

Study: San Jose children near Reid-Hillview Airport exposed to high levels of lead **SEE PAGE 2**



Pandemic fallout
How to navigate family feelings about returning to school
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Students pioneer high quality modest price face shields
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EvergreenTimes

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Evergreen School District offering remote learning, homeschooling options for families

In-person instruction begins August 18

The Evergreen School District is planning for students to return to full-time, in-person instruction, beginning on August 18, 2021.

"The Board of Trustees and our District leadership team firmly believe that the educational needs of students are best met in-person, in the classroom, with their teacher," said Dr. Emy Flores, Superintendent of the Evergreen School District. "However, we also realize that a remote learning option may be the most prudent choice for some students/families given their medical or other extenuating circumstances," she continued.

The district began the process of planning for its remote learning program before the end of the 2020-22 school year, and then on July 9, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill
See SCHOOL, page 20



Scenes from "Orange Skies from the Eastside" (top) and "The Alabaster Awakening" (above), two of the four film entries from Mt. Pleasant High School students.

All American High School Film Festival selects Mt. Pleasant High School student films to be part of this year's festival in NY

By William Bellou
Publisher

The All American High School Film Festival, the largest student film festival in the world, selected four of Mt. Pleasant High School student films to be part of this year's Festival in New York.

Selected by industry judges, the Mt. Pleasant High School films produced by recent Mt. Pleasant High School graduates from the Class of 2021 are among the best high school films of the year.

Even through the pandemic, these dedicated students honed their production skills and created their own films while in distance learning. The Mt. Pleasant High School student films selected to be part of this year's Festival include the following:

"Orange Skies from the Eastside" by Elijah Anaya

"The Alabaster Awakening" by Brian Diaz (attending CSUN and majoring in Film Studies)

"The Yellow America" by Bianca
See FILMS, page 18

CLASSIC CARS, AMAZING AIRCRAFT

12th Annual Hot San Jose Nights Airport Day returns Aug. 28 to Reid-Hillview Airport

Bring the family to this free friendly classic car show and static airplane show

Hot San Jose nights – Airport Day is always a huge success. The anticipated annual event combines a family fun classic car show with an airplane show for the entire family to enjoy.

This year the event returns on August 28 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on August 28. Admission is free in-

cluding free parking.

The annual event brings the best of everything at the airport, including more than 40 static airplanes on display. Car guys and gals will be showing off an incredible array of classic cars from vintage custom hot rods, muscle cars, sleek sports cars, survivors, new special interest cars, and antiques. Military tanks will also be on display and kids are invited to sit in some. The band
See AIRPORT DAY, page 2



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Times **Community News****Study: San Jose children near Reid-Hillview Airport exposed to high levels of lead**

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Lead levels at the Reid-Hillview Airport in East San Jose are dangerously high for children in the surrounding area, according to a report issued by the county.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors commissioned the lead study in 2020 using 17,000 blood samples collected between 2011 and 2020 from children living near the airport.

County officials announced the results of the study at a news conference at the airport Tuesday, which included Supervisor Cindy Chavez, whose district contains the airport, Mary Ann Dewan, county superintendent of schools, and Captain Adam Cosner of the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

"What this very thorough study proves is that we literally have a crisis on our hands," Chavez said. "This is a public health issue, it's an environmental justice issue and it's an equity issue because the people who live around Reid-Hillview are among those who are least affluent in our community."

The study found elevated lead levels in the children's blood during periods of high traffic at the airport, on par with the lead levels in children during the Flint, Michigan water crisis.

Unlike cars, where leaded fuel is banned by federal law, some airplane fuel still contains lead. Decades of research suggests that it contributes to cancer.

According to the county, there are 21 schools and childcare centers surrounding the airport.

"It's really clear from what you've heard today and we've known for a very long time: lead is dangerous for children," Dewan said. "Many people believe lead exposure is rare. It is not. Many people believe lead exposure can be mitigated. It can't. Research demonstrates the effects on children's educational attain-



Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools **Mary Ann Dewan** speaks at Reid-Hillview Airport on Aug. 3. *Photo by Lloyd Alaban.*

ment, cognitive function and behavior and emotional regulation."

The study comes amid a fight over the future of the 84-year-old East San Jose airport, as a growing number of leaders demand its closure.

Supervisors voted in November to begin the planning process for closing the airport and repurposing the land. They also voted to explore the possibility of consolidating Reid-Hillview's aviation with the San Martin Airport, about 23 miles southeast of Reid-Hillview just outside of Gilroy.

Advocates for decades have called for the airport's closure, saying it poses safety and noise concerns and that the land could be better used for much-needed affordable housing. Opponents, however, say the airport serves a critical purpose for smaller planes and emergency operations.

Dr. Stephen Harris, a pediatrician with Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, said Tuesday studies show there is no safe level of lead in the blood of children and adults.

Airport Day*Continued from page 1*

Identity Problem will provide incredible music so you and your family can enjoy a fun and upbeat day in the sun.

"Bring your chairs and coolers and enjoy the day with us!," said event founder, Michael Hennessy. "We will have great live music and fun food all day, including food trucks vendors, which will round out the show. School robotics teams and ROTC will also be participating. And don't miss the Civil Air Patrol presenting the Color Guard during the National Anthem in the Opening Ceremony at noon."

Second Harvest Food Bank

Event goers are encouraged to bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank that can be placed in barrels at the entry point. Feeding kids during summer months can be a worry to some families, not just Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Award of Excellence

Awards of Excellence will be handed out at



noon during the opening ceremony to the Best of the Bay Honorees. Assisting **Mike Hennessy** with the honors will be California State Senator **Dave Cortese** and **Cindy Chavez**, County Supervisor District 2 (above, L-R).


Scheduled events


Angela Tirado, the "Voice of San Jose" will show off her beautiful voice as she sings the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies scheduled at 12 noon.

Baylands RC Group, directed by Ray Manuel, will present The Greatest Little Air Show in the World" with hundreds of RC planes on display and flying demonstrations, complete with commentary, starting at 12:15 p.m.

San Jose State University aviation program, See **AIRPORT DAY**, page 7

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LETTER

Vaccine a form of germ warfare

Dear Editor,

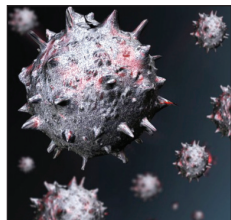
It has been common knowledge for years that all major developing countries have possessed the ability to conduct germ warfare.

The Wuhan crisis is no exception. Was a virus created in the lab and deliberately leaked into the local wet markets for experimentation on the people of Wuhan? This is totally consistent with China's poor record on civil rights and its complete lack of concern for all of the Chinese people. The virus created in Wuhan is by no means a poor reflection on all Asians especially Asia-Americans. It is simply a reaffirmation of the Communist Chinese Government's unconscionable disdain for human life. They are the ones to blame.

Now we the American people will soon be required by our government to get the vaccine without being told what are the short or long term side effects. This is inherently a violation of our civil rights since the vaccine has never been approved by the Food & Drug Administration.

