle School.

Drums

When asked about what the drums mean to him Roshan says, "Each sensation to the human brain has a quintessence, where the contemplating neurons of the mind go still, and the residue of an ambience so inexplicably fantasmic remains, when the body moves without the expressed consent of your conscience. This phenomenon is the musical perfection enacted through the influence of the drums, holding the rhythm and impressionist groove of the music. The drummer's role in a band is to ensure the culture of the music results in mutual delight for the audience and the music itself. For this reason, the drummer is able to improvise and include his personality in the instrument, which allows my imagination to complement my structural education. The drums have been an essential modulator in my life, giving me both a conscience reliever and an aspect to focus on. It is truly amazing what music could do for the curious individuals who understand it."

Bass guitar

" I find the bass a very interesting element in the band. It's quiet but important to thicken and gratify the sound. One of my biggest influences in playing bass is John Paul Jones, Cliff William, and Krist Novoselic. They all use the bass in a unique and interesting way. And my biggest influence in music as a whole are the bands, Nirvana, Tame Impala, Death Grips, My Bloody Valentine, Sunny Day Real Estate, Ghostemane, and Deftones." explains Marco.

Lead guitar

Sathvik who is the lead guitarist for the band says "Music has been a big part of me ever since I was young as my parents both introduced me to their 90's Indian music and I



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quickly took a liking to all types of music. I started learning piano at a very young age but quickly transitioned to both guitar and vocals. Being in the band takes the experience of playing guitar to a whole new level. The guitar is often the most recognizable aspect of the song. Guitarists like Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Slash of Guns n Roses, and Neal Schon of Journey heavily influence my playing and are a few of my favorite guitarists. Aside from guitarists, my favorite bands and artists are Led Zeppelin, The Police, Nirvana, The Weeknd, Michael Jackson, and Journey."

Vocals

Prateek, the lead vocalist for the band Altitude says "I have been a student of Indian classical vocals since I was 6 and have been learning western vocals for the last 2 years. One of my biggest influences in gravitating towards vocals has been my maternal grandma who encouraged me from an early age. My favorite vocals/singer is Harry Style as I like the range in his voice, his choice of songs and above all *Continued, nexxt page*



At the Tej Acton Children's Business Fair, Altitude was right there entertaining a large crowd and cheering on the young business entrepreneurs.

Times Local News



Band Altitude is a musical force to reckon with as they continue to evolve and mature!

I like the soft rock vibe his songs have as that is my personal preference as well"

Musical synchrony is a huge de-stressor and as an evolving band Altitude is certainly a crowd pleaser. Altitude made it a point to use their talents towards community service and rejoicing listeners. One such example is when they performed at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf and decided to pledge their tips to the Ocean Clean-Up effort.

The pandemic did not slow down the tempo of the band, in fact they practiced regularly following all safety protocols and partnered with SaySmile, a nonprofit organization which facilitated interactions for people who were isolated during COVID. They virtually performed for Long Term

Care facilities during the winter holidays and were invited back to perform on Valentine's Day. Altitude was overjoyed to see the eternal nostalgia of our senior citizens as they sang along with joy to their childhood favorite melodies.

More recently, the band continued their community endeavors by performing at an Autism Awareness fundraiser program. With the experience from their past performances, the band was able to amplify the intricacies of each song they performed, which was greatly acknowledged by the audience.

For more information, or to book the band for your next event, call Altitude at: 408.528.5324.



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Times Feature



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Isaac DeJager of Almaden named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at LeTourneau University

Isaac DeJager of Almaden Valley (right) was named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at LeTourneau University (LETU).

DeJager, a Mathematics Major, graduated from Live Oak Academy in San Jose.

The Dean's List recognizes students who have achieved a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99 for the semester.

LeTourneau University President Dr. Steven D. Mason said being named to the Dean's List is a sig-



nificant academic achievement and honor: "As the comprehensive Christian polytechnic institution in the country, LeTourneau University attracts students who are among our nation's best."

LETU offers more than 140 undergraduate and graduate degree programs online and at LETU's residential campus in Longview, Texas, located 120 miles east of Dallas, Texas, and 60 miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Job offers are like busses

By Angela Copeland

he title of my column today may sound a bit confusing.

L It comes from one of my own mentors. Years ago, when I was finishing graduate school, I spent



a significant amount of time searching for the right job.

Occasionally, one would pop up that would seem almost right. It would have a great job description. The company seemed stable. The team seemed interesting. But, there was something about the hiring manager that was off – or perhaps the company wasn't offering a competitive salary. Many parts of the job would be great, but something would be off.

I would meet with my mentor to tell him about the jobs I was considering, and discuss the pros and cons of each. If a job seemed like the wrong fit, he would encourage me to walk away. The thought of turning down an offer without another in hand was nerve-wracking. My mentor would then remind me, "Jobs are like buses. Just wait; another one is always coming."

He felt it was more important to find the right fit, than to hope you could take every job that came along. Looking back, these were wise words. Who else in your life do you spend as much time with as your boss and co-workers? For most, the answer is your spouse. You typically don't choose to marry your first date. Why would you expect that at work?

AT&T

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Often, we want to take every job *i*

when we're feeling desperate. We're miserable in our current position and we think that anything would be better – even if it were just for a short time.

The problem with this strategy is complex. First, your next job may have just as many problems are your current job, if not more. As the saying goes, sometimes the devil you know is better than the one you don't.

More importantly though, planning to take a job for a short time forces you to explain why you're looking for a new job just after accepting one. This means that you'll be explaining all the dirt on your old company, including the ways that you didn't get along with your boss or co-workers.

When you choose to wait and select the right job, you'll find yourself there for more than just a short time. While you're interviewing, you'll be able to focus on the positives of what you want in the future rather than the negatives from the past. Whether it comes to interviewing or negotiating your offer, focusing on the positive puts you in a much stronger position.