The one benefactor from the spread of the virus is the environment. Consider how working from home reduces the amount of carbon emissions caused by the automobile. Why aren't the Biden Administration and various environmental groups encouraging this?

Joe Bialek



Valley Currents

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

Students pioneer high quality modest price face shields

Evergreen Valley High School students build COVID 19 kits for the homeless shelter

By Aditya Karthik
Special to the Times

As a rising sophomore at Evergreen Valley High School, I would like to share some information about a volunteer project my brother Pranav Karthik, a rising senior in EVHS, and I worked on recently.

Knowing the intensity of the ongoing pandemic, my brother was contemplating making medical first aid/pandemic supplies/kits for the residents of a local shelter (Family Supportive Housing) as his Boy Scouts Eagle Project. Those plans fell through and we decided to continue and build the kits since the project is such a good cause.

The kits consisted of some items we purchased:

- Antibacterial hand sanitizing wipes
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer
- face masks
- bandages
- Reusable drawstring bag to house these items

We picked these items on the assumption that they would be useful during a pandemic. In addition, we decided to make face shields for the residents of the homeless shelter. All in all we made 36 kits and delivered them to the shelter.

Here are the steps for making these inexpensive face shields. As the Delta variant is raging it is our hope that these instructions will be useful for the general public.

Materials: A4 size clear plastic sheets, elastic band, buttons, rubber foam

Tools: scissors, crimping tool, marker pen

1. On a longer side of the A4 sheet, place a mark at both ends (½ an inch from top and side)
2. Make holes with the crimping button in places where the holes are marked.
3. Use the crimping tool and use the female button to crimp the button on to the clear plastic sheets
4. Cut a strip of elastic band about 13" long.
5. Push crimping buttons through the elastic band and use the crimping tool to crimp the male button onto the elastic band
6. Cut 2 strips of rubber foam about 9" long and stick one on top of the other. Stick the other end on the sheet centered in between the 2 markings in Step 1
7. You can now connect the male and female buttons on either sides of the plastic sheets.

Your face shield is now ready!

These face shields can be worn on top of masks and can provide even more protection during the pandemic. We hope that these instructions are helpful for people who want to make inexpensive face shields either for themselves or for other healthcare/essential workers. Help stop the spread!



Jessamine Loera of Family Supportive Shelter accepts the homemade shields produced by Evergreen Valley scouts Aditya Karthik (center) and Pranav Karthik.

Santa Clara County Water District: Residents are not saving water

By William Bellou
Publisher

Santa Clara County Water District says county residents are not saving enough water to respond to our worsening drought conditions.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District, the county's main wholesale water provider, declared a drought emergency in June and asked county residents to cut water use by 15% from 2019 levels

The Water District released figures last week showing that instead of hitting the water saving 15% target, residents saved 0% in June; essentially they are using the same amount of water as

they did in June 2019.

"It's very important for us to hit this 15% target," said Aaron Baker, chief operating officer of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's water utility enterprise. "It is going to take a significant amount of rain to get us out of this drought this winter. We need to save water now so we have water for next year."

"People aren't yet changing their behaviors and realizing how serious the drought is," said Heather Cooley, research director of the Pacific Institute, a non-profit water research organization in Oakland. "We know from

See DROUGHT, page 8



Pictured are the contents of the kits presented to Family Supportive Shelter.

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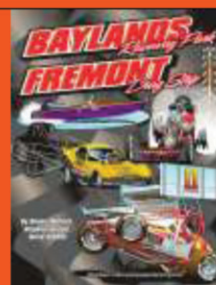
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Times **Feature****COUNTY SCHOOL REPORT****Kindergarten preparation can make a significant difference for children's success**

By Mary Ann Dewan
Special to the Times

As summer comes to a close, thousands of Santa Clara County children begin kindergarten. It is important to prepare for this new, exciting adventure, and parent engagement can make a significant and positive difference for our kindergarten children.

Getting off to a good start and having regular, consistent attendance in kindergarten sets a strong foundation for future learning.

As you look forward to the coming weeks, a few preparation tips can help families on their new journey.

- **Establish bedtime routines.**

Resume the regular bedtime routines about a month before school starts to help ease the kindergarten transition. Talk to your child about why the change is necessary and how it will help their back-to-school transition.

- **Establish a morning routine.** Engage in multiple new morning routine "dry runs" to help with time management. See how much time it will take. Whether juggling other household member's morning schedules, walking to the bus stop, or driving to the new school, school preparation almost always takes more time than you think. Be ready and expect the unexpected.

- **Plan for breakfast.** Making time for breakfast before or upon arrival at school is important. Be sure to adjust your morning schedule to account for the extra time for your child to enjoy breakfast.

Several books encourage family reading time while also preparing your child for the transition to school. The titles below are just a few of our favorites. For more about these titles, or other options, be sure to contact your local library.

- **A Place Called Kindergarten** by Jessica Harper

- **Countdown to Kindergarten** by Alison McGhee

- **David Goes to School** by David Shannon

- **Kindergarten Rocks!** by Katie Davis

- **Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!** by Nancy Carlson

- **Prepare, kindergarten! Allavoy!** by Nancy Carlson

- **Off to Kindergarten** by Tony Johnston

- **School's First Day of School** by Adam Rex



- **Welcome to Kindergarten** by Anne Rockwell

- **Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten** by Joseph Slate and Ashley Wolf

With some advanced preparation, the transition to kindergarten can be very positive for children and parents.



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Airport Day

Continued from page 5

one of the Nation's oldest and the only public institution in California, is welcoming event goes to sit in their aircraft and talk with students and faculty. This gives everyone a chance to learn more about the educational opportunities we provide. The program offers a BS in Aviation with an emphasis in professional flight, operations, aviation management, and Maintenance Management.

- **Military Tanks displayed**

The Eagle Field Foundation will be displaying military vehicles including an array of tanks! The Eagle Field Foundation Mission is to continue military history and technology preservation, veteran appreciation, educational and related events, and activities for local communities. Founded by a group of like-minded historians, engineers, mechanics and veterans, the Eagle Field Foundation - 501C3 California Non-Profit - was established to provide a totally unique educational experience for young and old.

- **Antique Autos**

Check out this year's selection of these very old and well cared for antique vehi-

cles. You can learn a lot about the history of the automobile by talking with their very knowledgeable owners. What antique autos are increasing the most and also find out which antique cars are increasing in value for the collector.

- **Author Dennis Mattish**

Meet Dennis Mattish, famous local auto racing authority and photographer and have him sign your book or pick one up and browse his many photos.

Hot San Jose Nights is sponsored in partnership with California State Senator Dave Cortese, District 3 County Supervisor Otto Lee, and District 2 County Supervisor Cindy Chavez. Business Sponsorship includes: Car Guy Channel; Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez; Eagle Field Foundation; Evergreen Times; Mike Hennessy Automotive; Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, Reid-Hillview Airport; and Tradewinds Aviation.

Registration forms for the car show, food trucks, vendors, non-profit organizations as well as more information can be found at www.hotsanjosennights.com.

Reid-Hillview Airport is located at 2500 Cunningham Avenue, San Jose CA 95148. For more information, visit: www.hotsanjosennights.com.



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Times Feature

Lower grades trending during pandemic

School district officials say distance learning negatively impacted many students

By Naomi Baron

Rachel Fletcher, a rising senior at Homestead High School in Cupertino, used to be organized and on top of her work.

Then she lost motivation to complete assignments due to distance learning during the pandemic. "It was a struggle for me to get through some of my classes," Fletcher said, adding that while she's typically a straight A and B student, she uncharacteristically got a C in her math class.

Fletcher is not alone, as trends of overall poorer performance were seen in high schools across the country. At Homestead, data presented to the school board in October showed an across-the-board increase in the number of D's and F's on the first progress report of the 2020-21 school year.

According to the nonprofit news site EdSource, the number of students at Sequoia Union High School District in San Mateo County receiving more than one failed grade increased by 9% from the fall of 2019 to the fall of 2020. At Mount Diablo

Unified School District in Contra Costa County, the percentage of students receiving more than one failed grade increased from 19% to 31% over the past two school years. In Los Angeles, the number of D's and F's in high school increased by 8.7% this fall over the previous one.

Even if a student didn't fail, they may have seen their grade drop, as Fletcher did. Rising junior Esha Nag from Santa Clara High School reported such an experience. "I do think my grades were impacted by the virtual format. Being in a classroom and socializing was everything I loved," Nag said. Educators say students who come from low socioeconomic backgrounds, whose first language is not English or who have learning disabilities were hit the hardest by the virtual format. "The kids that normally get more support in the classroom weren't getting that same kind of support," Homestead High School Principal Greg Giglio said.

Getting a failing grade increases the likelihood of students dropping out of school—research shows ninth-graders who receive one or two F's are much more likely to not graduate or not go on to college. Recognizing the difficult year many stu-

dents experienced, Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed a bill that allows students to change any letter grade to a pass or no-pass.

Assembly Bill 104 also allows students with mostly failing grades to request to repeat the previous school year. To help students graduate, Homestead is offering to let students who received a passing grade in the second semester of a class collect full credit for the year despite a failed first semester grade. While this doesn't replace the failed grade, it does help students get on track to graduate with the credits they need.

"It was a pretty unfair year all around for students. We thought it was a fair opportunity to tell students, Don't give up. Keep working hard, you can get there," Giglio said. In San Jose, Latino College Preparatory Academy also changed its grading policies. If a student earns an A or B during their second semester, the school would change a first-semester failed grade to a passing one. Melissa Manoguerra, a teacher at Latino College Preparatory Academy, said she had to change her teaching style and grading practices to help her students get through the year. "I was the kind of teacher who was strict about deadlines,"

Manoguerra said. "As distance learning went on, I completely threw out my policies about late work." Like Manoguerra, Bob Ansaldo, an English and journalism teacher at Santa Clara High School, said he struggled on Zoom to cover the material fully. "I couldn't treat it like an in-person classroom, so I covered less material and didn't do as much writing. The traditional standards didn't matter as much as the emotional component." Ansaldo said he is worried how this year might affect students' upcoming high school years. "When the students came back, I had a couple of students who didn't even know how to talk to people anymore," Ansaldo said. "Taking the great extent of learning loss, how do we get somebody to not only just be social, but now to effectively communicate that in words and writing to complete the standards? I am a little concerned."

Editor's note: This article is part of the annual Mosaic Journalism Workshop for Bay Area high school students, a two-week intensive course in journalism. Students in the program report and photograph real stories under the guidance of professional journalists.



Drought

Continued from page 4
the last drought that it does take some time. We did anticipate that."

On a positive note, Baker said the number of people applying to the water district to be paid to remove their lawns under their conservation program increased to 592 in July, up from 185 in June.

San Jose received, over the last 12 months, the least amount of rain in its 128 years of record-keeping, tallying only 5.33 inches from July 1 to June 30. Nearly 90 percent of California now is in extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, a weekly report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Santa Clara County's largest reservoir, Anderson, was ordered drained last year by federal officials to rebuild the dam to improve earthquake safety, taking away a needed water supply for Silicon Valley.



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Times **News****Rental assistance is available through the City of San Jose**

Emergency rental assistance is available now to help qualified tenants avoid evictions in the City of San Jose. If you need assistance, you can apply now.

Qualified landlords can also receive assistance from the State of California if they have lost rental income during the pandemic.

The Eviction Help Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first floor of San José City Hall. Housing Department staffers are available to assist renters and landlords with the application process for rental assistance from the State of California as well as the Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System.

For more information, please call 408-975-4480 or email RSP@sanjoseca.gov.

Sacred Heart Community Service hosting its annual Pack-A-Back drive

Sacred Heart Community Service (SHCS) has begun its annual Pack-A-Back giveaway with the goal of providing 3,800 students with the school supplies they need to come back stronger for the 2021-2022 academic year.

SHCS supports the community by giving backpacks and school supplies to students in grades TK-12.

Sacred Heart Community Service has been working with the San Jose Unified school district to access the school supplies lists for each grade level, ensuring that students have the right materials for their first day of school. In addition to helping local students get the supplies they need, the Pack-A-Back program can save families an average of \$400 which can be used on other recurring expenses like rent or groceries.

Families will not only take home a backpack (and school supplies) for the new school year, but Sacred Heart Community Service is also inviting the community to learn about other health/wellness resources. During Pack-A-Back SHCS will host a resource fair where local service providers will share information about various programs and services available to the community.

The Pack-A-Back program is especially important as our children return to in-person schooling and try to make up for the learning loss that occurred during the pandemic. Sacred Heart is relying on donations and volunteer efforts to meet its goal of distributing backpacks to 3,800 children.

For information on how to donate or volunteer please visit: <https://sacred-heartcs.org/pab>

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tioner of the faith founded
in the 15th century by
Guru Nanak in Punjab of
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who is a "teacher" or "en-
lightener" completes the
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and learning. Sikhism is
monotheistic and stresses
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Times Feature



To increase diversity and representation, the San Jose Planning Commission added four new members.
Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

San Jose Planning Commission gains equity with more members

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The San Jose Planning Commission added four additional members in July following community demand for diversity and citywide representation. Rolando Bonilla, chair of the commission, says the change is needed and a long time coming.

"The city of San Jose, the largest city in the Bay Area, needed to set an example of how to properly govern," Bonilla told San José Spotlight. "When you had a Planning Commission that wasn't taking every part of the city into account, that was just not the right message."

The sweeping changes to the planning commission, one of San Jose's most powerful legislative bodies, came after San José Spotlight revealed how the panel lacked ethnic, racial and geographic diversity. The Planning Commission is an advisory body that oversees development and advises lawmakers on San Jose's planning policies.

After facing widespread criticism in the wake of the reporting, the City Council approved expanding the 7-member panel to 11 commissioners—one for each City Council district and an additional citywide seat. The plan altered the city charter and required approval by voters. Voters passed Measure G which permitted the expansion of the commission last November. City leaders suggested the changes to help give underrepresented communities a voice.