When you're having a tough day, just try to remember that jobs are like buses. Just wait. Another one is coming, and you want to be sure you get on the right one.

Look around to see if you find remote jobs that are posted in other locations. You may be able to do them from your current city! *Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.* Times Feature

Opera San José returns to live performances for the 2021-22 season; maintains digital presence

Scheduled: Mozart and Salieri, Dido and Aeneas, Carmen, and West Side Story

pera San José, under the leadership of General Director Khori Dastoor, has unveiled its 2021-22 season in four vivid productions returning to live performances on the stage of the historic California Theatre Sept. 30, 2021.

The company, which has led the industry over the past year in the production of worldclass virtual performances featuring nationally lauded artists, designers, and musicians, will also maintain its digital presence, launching the season with a production streamed from its state-of-the-art Heiman Digital Media Studio.

"We have spent the past year keeping faith with our artists and our audiences, finding ways to continue to create and share vibrant work, and welcoming a wider audience to engage with us than ever before," Dastoor said. "We are thrilled to be safely welcoming our patrons back into the theatre and know we could not have reached this moment without the unwavering support of our subscribers and donors.'

The season launches with Rimsky-Korsakov's intimate, psychological thriller, Mozart and Salieri (September 30 - Oct. 31, 2021), presented as an online streamed production from Opera San José's Heiman Digital Media Studio, followed by Purcell's only opera, the soaring Dido and Aeneas (Nov. 13 - 28, 2021), marking the company's long awaited return to in-person performances. The season continues with two more productions presented live at the California Theatre including Bizet's fiery classic, Carmen (Feb. 12 - 27, 2022), in a beautiful reimagined production by director Lillian Groag in a new collaboration with the acclaimed Flamenco Society of San José, fusing dance, singing, and drama. The season concludes with a first for Opera San José, Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim's American classic West Side Story (April 16 - May 1, 2022) the tale of two star-crossed lovers and the prejudices that keep them apart, staged by Crystal Manich.

Vocal competition returns

The company has also announced the exciting return of the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition (week of May 16, 2022), in which dazzlingly talented singers join the Opera San José Orchestra to perform soaring arias in a heart-stopping contest of unbridled operatic passion and vocal prowess.

New curtain times, which were originally announced for the 2020-21 season, will also be implemented with the return of inperson performances this season. Evening performances will begin at 7:30pm, and matinees will start at 2:00pm.

2021-22 SEASON

MOZART AND SALIERI Presented from OSJ's beautiful Heiman Digital Media Studio - stream from home September 30 - October 31, 2021

Opera San José kicks off the season in a reimagined format, bringing Rimsky-Korsakov's rarely-seen opera, Mozart and Salieri, to the screens of opera lovers throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Vienna's leading composer is seething over the upstart Mozart a brash newcomer whose genius is undeniable. How can this vulgarian compose divine music fit for the Almighty? Based on a play by Pushkin, this chilling work, conducted by Donato Cabrera and directed by Fenlon Lamb. explores the rumor that Salieri used poison to obliterate his competition. Baritone Sidney Outlaw, lauded by the San Francisco Chronicle as "an opera powerhouse" takes on the role of Salieri.

DIDO AND AENEAS

Presented live in the California Theatre November 13 - 28, 2021

Opera San José will make its much-anticipated return to the beloved California Theatre with baroque masterpiece Purcell's, Dido and Aeneas, conducted by Joseph Marcheso. This celebrated work recounts the love of Dido, the Queen of Carthage, for the Trojan hero. Aeneas. Her cruel abandonment is one of the opera's greatest tragedies, in a work that offers brilliant, soaring, richly nuanced arias and stunning emotionalism. Announced casting includes celebrated baritone Efraín Solís as Aeneas, lauded soprano Maya Kherani as Belinda, and multi-award-winning bassbaritone Nathan Stark as the Sorcerer.

CARMEN

Presented live in the California Theatre February 12 - 28, 2022

Fiery flamenco joins brilliant singing to ignite Bizet's classic in a vibrant production reimagined by director Lillian Groag and conducted by Joseph Marcheso. In a new collaboration with the acclaimed Flamenco Society of San José, dance, singing, and drama will come together to tell the passionate tale of a defiant heroine, whose rebellious quest for freedom seals her tragic fate. Announced casting includes outstanding baritone Eugene Brancoveanu as Escamillo.

WEST SIDE STORY

Presented live in the California Theatre April 16 - May 1, 2022

Opera San José will close this unforgettable season with Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's classic American tale of two star-crossed lovers and the prejudices that keep them apart. Bursting with passion, humor, dancing, and some of the most memorable music ever written, this stunning production of West Side Story - the company's first-ever musical - will be conducted by Christopher James Ray and staged by director Crystal Manich. Casting will be announced at a later date.

SAVE THE DATE!

IRENE DALIS VOCAL COMPETITION Presented live in the California Theatre Week of May 16, 2022

Dazzlingly talented singers join the Opera



Opera San José's General Director Khori Dastoor unveils Opera San José's 2021-22 season featuring new productions, company premieres, artist debuts, and cultural collaborations, in four vivid productions - including one with Broadway roots, a company first. Dastoor is pictured at the California Theatre in Downtown San Jose. Photo Credit: Chris Hardy

San José Orchestra to perform soaring arias in this heart-stopping contest of unbridled operatic passion and vocal prowess. Tickets will go on sale January 2022, with subscribers receiving first-access to this thrilling, highvoltage event.

Opera San José will continue to offer its unique pop-up concerts, in which donors can curate a concert of their favorite arias featuring two of the company's national cel- Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

ebrated Resident Artists. Throughout the summer the company plans to announce additional programming, events, and other collaborations with local arts groups that will enable music lovers to encounter Opera San José in a variety of settings.