The new commissioners include Maribel Montanez representing District 4, Sylvia Ornelas-Wise for District 7 and Michael Young for District 9. Charles "Chuck" Cantrell is the citywide commissioner. Cantrell previously served as a board member of the Committee for Green Foothills and worked at a community development agency in St. Louis. He told San José Spotlight that expanding the number of seats provides for better equity. "You can't have a Planning Commission that makes plans for communities where they have no involvement and no real say," Cantrell said. "What's great about having additional commissioners is that we're going to get a broader point of view from all areas of the city."

Cantrell said he's interested in facilitating balanced growth and sees an opportunity on the Planning Commission to "work together to create a community for everyone." "I want

to make sure when development happens, legacy communities get to bring their thoughts to the table, enhance the process and benefit from the growth as well," he said. "Building a condo is good for the developer and probably the people who buy the condos, but not necessarily that great for people who have to vacate businesses and residences."

Young first moved to the city in 1985 and applied to join the Planning Commission because of his interest in public service. He previously worked as a fire marshal in Campbell and Mountain View before retiring as a fire chief in 2008. He also worked on the Neighborhoods Commission and District 9 Leadership Group. "As a fire marshal, you get involved in land development and land use, so I have a good background in that," he told San José Spotlight. "The time I spent on the Neighborhoods Commission was invaluable in helping me understand the issues that are important to the residents and the city."

Young said the additional commissioners will provide a broader point of view from all areas of the city. Bonilla welcomes the increase in commissioners and said a small group of people led the conversation for far too long. "We are folks that members of the community can connect with as their bridge to City Hall," he said. "It's about creating a pathway for members of our community to be civically engaged, to contribute in the shaping of the city."

Ornelas-Wise wanted to join the Planning Commission to make a difference in her community, according to her application. She did not respond to a request for comment. As a professional planner for Santa Clara County, Ornelas-Wise managed, processed and facilitated complex land use applications. Born and raised in San Jose, Ornelas-Wise said on her application that the commission should address homeless prevention, affordable housing and smart growth.

Montanez, a development director for Gardner Health Services, previously served on Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Racial Justice and Equity Task Force and as mayor of San Fernando. She said on her application that she adds diversity to the commission as a woman of color and brings perspective as a resident of the North San Jose and Alviso communities. She did not respond to a request for comment. Her biggest concern is equity. "We must address land use policies that are inherently discriminatory," she wrote on her application, "and create policies that limit the displacement of hard-working people and communities of color whose services are needed for the city to thrive."



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Times Feature**Opportunity for student letter grades to be changed to pass/no pass****Assembly Bill 104 passes due to pandemic**

Under California Assembly Bill 104, a parent, guardian (or Educational Rights Holder), or student (18 years old) may request the school district to change a letter grade to Pass (P) / No Pass (NP) on the transcript for grades received during the 2020-21 school year.

There is no limit to the number or type of courses eligible for the grade change and the grade change shall not negatively impact the student's grade point average (GPA). AB 104 also provides a parent, guardian (or Educational Rights Holder) the right to request a meeting with school personnel to discuss retention if the student received deficient grades for at least half of their coursework.

Deadline to submit the Grade Change Request Form for the East Side Union High School District is August 15, 2021.

The following link bit.ly/ESUHSD-GradeChange can be used to access the Grade Change Request Form or use the enclosed grade change request form to indicate the courses for which you are requesting the grade changes.

Fill in all fields, sign the form, and submit via email at educationalservices@esuhd.org. You can also hand-deliver it to

your student's school of enrollment or the district office. You can find your student's 2020-21 grades in the mailer that has been sent out or by contacting your school site.

Electronic Access of Grade Change Request:

If the letter grade earned during the 2020-21 school year is A, B, C or D, you can request to change it to Pass (P). If the grade was an F, you can request it be changed to No Pass (NP).

As per AB 104, the change cannot negatively impact a student's GPA. When an "F" is converted to a "No Pass," the zero points are no longer factored into the GPA. Changing a "D" or even a "C" letter grade to a "Pass" may increase a student's GPA, depending on the GPA the student had prior to the grade change. No grade changes will be made that lower a student's GPA.

As per AB 104, enclosed you will find the list of colleges and universities who will accept, for the 2020-21 through 2023-24 school year, for admission purposes, a transcript with a Pass or No Pass grade instead of a letter grade for an applicant pursuant to Education Code Section 49066.5(b).

The grade changes will be made in the student's transcript and you will receive notification of the grade change within 15 days of the request.



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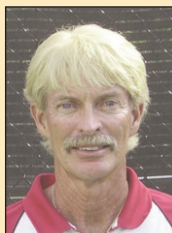
Times **Feature****TENNIS TIPS**

10 tips on how to prepare for a tennis match

'Be a threat at the net'

By Ken DeHart

Here is a checklist of 10 tips from which to choose on how to prepare for your next tennis match. Select the tips that best suit your mental approach to tennis competition:



poach off a weaker second serve, rendering them useless at the net.

9. Play with using your eyes. Choose a target on serve or return. Commit to focusing on seeing the ball. Knowing where the ball is and how fast it is coming will tell you where to move, when

to swing and keep you in the moment. When your eyes leave the ball, feet stop and follow through decelerates. The best players can keep their eyes still at contact. You may not be able to see the actual ball - just don't let your eyes move away as you swing. (i.e., see Roger Federer and the pros manage their eyes thru contact.)

10. Have fun and PLAY often. It is a game after all. The more you play the more experiences you have about how to handle a variety of situations. Make new friends, commune with old friends and love the game.

Ken DeHart, USA High Performance Coach, serves as Director of Racquets, Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club. He is a PTR Hall of Fame, PTR International Master Professional, and USPTA Master Professional. You may contact Ken at 408.892.3806; or email: kendeheart@aol.com; ken@alpinehills.us.

1. Visualize how you play and how you will use your personal tennis or mental strengths and not so much focus on the ranking or reputation of your opponent. Play out the match in your mind so the solutions are unconsciously competent.

2. Have a routine for getting ready on game day; equipment ready, drinks, and lucky clothes ready. Listen to your favorite psych-up music like the pros do.

3. Repetition is the mother of skills. Drills and practice can be boring but you are trying to transfer your skills in an unconscious competent level where you do not have to think to use them in competitive situations.

4. Want to go to the ball instead of waiting for the ball to come to you? Be aggressive at the net, want the ball in doubles. Even if you miss, you plant a seed of doubt in your opponent's mind that you might be a threat at the net.

5. Pick a partner that you like being on the court and one that you can solve challenges together. Talk between points to strategize and keep each other psyched for the next point.

6. Practice the two most important shots in the game - serve and return more than ground strokes and volleys. At least 70% of all the shots you play in a match will be a serve or return - only 30% will be ground strokes, volleys or overheads - at every level of play.

7. Move your feet to get into position. Your strokes depend on you being in the best position to best be able to execute your shots.