For more information or to purchase subscriptions, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through

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Times News

Tech Jargon of the Week Touchless Interface

By Shubhi Asthana Special to the Times ave you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this "techie" word – and even after you've broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms?

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

Touchless Interface

Imagine picking up your empty bottle of juice and saying "Alexa, order this" and it being ordered for you without you since Alexa understands what you're looking at or holding.

The past few years has been trending with "touchless interfaces" around us. Typ-

ically, the user interface is key to our experiences with our tech gadgets. We can easily browser through the apps on our phone by swiping the fingers and can browse social media websites with a tap on the phone. Most gadgets do rely on physical interaction like a swipe or tap to work. However, the work of user interfaces is rapidly expanding. It's no longer just touch but includes a great variety of gestures and speech assistants.

Touchless interfaces like voice are more useful while selecting music, TV shows, and movies. That is because there is a massive, unstructured database of content that is hard to navigate through hierarchical windows.

Some other uses cases of voice involve simple tasks such as setting a timer, asking for weather forecasts, or opening a door for specific voices. Most used interactions these days are with virtual assistants like Amazon Alexa, Siri, and Cortana etc. They have trained us to no longer rely on our thumbs and fingers.

In scenarios where a touch interface demands too much attention – such as in See JARGON, next page



Times Feature

In Memoriam

Sandy Engel

January 7, 1945 - May 30, 2021 Established the Leland Golf Fund; Served as principal of Castillero Middle School and Pioneer High School

Sandy spent her childhood in Berkeley, an only child to Steve and Helen. Steve excelled in athletics and influenced his daughter to participate in a variety of sports.



He attended the first football game played at Memorial Stadium at UC Berkeley. It has been rumored he entered the stadium twice after security discovered he lost his "ticket." Sandy and her husband Ron continued the tradition this time as paid spectators for the next seven decades.

A fifth-generation native of California, Sandy would attend UC Davis; a decision that was based on not wanting to take the same bus line to Berkeley that she had used since elementary school. There she met her college roommate, Liz, where with minimal training they "worked" (vacationed) as lifeguards for summer camps in Maine. That friendship lasted a lifetime and led the families to spend many holidays together in Tahoe. Sandy and Liz would occasionally make it back to Berkeley for weekend soirees where a mutual friend, Dave introduced her to Ron, her husband of 54 years.

PE teacher at Bret Harte

After graduating, Sandy always wanted to be a PE teacher so naturally she taught science for the next 15 years at Bret Harte. She earned her Masters Degree in education along with her friend Susan, where they volunteered countless nights and weekends. They received national publicity for a science fair based on inventions created by elementary students.

When schools were cutting back on sports in the late 90's, Sandy and another Leland parent and friend, Joanne established the Leland Golf Fund that endowed the sport. Other sports would soon follow their model.

Principal at Castillero and Pioneer

Sandy transitioned into administration and became principal of Castillero Middle School and later at Pioneer High School. She was a mentor and advocate for countless among the community. Approachable and direct would be one way to describe her leadership.

After retiring from Pioneer, proud to note to her sons that they won the league championship over Leland in golf, Sandy was approached to run for the school board of San Jose. She would continue to serve the community, while enjoying travels with her family and friends whether it be the Margarita Club, 18-hole Ladies group, bridge and countless others. She is survived by her husband, sons, daughter- in-law and grand-children.

A celebration of life was held at the Almaden Country Club on Wednesday, June 16.

Kathleen Lepow

June 18, 1963 - May 28, 2021 Resident of Almaden Valley

Kate Lepow passed away on Friday, May 28th at the age of 57. She will be extremely missed by her siblings: Nancy (Frank),

Matthew (Jenifer), and Michael (Martha); nephews and niece: Logan, Ryan, Shane, Gavin, Megan; numerous cousins and extended family members, and an immeasurable amount of

friends and peers. She was preceded in death by her father George Lepow, mother Marion Lepow, and sister Ellen Conover.

Kate grew up in Almaden Valley where she enjoyed spending summers at the family cabin in Twin Creeks. She excelled in school, eventually earning both BSc and MBA degrees from Santa Clara University. Her ambition led to great success throughout her professional career and she was a highly sought after talent. Kate travelled the world extensively and was always willing to share both informative and hilarious stories brought about by these life experiences.

A well-deserved celebration of life will be held at a later date for all who knew Kate personally and professionally.

Jargon

Continued from previous page

the car, where finding the right location to touch is distracting to the driver, it is appealing to imagine adjusting with a wave of your hand rather than fussing with a little screen to interact with an application. Machine Learning is helping take this user interface one step further, by using existing data, and applying it to make intelligent decisions.

Combined with other tech trends that will play a large part in what we're talking about in 2021, the touchless interface will move us far beyond the tap and swipe.

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



Shhh... Don't Tell Them It's Educational





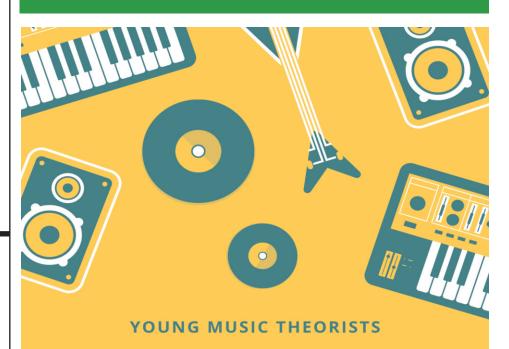


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MOVIE REVIEW The Dig (Netflix)

Rated PG-13, Drama, Directed by Simon Stone Starring: Carey Mulligan, Ralph Fiennes, and Lily James

By Kevin Larsen Special to the Times

The Dig is a true story movie that is set on the edge of World War II.

The movie contains resonating reminders of situations that all can relate to in real life. There is love, disgust, joy, and more emotions wrapped around the exploration of a long ago place ready for an archeological exploration.

The filming is magnificent in that it's understated and presents a new way of conveying reality unlike other motion pictures in that it presents scenes where the dialogue does not match the visual. That lends to capturing reality and placing the viewer inside the film.

The entire cast brings performances that are truly believable, so much so that the entire film is seamless for the viewing audience. We are never disturbed in our suspension of disbelief, as each actor from adult to child, chisels out their character in ways that make one feel being part of the action. The viewer will quickly care deeply about each character on the screen.

There are no special effects and the movie moves at a refreshing pace; not like a video game. True, some who at every second must glance at their cell phone may wish it to go faster, but for true movie connoisseurs, a good movie is like experiencing an elegant wine; sipped, not gulped.

The Dig has to do with ancient mounds found in

England. These mounds are thought to be burial mounds and in the film, it is spoken that even King Henry VIII sought to try to unlock their mystery with digs.

Main character (Cary Mulligan) plays a wealthy widow imagining what is buried there. Her feelings spoke to her so strongly that something was buried there that she purchases a home nearby so that one day she might feed her desire to explore the mounds. Her performance, as with all of the other actors, is solid and inspiring.

The second main character, yes there are four in the film, is played authentically by Ralph Fiennes. He plays a central point in the film in that the story revolves around his life from start to finish. He is a soft-spoken brilliant man who has written archelogy books yet since he had not the money to attend college he refers to himself as an "excavator" instead of "archaeologist." His words are like gold as he explains things in a few measured sentences to others.

The third main character, a delightful woman Peggy Piggott, is played by Lily James. James captures the heart of everyone in how she faces what life is and how "it is fleeting." Her innocence is challenged so that she finds a way to maturely face the cards life has dealt her.

There are many other rich skilled actors from a soldier to a young boy and other wonderfully portrayed roles that hit the mark solidly which define the movie and grab the audience in profound understated ways.

After our pandemic woes, this film allows us to get rest and escape to a time in World War II where others also faced what seemed like unsurmountable challenges. Watching such films of this quality helps us to rest.

This film is 5/5 stars. The film is uplifting, while at the same time demonstrating that life is not perfect and that we must all keep going and remember we are all part of the family of man and womankind.



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The Dig includes a fictional romantic subplot involving Rory Lomax and Peggy Piggott; portrayed by **Johnny Flynn** and **Lily James.**

Bill to curb illegal street racing and 'sideshows' passes unanimously

ssembly Bill 3 passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee unanimously last week.

AB 3 is designed to curb illegal street racing by stopping it at its source: motor vehicle exhibition of speed. Exhibition of speed is most commonly recognized as "sideshows" that include: drifting, performing stunts, donuts, and other activities performed at dangerous speeds to show off an audience.

"This reckless behavior haunts our streets, claims innocent lives, and puts commuters, bikers, pedestrians, and law enforcement at fatal risk," Assemblyman Fong said. "Street racing and speed exhibition has spiked tremendously statewide. This bill sends a strong message that this dangerous activity will not be tolerated."

"In November of 2019, I received the most terrifying and consequential phone call that changed my family's life forever," Sarah Kandler said. "My mom, Peggy Kandler, was struck by a driver who had lost control of their vehicle during an illegal street race."

Kandler added, "The crash scene was horrifying. I will never forget seeing so vividly how much damage street racing and sideshows can cause. My mom's car was mangled, and the damage was so significant, the first responders had to use a 'jaws of life' to cut open the vehicle to reach my mom."

"The startling reality is: you can find tragic street racing stories in the newspaper every day of the week across California. Every single one of these crashes are preventable," said Fong.

Specifically, AB 3 matches the penalties that apply to illegal speed contests racing to also apply to the exhibition of speed. The penalty grants the court the authority to suspend the offending individual's driver's license for up to six months.

According to the California Highway Patrol, citations for Motor Vehicle Exhibition of Speed have surged by nearly 300% over the past five years. Locally, the Bakersfield Police Department reported over 6,000 calls involving speed exhibition and street racing last year alone.

AB 3 is supported by statewide law enforcement, victims' rights groups, and local government. AB 3 will be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee in the coming weeks.



What does California reopening mean for Santa Clara County?

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight anta Clara County residents have returned to life near normal as California officially has "reopened" following more than a year of COVID-19.

The majority of businesses are now operating at full capacity and vaccinated people can mostly remove their masks while grocery shopping, eating at restaurants or working out at the gym.

The relaxation of state restrictions removes capacity limits and physical distancing requirements, but businesses, churches and local governments can choose to still impose them or require proof of vaccination.

"The county of Santa Clara is currently following the state of California's guidelines with regards to COVID-19 and June 15," a county spokesperson told San José Spotlight.

According to the California Department of Public Health, masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals except on public transit, indoors at schools and childcare facilities. health care settings, prisons, homeless shelters, emergency shelters and cooling centers.

For unvaccinated individuals, masks are still required in indoor public settings including retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings and government offices.

It's up to businesses how they choose to enforce rules when required. Options include allowing people to self-attest that they are vaccinated prior to entry, verifying vaccine status to determine which individuals need to wear masks and requiring all patrons to wear masks regardless of vaccinations.

Businesses and schools must still report positive COVID-19 infections to the county for tracking.

While rules are set for residents, worker requirements aren't as clear.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board adopted workplace rules earlier this month that require workers to wear face coverings when there's a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated employees in the same space. On Thursday, the board will consider allowing vaccinated workers to go completely mask-free.

Santa Clara County Public Health says that previous restrictions are no longer necessary due to widespread vaccination and fewer cases of COVID-19 in the community.

State guidelines recommend but do not require verification of completed vaccinations for outdoor live events with more than 10,000 attendees. Those without proof can be admitted with masks.