8. Don't miss your first serve - the opponent never knows how big you will hit the first serve - they know and so do you that your second serve will be slower. As a server you will feel all the pressure to get the ball in play if you miss your first serve. Your net player is less likely to



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Times Feature

Angling for vacation with Spherical Geometry

By Apoorva Panidapu

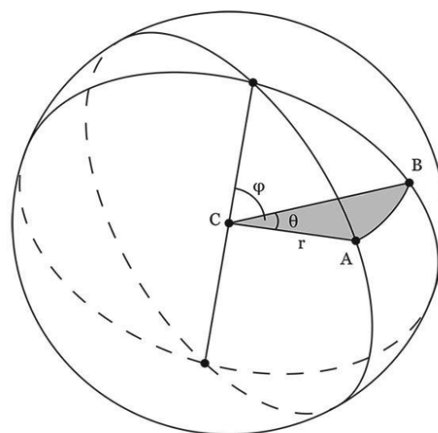
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! 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.

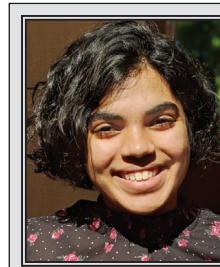
Last time, I left you all on a bit of a cliff-hanger (totally my bad) — we had defined the basic tools of spherical geometry (i.e. great circles), but didn't answer some other questions about other objects on spheres! For example, if there are no straight lines in this geometry, what happens to angles? Or shapes? (Note: If you're not sure what spherical geometry is about, I recommend you first read my last article which introduces everything we work with here!)

First, a warning: **FLAT-EARTHERS BEWARE, THE FOLLOWING (SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE) INFORMATION MAY BE UPSETTING.**

Now, let's start with the first question: angles. In traditional (Euclidean) geometry, an angle is defined by the space between two intersecting straight lines. In spherical geometry, the concept of straight lines is replaced by great circles. So, as expected, an angle between two lines in spherical geometry is defined by the corresponding great circles; specifically, it is the angle between the planes of the great circles. For example, the angle between the two great circles in the below diagram is θ .



Now that we know what angles are, we are able to tackle something a little more difficult: spherical trigonometry, an area of spherical geometry that is concerned with how trig functions on spherical polygons (shapes) relate to great circles. To keep things simple, we're not going to delve too deeply into this subject (otherwise this article would get real ugly, real

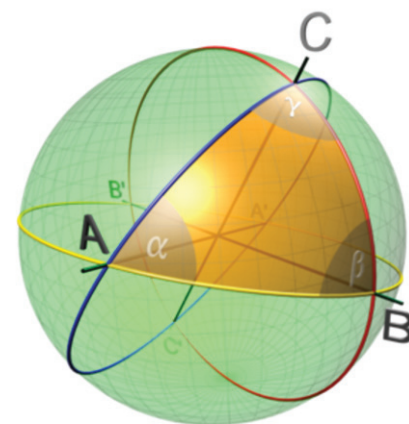


Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu

fast). However, we can talk about the simplest shape: the triangle!

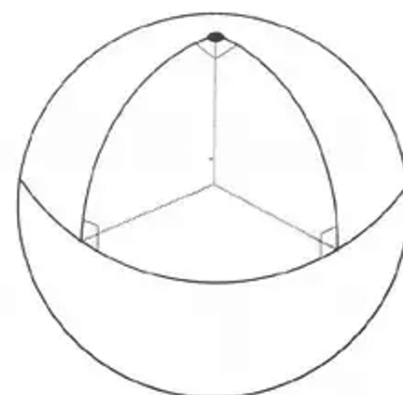
We're all familiar with what a triangle in Euclidean geometry is (a shape with three straight sides and three angles). Uh oh, we now know that straight sides and angles are a little different in this geometry, so we have to adjust accordingly! A spherical triangle is the area enclosed by the intersection of the arcs of three great circles on a sphere's surface. As always, here's a picture to help us understand this definition better!



We have a concept of angles and triangles in spherical geometry, so now let's try and relate them! First, what do we know about the relationship between angles and triangles in Euclidean geometry? Well, there's of course many things to be said, but one of the most important ideas is the fact that the three interior angles of a triangle in Euclidean geometry add up to 180° .

Then we can ask the natural question: does the same relationship hold true in spherical geometry? Before we answer this, I encourage you to take a guess! Try and justify why you think your guess is correct.

Spoiler alert: the answer is no. BOOOOO. Wouldn't that have been convenient? Unsurprisingly, things are a little more complicated. In fact, a spherical triangle has angles that add up to strictly more than 180° and less than 540° . Don't believe me? Yeah, I don't blame you. Below's an example to prove I'm not a liar. (Continued, page 16)



Times **Local News**

Scammers target cash-strapped renters

By Steve McFarland

President & CEO, Better Business Bureau

The Biden Administration may have extended the eviction moratorium through October 3, but that doesn't mean scammers have postponed their tricks.

Con artists often take advantage of the confusion and stress surrounding major events. With millions in the United States behind on their rent, the moratorium's end is a perfect hook.

How the Scam Works

As the eviction moratorium winds down, watch out for scammers offering loans, peddling credit repair services, or promoting government programs. These cons are a way to trick desperate people out of money they don't have.

For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, BBB Scam Tracker has seen numerous reports of phony "pandemic relief" grants or government programs that allegedly provide funding to people impacted by the pandemic. Once you "qualify for the grant," the scammer will ask you to pay a processing or delivery fee to receive your funds. Of course, the grant doesn't exist, and if you pay upfront, you just gave money to scammers.

Advance fee loans, debt relief, and credit repair scams work in a similar way. They promise a loan – or to repair your credit – for an upfront fee. No matter how much you may need it, don't be tempted by "guaranteed loans" or impossible services, such as removing late payments or a bankruptcy, from your credit report.

This recent BBB Scam Tracker report describes a situation more people will likely encounter as the eviction moratorium nears. "I'd been in a desperate financial situation for a few weeks now, so I had been looking for loans and being denied left and right," the scam victim told BBB. The victim received a call from a loan provider, saying their loan application had finally been accepted. There was just one catch: before the company could release the money,

the borrower had to increase their credit score. Fortunately, this company had a way to help. "The way they would do that is they would send money to my account and then all I would have to do is send it back and that would boost my score." Of course, the scammers never actually transferred the money. When the victim "sent back" the funds, they transferred \$1,000 into the hands of scammers and over-drafted their account.

How to protect yourself from this scam

- Double check any government program before you sign up. If an organization is offering you a grant or relief funds, get to know them before you agree to anything. Take a close look at their website and read reviews. If you think you might be dealing with an impostor, find the official contact information and call the company to make sure the offer is legitimate.

- Be wary of out-of-the-blue calls, emails or text message claiming to be from the government. In general, the government will not contact you using these methods, unless you granted permission.

- Do not pay any money for a "free" government grant or program. It is not really free if there is a fee involved. A real government agency will not ask for an advanced processing fee. Instead, find out if the grant is legitimate by checking grants.gov.