The SAP Center will not require guests to provide proof of completed COVID-19 vac-



The first game open to the public at Levi's Stadium will be a preseason opener on Aug. 14. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

cination or a negative test for entry. Instead, fans can self-attest they are either fully vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of the event. The SAP Center expects to operate at full capacity by July.

Levi's Stadium will reopen at full capacity in the fall, said San Francisco 49ers spokesman Jacob Fill. The first game open to the public will be a preseason opener on Aug. 14.

Jim Mercurio, vice president of stadium operations, said the thought of reopening gives him goosebumps. He equates it to when the stadium first opened in 2014.

"I think the players and coaches are probably among the groups needing this the most," Mercurio told San José Spotlight. "The crowd is what makes a live event impactful-the crowd, the noise, the excitement, the emotionthat's what we're here for and we crave it."

The 49ers plan to release a "Know Before You Go" guide for the public to communicate existing rules and regulations prior to the opening game.

On June 24, Levi's Stadium will stop being a mass vaccination site for Santa Clara County residents and workers. At its height in mid-April, about 12,000 people a day received shots, and as of Sunday, the location administered more than 350,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. It was the largest vaccination site in California.

Dr. Jennifer Tong, associate chief medical officer for Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, said Levi's Stadium played a critical role in Santa Clara County having one of the highest vaccination rates in the country.

Mercurio said helping the community in this way was one of, if not the most, important event of his life. He sees a better future ahead.

'We have to be smart about how we go back to business," he said. "It's not just going back to what was done in 2019; it's how can we be more effective and efficient. How we can make it a win-win for everybody."



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Mayor's Budget Message sets community priorities, high-level spending direction

District 10

Report

Matt Mahan

District 10

ouncilmember,

By Matt Mahan Special to the Times

The City Council, last Tuesday, passed the Mayor's June Budget Message and our draft operating and capital budg-

ets for the new fiscal year, which starts July 1. The Mayor's Budget Message, which sets high-level direction for the budget, identifies four key priorities for our city in the year ahead:

Equitable Recovery for a Better Normal: Not all neighborhoods in our city have been equally impacted by COVID-19. These investments focus on lifting up our hardest hit neighbors by supporting small businesses, expanding broadband internet access, restoring library hours, and creating a new Resilience Corps that will put hundreds of unemployed young people in our city to work. Whether they're making our community more resilient to natural disasters,

tutoring youth that have experienced learning loss, or using digital marketing skills to help local small businesses, they'll be learning valuable skills to help them along in their careers.

Back to Basics: Clean, Safe City: This was one of your top priorities. I've been a strong advocate for investing more dollars in the basics because we should all be able to live in a safe and clean city. These investments include increasing police foot patrols in high-risk neighborhoods, increasing traffic enforcement and safety infrastructure, expanding Cash for Trash to pay up to 500 homeless people to clean up the city, and consolidating our Beautify SJ services under one city division to fight trash, graffiti, illegal dumping and other forms of blight more efficiently and comprehensively.

Homelessness and our Affordable Housing Crisis: The Mayor calls for adding two additional "bridge housing" sites, expanding the sanitation and outreach services we deliver to encampments (which is a priority I proposed and championed during our priority setting process in March), land use changes that will make it easier for places of worship to house the homeless, and further streamlining of ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units) production.

Fiscal Resilience and our Future: The Mayor's plan sets aside \$80 million worth of one-time American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to cover next year's projected \$28 million deficit and to fund future needs. I applaud his fiscal restraint, which isn't easy to maintain with so many dollars available to spend. Council will revisit the ARP funds in October, after learning from the new spending prioritized in this budget and understanding how other local agencies are spending their fiscal stimulus funds.

Overall, I'm happy with the Mayor's budget direction. We have far fewer dollars at our disposal than it would take to truly address our key public safety, sanitation, homelessness and infrastructure maintenance needs, but I appreciate that the Mayor's priorities are largely aligned with those of our district and I do believe that we will see progress in the areas outlined above.

Along with the budget, my memo on future budget actions also passed. It directs city staff to come back to City Council in the fall with:

American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds allocation analysis: Council will consider how to spend the remaining ARP funds in the fall. At that time, I've asked city staff to bring back an analysis and set of recommendations related to onetime investments that would either a) empower more residents to be economically selfsufficient, or b) generate ongoing savings or efficiencies in the core operations of the City. My philosophy on spending

the rest of the ARP funds is that our investments ought to gen-

erate ongoing value for our city, as opposed to being one-off expenses. I believe we have a number of opportunities related to increasing employment, increasing incomes, reducing debts and increasing the efficiency of city operations. Unlike oneoff transfers, these kinds of investments would ensure that our expenditure of ARP funds make our city better off in the long run. I will keep you updated on this discussion as it progresses.

Accountable Budgeting: I've also asked City staff to return to Council with a plan for incorporating goals and performance measures more directly into our budgeting process in the next planning cycle. From the Council perspective, the current budget process primarily focuses how we will spend any surpluses or close any deficits, which tend to account for a small fraction of the overall budget. By focusing the Council on performance goals and community outcomes, I believe we can open up a broader conversation about the efficacy of all of the spending in our \$4 billion budget.

Finally, the Mayor's budget message includes the adoption of Councilmembers' specific requests for small investments in their districts (approximately \$3 million in total across all 10 districts). Based on your survey feedback and our staff's creative ideas, we submitted a number of budget requests that were approved by the Mayor and adopted by Council as part of the overall budget:

• BD 077 – City-Owned Electric Leaf Blower Pilot

□ Will fund a limited pilot program to switch from gas powered leaf blowers to electric for three routes in various park districts. Big win for the Community Working Group that is focused on phasing out gas-powered leaf blowers!