- Advance fees are a concern. Not all businesses promising to help you repair bad credit are scams, but if you are asked to pay in advance, that's a big red flag. In both the U.S. and Canada, credit repair and debt relief companies can only collect their fee after they perform the services promised.

- Avoid guarantees and unusual payment methods. Real lenders never guarantee a loan in advance. They will check your credit score and other documents before providing an interest rate and/or loan amount and will not ask you to pay an upfront fee. Fees are never paid via gift cards, CashApp, or prepaid debit card. Unusual payment methods and payments to an individual are a big tip off.

If you've spotted a scam, report it to: BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

Carnatic music melody has special power to elicit feelings of happiness

Ananda Bhairavi is one of many ragam (songs) that's considered a source of joy to listeners

If you listen or learn Indian Carnatic music, you would have come across a composition in the ragam Ananda Bhairavi. A ragam is a scale with a unique pattern of notes going up and down. This is the basis of Carnatic music and compositions which follow a specific ragam.

There are 72 Melakartha ragams meaning they have seven notes ascending and descending. Janya ragams are derived from these and can have less than seven notes ascending or descending. Different ragams are said to invoke various feelings in the listener.

Ananda Bhairavi is a Janya ragam. Some say it's a Janya ragam of Natabhairavi and others say it is from Karaharapriya. In an article about this ragam by musician Smt. Anuradha Mahesh, she states that it originates from folk traditions in Southern India. It contains one anya swaram or foreign note which some musicians include.

Its scale, or arohanam and avarohanam and the anya swaram are in the images.

The European note "C" can be used as the starting note or shadjam (Sa) in the pictures. This ragam invokes happiness in the listener. It is a very melodically focused ragam and shows its full beauty when performed slowly. Therefore, many times you will hear similar patterns and combinations. Whenever I listen to Ananda Bhairavi, it soothes me. I can forget all my worries and feel happy. Some popular compositions are O Jagadamba, Mari Vere Gati and Paluke Bangara Mayena. Next time you feel unhappy or stressed out, listen to Ananda Bhairavi and it will definitely lift your spirits! You can find ragam music on YouTube. Just search bar some of the compositions below.



This is the arohanam of Ananda Bhairavi.



This is the avarohanam of Ananda Bhairavi.

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Times **Feature**

Gems in STEM

Continued from page 14

This spherical triangle has three right angles, meaning its angles add up to 270°. The reason the sum of the three angles of a spherical triangle is always more than 180° is because a sphere is a curved surface.

But, why do we care about spherical triangles? Did people just get bored and start drawing shapes on a globe? Nope! As a throwback to the last article, spherical tri-

angles can be used to calculate the shortest-distance route between two points on the globe. (Thank you, spherical triangles, for helping us get to our vacations as fast as possible!) This method is known as the solution of (spherical) triangles. In particular, given two sides, b and c, of a spherical triangle, the third side a satisfies: $\cos(a) = \cos(b) \cdot \cos(c) + \sin(b) \cdot \sin(c) \cdot \cos(A)$, where A is the angle between b and c. The exact details go beyond the scope of this article,



but if you're curious, I encourage you to look it up!

Another fun fact that I can't prove to you here (but that I hope will still intrigue you) is that the area of a spherical triangle is proportional to its angle sum minus 180°. Huh?! Isn't that crazy? Unfortunately, because I'm evil, I will not be elaborating (but, again, search it up if you are interested!). This fact means that any two triangles with the same angle sum have equal areas. It also implies that any

two triangles with corresponding congruent angles are congruent, meaning that similar triangles don't exist in spherical geometry! Crazy stuff.

Finally, before you go, do you like spherical geometry? Because you can take me on vacation anytime ;) (but only if you're vaccinated).

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

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Times **Feature**

How to navigate family feelings about returning to school

Whether it's your child's first day of kindergarten or the start of middle school, back-to-school season can bring a range of feelings – from worry to excitement – for the entire family. This year may be more emotional as many families spent the better part of the past two school years at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's important to remember that even in the best of times, it's normal for children to express feelings of sadness, isolation or stress," said Tyreca Elliott, from KinderCare Learning Centers' inclusion services team. "Learning how to address those feelings helps us build self-confidence, resilience and independence. What's important is the way adults respond to children's stress. Offering comfort, reassurance and assisting with problem solving will help children learn and grow from stress in a positive way."

As an added bonus, Elliott said many of the most effective ways to help children learn to navigate their feelings work just as well with adults. Consider these three tips to help your children (and yourself) manage emotions during the transition back to school.

Plan ahead: The fear of the unknown can be stressful. Children who aren't able to clearly articulate their feelings likely won't be able to make the connection between new, uncertain situations – like going to school and being around other people – and their feelings. Instead they may become overwhelmed by emotions, which might look like more meltdowns, clinginess or a variety of other behaviors. Talk with your children about how they feel about going back to school ahead of the first day of class. Ask questions to help them determine why they feel particular feelings when they think about school then work together to solve potential issues. That could mean finding a way to meet your children's teachers ahead of time, whether virtually or in-person, or practicing introducing themselves to classmates.

Build a consistent routine: Routines can give children (and adults) a sense of security and structure, which in turn make it easier to cope with big emotions like stress and anxiety. Try to stay consistent, and if you need to make adjustments, talk them through with your children. Be sure to mention key milestones instead of times, particularly if they can't tell time yet. Make sure your children have opportunities to ask questions about any changes to routines. They may need reassurance before they're ready to face something new.

Create special family moments: As important as routine is, it's just as impor-



tant to prioritize quality time together. That could mean a vacation or something as simple as Saturday bike rides or Sunday morning pancakes. Plan a family outing or special time together to celebrate completing the first week of school. Family rituals and celebrations can give children and adults something to look forward to. Quality time together also helps families build resiliency.

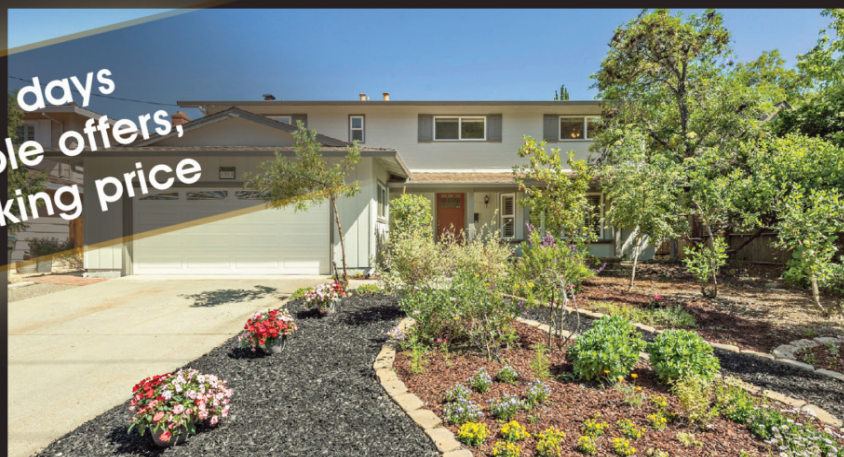
(Family Features)

For more tips to navigate back-to-school season, visit [kindercare.com](https://www.kindercare.com).



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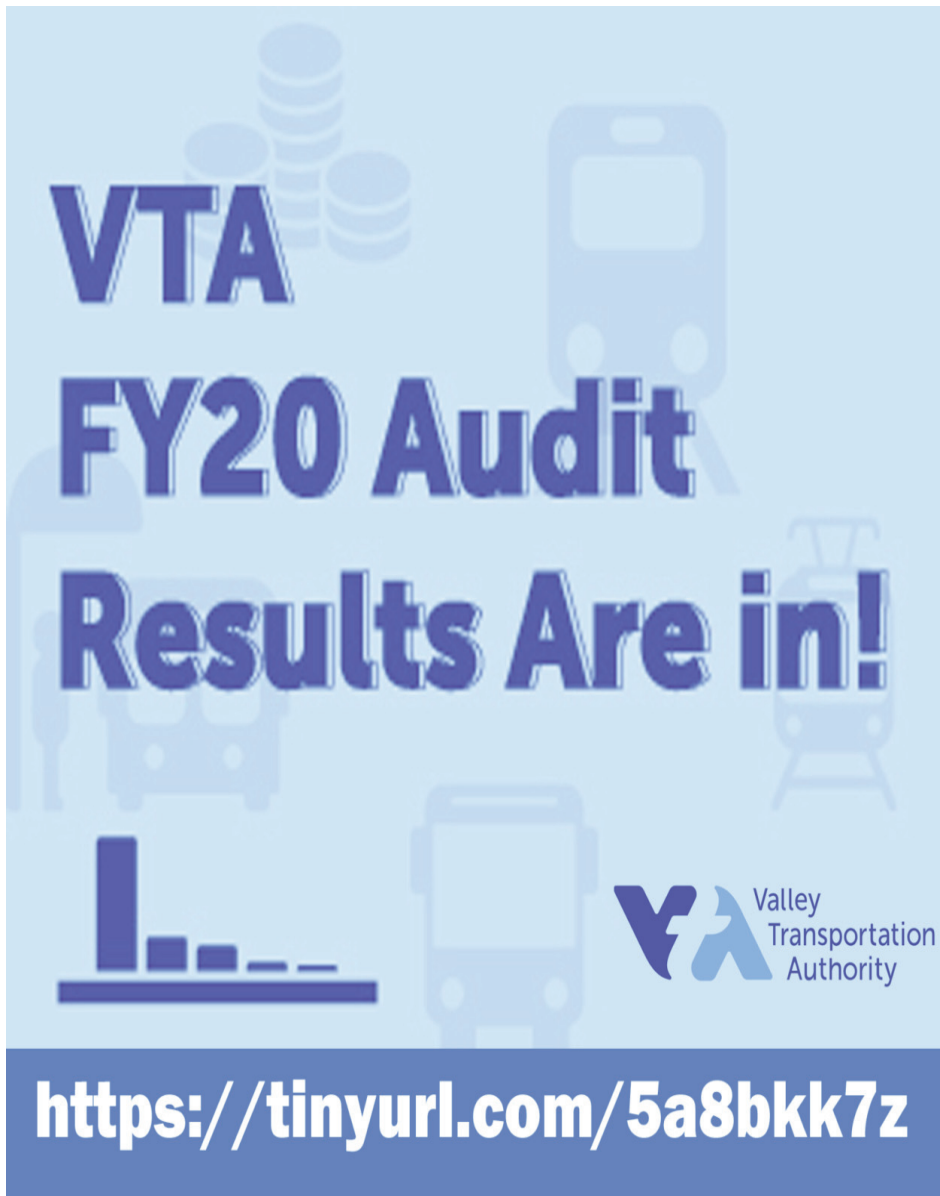
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Times Cover Story



A scene from "Trapped in the Tank" by Dominic Trapani.

Films

Continued from page 1

Castillo (attending University of the Pacific)

"Trapped in the Tank" by Dominic Trapani (attending San Jose State University)

All four films are now an Official Selection and will be screened at the 2021 All American High School Film Festival on October 9-10 at Times Square in New York City. Each year, the Festival receives thousands of films submitted by student filmmakers from around the world.

"This past year of distance learning was challenging for both myself and my students," said William Cavada, Mt. Pleasant High School Multimedia Arts Teacher and Program Director. "But even through the pandemic, these amazing students created

their own films while at home. And now the validation of their work by being selected in the All American Film Festival is a testament to the power of giving students a platform and a space to express themselves. These students in the end are giving all of us a beautiful gift, their stories."

As Official Selections, each of the four films is eligible to be nominated for an award. All award nominees and winners will be announced at the Teen Indie Awards on October 10th at The Kings Theater in New York.

"This is exciting, to have our East Side students recognized at the national level for their creative work as young film makers!" said J. Manuel Herrera, ESUHS Board of Trustees Vice President. "Anyone of them could turn out to be the next celebrated American filmmaker in the years ahead!"



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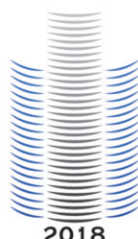
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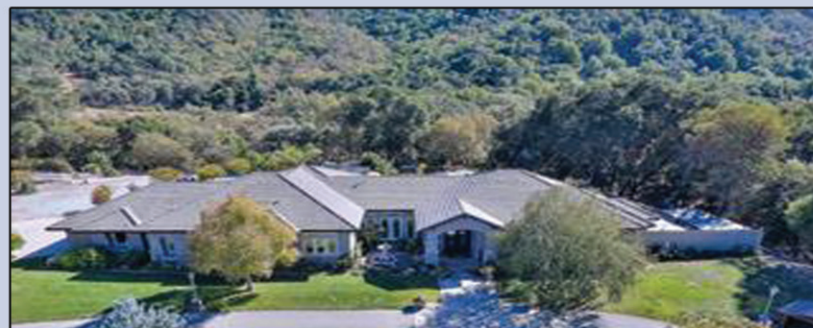
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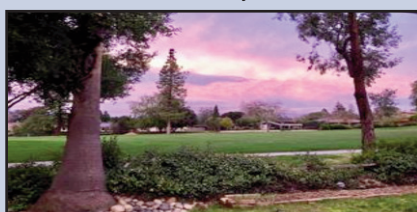
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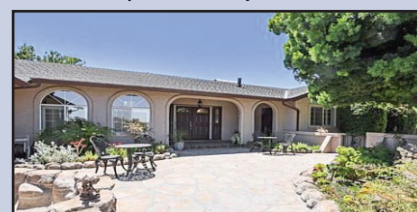
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Times Cover Story

School

Continued from page 1

(AB) 130 into law requiring California School Districts to offer a long-term independent study option to students and families to be made available to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian.

The Evergreen School District is offering three options for parents who would like to enroll their child in an Independent Study program during the 2021-22 school year: the Remote Learning Program (Grades K-8), Virtual Pathways (Homeschooling program for Grades 1-8), and Pods4Learning (Homeschooling program for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten).