• BD 078 - Pilot Roundabout at the intersection of Hillsdale and Vista Park Will install a "quick build" or pilot Continued, next page

Times Local News

roundabout in this intersection to stop sideshows and reckless driving. We are already following up with DOT to identify next steps.

• BD 079 - Murals as a Tool for Graffiti Prevention

Funds up to 3 murals at the most graffitied sites in District 10 to deter future vandalism and beautify our community.

• BD 080 - All-Inclusive Playground at Almaden Lake Park

□ Funds resilient, age-friendly surfacing at the future playground and contributes \$100k toward major restroom improvements. We are continuing to fundraise for this community-led project: www.playgardenalp.org/

• BD 082 - Glenview Park Triangle

Enables our Parks Department to clean up and incorporate a fenced off portion of Glenview Park into the rest of the park, expanding public access and reducing safety risks associated with illegal camping in the unincorporated area.

• BD 083 - Fontana Turf Repair

UWill match investments from the Martin-Fontana Parks Association (MFPA) and my office to repair the turf in front of the dog park at Jeffrey Fontana Park with new sod and gopher wire.

* BD 084 - District 10 Community Cleanups

Funding enables 15 additional Dumpster Days across District 10. We've used these days to bring neighbors together, talk about local issues, provide a useful

service to residents, and organize service projects. Tell us if you'd like to work with our team to organize an event in your neighborhood by emailing us at district10@sanjoseca.gov.

• BD 085 - District 10 Re-budget

□ Rolls over District 10 Council Office funds for use next Fiscal Year.

• BD 086 - 3 Pole Mounted Radar **Speed Signs**

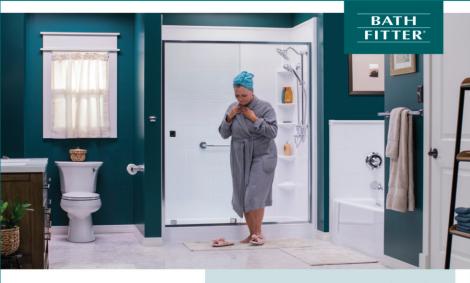
Funds 3 new pole-mounted radar speed signs in speeding hotspots in District 10. Our team will work with SJPD, DOT and relevant neighborhoods to select the location of each new radar sign.

• BD 088 - Safe Parking RV Repair Funding

□ Funds a small number of RV repairs in local Safe Parking Sites to enable homeless individuals to move on to other locations if/when they are ready, thereby enabling more people to take advantage of these services.

Again, thank you for all of your input on the budget process. You helped me focus on the issues facing our community and many of you offered creative solutions that we were able to fund through the budget request process. Enjoy the summer weather, especially now that the state is officially reopened!

Editor's note: To contact District 10 Councilmember Matt Mahan, email: matt, mahan@sanjoseca.gov or call the District 10 office at: 408-535-4910.





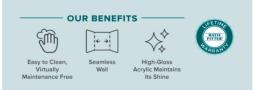
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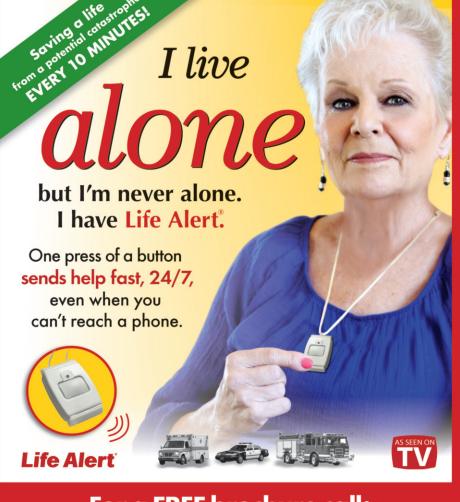
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Times Local News

A major COVID-19 pandemic milestone

By Mike Wasserman Special to the Times une 15th 2021 marked a major turning point in California's recovery from

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes in Everyday Life. California has now fully reopened the economy. Everyday life will feel a lot like before COVID-19. Restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters, and most everyday places will be open as normal with no capacity limits or social distancing required. Of course, anyone can wear a mask anytime they'd like, especially around children and others who are vulnerable or not yet eligible for vaccination. All Californians will continue to follow state masking guidelines (summarized below) as well as state and CDC travel guidelines.

Vaccinated patrons/customers do NOT need to wear masks, however, businesses may choose to continue to require customers to wear masks.

• Unvaccinated patrons/customers must still follow the current masking rules that have been in place.

• Fully vaccinated employees do not need to wear face coverings in the workplace (unless there is an outbreak), but may choose to do so and employers must provide face masks upon request under the Cal/OSHA rules. Those rules were updated to align with the customer/patron rules at a board meeting held

Mega Events. Some public health measures will remain for mega events, which include 5,000+ people indoors or 10,000+

on Thursday 6/17/21.

5,000+ people indoors or 10,000+ outdoors. Think concerts, sporting events, festivals, and conventions. Mega events are high risk for spreading COVID-19 because they attract people from around the world, and people gather in crowds. Indoor mega event attendees will be required to confirm proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 status to attend. Outdoor mega event attendees will be strongly encouraged to do so. See the full Beyond the Blueprint guidance. Read the Bevond the Blueprint Q&A. This does not apply to schools, health care settings and some other public settings. Local health jurisdictions

may impose stricter criteria. Employers are subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) if applicable.

What's Next? California will keep a close eye on COVID-19 vaccination and infection rates over the summer and keep these guidelines in place until at least October 1, 2021. As of this moment, 79.0% of Santa Clara County residents age 12 and older have received at least one vaccine dose. That's a great start. Please help us get to 85% ASAP by encouraging everyone you know who is eligible to get vaccinated.



Volume to the centre spines grant accurate with any multi-induced ones to item processes on youne (1) minution (1) etropy pation doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/ pation processes on (4) or more windows or patio doors between g/r/2021 and g/g/2022. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/ patio door in the order. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky[®] consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA12589 "Using U.S. and imported parts.