Parents or guardians may select an instructional program that best suits their child's needs. On August 4, the district held an information meeting for families that were interested in enrolling their child in the Remote Learning Program for the 2021-22 school year. However, AB130 allows for students to enroll in and disenroll from this program at any point during the school year. Interested families can find more information on the district's website at eesd.org/news-events/newsroom/details/~board/district-news/post/learning-options-parent-meeting. This webpage includes a

video of the information meeting, the process for disenrollment and re-enrollment, parent's rights to request a parent-teacher conference prior to enrollment to review the academic program delivery, synchronous and asynchronous instruction, student support, enrollment process, transitioning to in-person instruction, and specific academic expectations. Students with IEPs must have Independent Study included in their IEP to be enrolled in the remote independent study program.

Families that are interested in enrolling their child in Virtual Pathways or Pods4Learning can visit eesd.org/departments/educational-services/academics-and-curriculum/homeschooling. For families that would like to enroll their child in Evergreen School District's TK-8 schools, please visit eesd.org/district/enrollment/how-to-enroll.

For parents/caregivers considering these options, it is important to note that if they would like to enroll their child in one of the district's schools after school begins on August 18, they will not be guaranteed a spot at the school in their attendance area. The district will place students at schools where there is room in that student's grade.

Families interested in enrolling their child in the Remote Learning Program can contact Derrick Watkins at dwatkins@eesd.org.

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Evergreen Valley College Facilities Master Plan

To: Public Agencies and Concerned
Citizens/Interested Parties

From: San José Evergreen Community College District
40 S. Market Street, San José, CA 95113

Lead Agency/Project Proponent: San José Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD/District)

Project Description: The SJECCD has prepared a draft environmental impact report (Draft EIR) on the proposed Vision 2030 Evergreen Valley College Facilities Master Plan (EVC FMP). The SJECCD proposes to construct and implement the EVC FMP, which would include renovations throughout the EVC campus, construction of new structures, demolition of certain structures, and upgrades to existing transportation and circulation facilities. A detailed project description is included in the Draft EIR referenced in this notice.

Project Location: The project site is located at:

Evergreen Valley College
3095 Yerba Buena Road
San José, CA 95128

The EVC campus is located in an urban setting and is surrounded by a variety of land uses, including residential uses and Falls Creek Park to the north; residential uses, Evergreen Park, and a church to the south; Montgomery Hill Park and undeveloped lands to the east; and residential uses and an assisted-living facility to the west.

Environmental Effects and the Scope of the EIR: This Draft EIR describes the project and identifies any potential-

ly significant project-specific or cumulative environmental effects, and any mitigation measures that may avoid or mitigate the identified effects, if any, to a less-than-significant level. The Draft EIR examines the following topics for potentially significant impacts:

- Air Quality
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems

The Draft EIR finds that the proposed project would not result in any significant and unavoidable project-level or cumulative effects. In addition, the EIR describes and evaluates project alternatives that may reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse impacts of the project.

Notice: Notice is hereby given that the SJECCD, acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft EIR for the EVC FMP. The Draft EIR is available for review online on the SJECCD website at: <http://cboc.sjebond.com/program-documents/>.

CEQA requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites enumerated in Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code are present at the project location. The project site is not listed on these toxic site databases.

Written comments regarding the issues covered in the Draft EIR are invited. The public review period for this Draft EIR begins on August 13, 2021 and ends on September 27, 2021. Written comments must be received at the SJECCD by 5:00 p.m. on September 27, 2021 (see address below).

SJECCD will also hold a Draft EIR Public Hearing on September 16, 2021 beginning at 5:00 pm to receive public comments on the adequacy and accuracy of the information presented in the Draft EIR. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Draft EIR Public Hearing will be conducted via Zoom. Please join virtually from your PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android devices:

<https://sjeccd-edu.zoom.us/j/97853792742>

Address Where Written Comments May be Sent: Written comments concerning the EIR for the proposed project should be directed to the SJECCD at the following address by the end of the public review period, Monday, September 27, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Submit comments by U.S. Mail or Email to:

Terrance DeGray, Associate Vice Chancellor, Physical Plant
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SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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Employment

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Sify Technologies North America Corporation/Sify NA seeks IT Manager – Instructional Design in Santa Clara, CA. Prepare a range of cost proposals with appropriate complexity in response to specific solicitation requirements and relevant regulations. Work on multiple proposal efforts concurrently toward achievement of a fully compliant and competitive cost proposal. Work from home may be an option. May need to relocate/travel to unanticipated client sites. Please send your Cover Sheet and Resume to 5201 Great America Parkway Suite 132, 1st Floor, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Attn: Katta Reddy

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Sold with multiple offers in less than a week

4086 Jan Way, San Jose

Nestled in a quiet, sought-after Cambrian neighborhood, this lovely modern home is perfect for entertaining and features a blank-canvas yard that's perfect for making your landscaping dreams a reality. With plenty of living space and a bright, airy atmosphere throughout, the home allows for comfortable home living and remote work. Multiple guest rooms can easily be converted into any type of room you wish, making this home the ultimate source for letting your imagination run wild. Close to major thoroughfares, tech shuttle stops, shopping, dining, and more, this home will let you experience South Bay living at its finest. \$1,375,000



• **4 bd/2 ba | 1,884 sf on a 7,205 sf lot | Attached 2 car garage**

- Bright and airy living room with considerable natural light, three panel sliding glass door that leads to covered patio, built-in shelving, and floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace
- Open-concept gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops, modern stainless appliances, built-in oven, glass-ceramic blend cooktop, and vintage 1950's cabinetry with black hardware and plenty of storage space
- Living room adjacent to kitchen provides the perfect flow for entertaining and features spacious dining area and durable vinyl wood plank flooring
- Step down from the living room into the comfy bonus room that features built-in media cabinetry, a custom workspace with multiple stations that's perfect for remote work, recessed lighting, ceiling fans, tons of storage space, and easy access to covered patio
- The primary suite features dual closets and an attached bathroom with an adorable vanity and shower/tub combo
- Three spacious guest rooms that can easily be converted into a home gym, arts & crafts room, library, and more
- Updated guest bathroom features custom floor-to-ceiling tiling and shower/tub combo
- Wrap-around rear grounds with lush trees are the ultimate blank canvas to make all of your landscaping dreams a reality
- Lovely outdoor patio with shade-giving wood pergola—the perfect place for year-round California entertainment
- Spectacular location in highly-sought-after Cambrian neighborhood



PRICE REDUCTION:
6585 Cooperage Court
 List price reduced 70K to \$1,128,000



CalRE#00595786

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Realtor®

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Almaden Valley home with an established one acre vineyard of over 1,000 terraced vines. This home also features a pool, outdoor fireplace, multiple entertainment areas, fruit trees and stunning Almaden Valley views. Wet bar, wine room, bonus room, built-in, large master suite with private balcony.



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
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