County Report Wike Wasserman, County Supervisor

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Times Cover Story



Tereaha and Tiana Hall want to see police removed from SJUSD middle and high school campuses. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

Cops

Continued from page 1

forth some kind of a resolution," said San Jose Unified School District Board President Brian Wheatley. "It's certainly possible, although I don't think likely, that the decision would be to bring forth the Derrick Sanderlin resolution some time in the future."

Sanderlin, who trained San Jose police in rooting out bias and building ties with the community, was shot in the groin with a rubber bullet during last year's George Floyd protests. He stood between police and protestors asking them to stop shooting rubber bullets into the crowd when he was hit.

The Derrick Sanderlin resolution calls for the removal of school resource officers (SROs) from district campuses. It also asks for more counselors, ethnic studies and restorative justice practices.

Connor Magliolo, who recently graduated from Broadway High School, said referring students to SROs gets them labeled as criminals.

"When kids get into fights, it's off to the police instead of counseling," he said.

He told the board that there were always police on campus, but not counselors when he needed them. "I couldn't go to school because of my horrible anxiety," he said. "But instead of helping me deal with that, I was referred to police. I had to go to court. Imagine how traumatizing it is, going to class when you don't want to, and then you're met by a police officer taking you out of that class in front of all your peers."

The San Jose Unified Equity Coalition has pushed the board for 10 months to put the resolution to a vote.

"I hear you," Board Vice President Carla Collins told the coalition at the meeting. "I have continued to have conversations with parents who do not want to see police on campuses. This is a very difficult and complex situation."

Tomara Hall, a special education teacher and coalition member, said the fight is an uphill battle. Month after month, she joined educators, parents and students in rallies outside the school district's headquarters on Lenzen Avenue and spoke at board meetings. Some ask for San Jose police officers to be removed from East Side district campuses but others say having police on campus

ensures safety. At the previous board meeting, resident Carl Stewardt spoke of the 17 victims of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. "The staff members and students assumed they were in a safe learning environment, but in 14 minutes their lives were taken by an armed assailant," Stewardt said. "Armed assailants are unfortunately a reality," he

said. "Please reject the Sanderlin proposal." Parent Jill Cleveland said safety from outside assailants isn't something counselors, nurses or faculty can handle, especially when weapons are involved.

But a 2018 study found school resource officers successfully intervened in only two out of 200 incidents of gun violence on school campuses.

District spokesperson Jennifer Maddox said SROs ensure students and faculty are safe from outside threats, and aren't involved in discipline, suspensions or expulsions. She said when there's police activity in the area, SROs are the district's direct line to what's happening. "They're not there policing students, walking around all day waiting for students to make a mistake," she said. "It's about making sure when criminal activity happens on or around a campus, we have someone there that is ready to respond immediately instead of waiting for someone to respond to a 9-1-1 call."

Maddox said when a September survey asked middle and high school students, parents, administrators, teachers and other workers if the district should continue to use SROs, overall 78% said yes and 78% of students said yes.

While the San Jose Unified School District gets ready to consider barring cops from its campuses, other districts have already done so. Last year, the East Side Union High School *See COPS, page 21*



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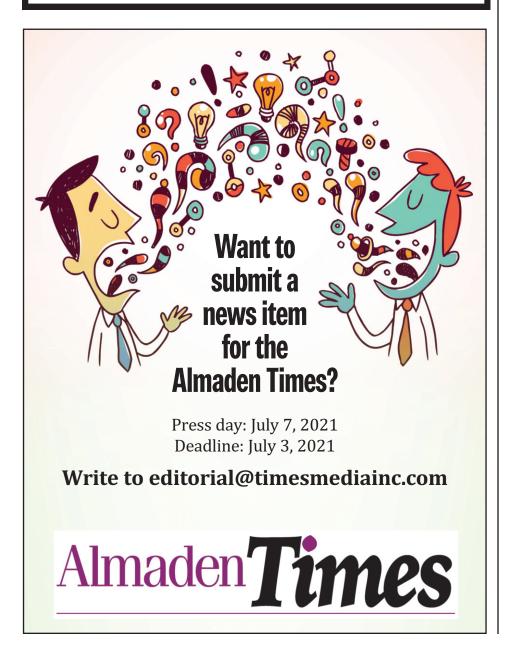
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San Jose Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist **Sandra Avila** said consumers have the ability to request privacy of their personal information from websites.

Identity

Continued from page 1

control over how much of their personal data is being shared. Websites have privacy settings and people can opt out of ad tracking. Facebook, for instance, offers a "Privacy Checkup" under Settings and Privacy. However, check Facebook and Instagram often as every time they update, privacy settings return to default, Avila said.

Tracking allows apps to ask to trace your activity across other companies' apps and websites. Avila said when this is turned off, all new app tracking requests are automatically denied.

When mobile phones have system updates, they have to ask permission for tracking. Privacy settings are available under "Location Services" and "Tracking" on iPhones.

"Apple requires app developers to ask for permission before they track your activity across apps or websites they don't own in order to target advertising to you, measure your actions due to advertising, or to share your information with data brokers," it says under Tracking.

Casillas said by having access to people's GPS coordinates, hackers can figure out where people work.

"This information may make it easier for them to steal your identity," he said. "Data harvesting is the new commodity. I've heard some companies say that it's more lucrative than oil."

He suggests asking companies to send a verification text message to your phone as an extra layer of security. People can also set their mobile phones to only allow calls from their contact lists.

Scams

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), more than two-thirds of reported fraud attempts start with a phone call. These unsolicited callers impersonate the IRS or similar government agencies, large corporations like Apple or Amazon, and travel agencies. Callers may also revert to threats of harm if personal or financial information isn't provided.

The officers recommend residents put their phone number on the FTC's National Do Not Call Registry and screen calls. They warn residents not to answer calls from unknown numbers, provide sensitive data to unknown callers or follow instructions like "Press 1 to get off the call list."

The Federal Communications Commission fined Rising Eagle and JSquared Telecom \$225 million for making automated sales phone calls, or robocalls, to falsely sell short-term health insurance plans in 2019. The FCC said the companies made about one billion robocalls.

Casillas said to be careful of scammers who try to frighten you to elicit money. If someone you don't know sends money through a financial app like Venmo or Zelle, then asks you to return it, tell the sender to cancel the transaction instead to protect your personal information.

Romantic scammers profess their love, then reel people in asking for money with a hard luck story. This is especially hard as the victims who are emotionally invested don't' want to believe they're being scammed, Avila said.

Thieves want people's names, date of birth, address, driver's license number, social security number, credit card numbers, bank account information and mother's maiden name. Avila suggests shredding bills to prevent this information from being stolen.

"Scammers collect your information like pieces of a puzzle," Avila said.

Avila said people need to be smart about what they share and not be afraid to ask questions, such as verifying callers are legit. She said senior citizens are the biggest target of scammers.

One scam involves the San Jose Police Department calling to request donations over the phone. Avila said the police department does not solicit donations for itself by phone or internet. However, the San Jose Police Foundation, which works to build community ties, and the San Jose Police Activities League, which raises funds for community youth do solicit.

With COVID and the increased use of Zoom for meetings, new scams developed. People were told via email that their account was suspended or they missed a meeting and should click for more information and access to a recording of the presentation. They were asked to verify their email address or provide financial information.

The officers recommend checking personal bills and bank statements regularly for unexpected charges and getting annual credit reports. Red flags of identity theft are unexpected collection calls and receiving things from Amazon you didn't order.

To help prevent problems, update passwords regularly and shred personal data before throwing it away, including credit card offers, they say. Ensure computer security and safety with firewalls and strong passwords and don't store credit cards online with merchants in case they're hacked. When possible, pay with cash and use credit cards rather than debit cards for online shopping, hotel or rental car and airline miles.

"Be mindful," Casillas said.

Times **Community News**

Cops

Continued from page 19

District removed its school resource officers. Outgoing superintendent Chris Funk said students asked the district to reconsider having them because it made students of color who live in communities with a lot of arrests feel uncomfortable.

"When your community interacts with police in a negative way off the school campus, that changes your perspective of how you interact

with them on campus," he said. Ruby Carter, who attends Notre Dame High School, said many schools have updated policies with a goal of creating an atmosphere of belonging and a sense of community on campus. "Being a Black student in San Jose, it baffles me to see the remaining prevalence of policing in schools," she said, "and the extent advocates have had to push to get SROs off campus."

At right: The San Jose Unified School District will consider removing school resource officers on June 24. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*



AB 43 'permanent slow streets' passed by the California Assembly

AB 42 was passed last week and is now headed to the Senate Transportation committee. AB 43 allows for reduced speed limits for slower streets.

Citing the success of "Slow Streets" across California during the COVID lockdown, the California Bicycle Coalition (CalBike) has announced its support of AB 43, a bill that could help make slow streets a permanent part of California communities.

Lower speeds are crucial for neighborhood Slow Streets, a concept so successful during California's COVID lockdown.

"The bill would allow communities to set lower speed limits to keep streets safe without being hamstrung by out-of-date laws," said Dave Snyder, executive director of CalBike. "Permanent slow streets become possible if the state legislature changes an old rule that basically lets speeding drivers set the speed limits."

AB 43 Reforms the "85% Rule"

This Caltrans rule requires cities to set the speed limit at the speed of the car going faster than 85 out of 100 car drivers. This method sets speed limits according to the behavior of drivers, not necessarily the needs of the community.

Night Out

Continued form page 1 to, ice cream socials, games, contests, food or clothing donations, plan a clean-up day to beautify a common area, discuss neighborhood issues or set neighborhood goals, discuss or plan a Neighborhood Watch Program. It is an opportunity to be creative, have fun and celebrate your neighborhood!

Registration is now open and available online by visiting www.sjpd.org, online registration with the San José Police Department will close on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. Visit the website for ideas to host your own National Night Out event and other general information. Register your neighborhood for this year's event today!

You do not have to be a current Neighborhood Watch group to participate. National Night Out is for everyone! Registration is free and gives police and other city representatives an opportunity to attend local events as time and circumstances permit. Register now and begin planning your event as soon as possible.

For any further questions about National Night Out contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133 and speak with any of the National Night Out Planning Team staff members. Visit www.sjpd.org for details about registration and other National Night Out event information.

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the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website: http://www. San-JoseGurdwara.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd. San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose, Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas, Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations: St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday11:00AM, Igbo Mass -Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari 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. Come join us and share vour presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kinadom!

For Worship listina ads, call 408.483-5458

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

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

 exercise classes for all levels of ability; lunches and other social programs

organized and run by members of the Association;

 book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes; • trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Muse-

um in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

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

Connected

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

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

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com



food, housing, counsel-Our children's & families' classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. and feel the difference



Office is open Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. -



(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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk

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6214 Paso Los Cerritos

Offered at \$1,899,000 4 Bed 2.5 Bath 2054 Sq Ft 9148 Sq Ft Lot

This meticulously updated home with stylish finishes is on a peaceful tree-lined street in Almaden Valley. New French white oak hardwood floors and wide baseboards throughout the main level. Solid Alder wood front door. Anderson dual pane, wood-framed windows. Vaulted ceiling. Totally remodeled gourmet kitchen. Amazing park-like backyard is an ultra-private sanctuary with mature landscaping, pool, woodburning stone fireplace and an outdoor kitchen.



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

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

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









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