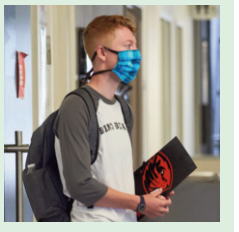


Teenagers combat digital divide by providing computing devices
SEE PAGE 4



Yes, In God's Backyard
Faith community to use surplus land to "get people out of poverty."
SEE PAGE 8

Evergreen School District conducting pooled weekly COVID-19 testing of students, staff
SEE PAGE 8



AUGUST 27 – SEPT. 9, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 18

Evergreen Times

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Reid-Hillview Airport

Board of Supervisors approves starting process for early closure of Reid-Hillview Airport due to lead exposure

By staff writers

In a historic move, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved beginning the process to close Reid-Hillview Airport located in San Jose's Eastside on an early timeline.

Use of leaded fuel linked to lead exposure

The key reason for the Board of Supervisors voting for beginning the process of early closure was due to the release of a study that linked the piston-engine planes using leaded fuel to elevated blood lead levels in neighborhood

See CLOSURE, page 2

STATE SENATOR CORTESE PRESENTS 'SMALL BUSINESS AWARD'

Holy Cannoli specializes in catering, cannoli, cakes - and helping people along the way

By William Bellou
Publisher

State Senator Dave Cortese has selected local small business, Holy Cannoli San Jose, as his "Small Business of the Year" in honor of California Small Business Day 2021.

Cortese presented a Senate Resolution to Holy Cannoli Chef and Owner Jamie Whitmire at Small Business Day celebrations in Sacramento on August 18.

Holy Cannoli Cafe, located at 138 E Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA, was set for their grand opening on March 17 of 2020, only a few days after shelter in place and local health orders went into effect in Santa Clara County.

Donating food to those in need

"I have selected Holy Cannoli as Senate District 15's small business of the year, a business that truly exemplifies what it means to



State Senator **Dave Cortese** presents Holy Cannoli Owner and Chef **Jamie Whitmire** his "Small Business of the Year" award. Also pictured is **Genesys Skye**, Holy Cannoli General Manager, Jamie's daughter.

persevere even under tremendous economic pressure," Cortese said. "Not only have they persevered, but they have ensured that others in our community are lifted up along with

them. As workplaces and businesses shuttered due to COVID-19 lockdowns, Jamie was tasked with opening her very own small business only a few days after shelter in place was instated. And even with health orders upending her plans, she pulled through and her business is now thriving with a successful bakery and catering operation, and a strong team of staff behind her. Knowing that so many in her community were struggling due to the economic effects of the pandemic, Holy Cannoli is leading efforts to donate food to those in need whenever possible."

Stemming from a California Assembly resolution passed in 2000 to honor small business, Holy Cannoli is one of approximately 60 small business owners honored this year out of 3.3 million in the State of California. The annual event is sponsored by 25 small business organizations/chambers.

"Receiving this award is truly a blessing and I thank Senator Cortese for noticing and patronizing my small, woman-owned business," Jamie said. This past year and a half has been insanely challenging, but rewarding."

Jamie said her business experienced setback after setback, but never gave up and turned everything around.

See HOLY CANNOLI, page 2

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ORANGE SIGNPOST

Vivek Kumar photographed the moon from his home in the Silver Creek Valley Country Club last week. The orange color is a signpost reminding us of the devastating California fires that are putting tremendous amounts of pollution into the air.

World Taekwondo Demo Team earns spot as semifinalists on 2021 America's Got Talent

America's Got Talent 2021 returned live on Aug. 24 for the quarter-finals telecast on NBC. Among the 12 acts appearing on the show, World Taekwondo Demo Team, which includes three members from Evergreen Valley, won a spot on the show's upcoming semifinals.

Watch for a more in-depth article about the team's win in the next issue of the Evergreen Times.

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Times **Community News**


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Closure*Continued from page 1*

children. On a parallel and separate path to eliminate lead immediately, the Board also voted to pursue converting Reid-Hillview Airport to lead-free fuel as soon as possible.

Opponents of closing the airport say Reid-Hillview helps alleviate air traffic for smaller planes and can be used in emergency situations. They also point out that elevated blood lead levels are consistent with the state average.

Representatives from the local aviation community announced last week that planes at Reid-Hillview Airport are switching to unleaded fuel, marking a victory for environmental and community groups.

A study commissioned by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors revealed that some children who live within 1.5 miles of the airport have elevated blood lead levels. But according to a San José Spotlight analysis, the elevated blood lead levels found in the local study are consistent with the state average and neighboring counties. Out of 17,000 blood samples, only 1.7% show lead levels that call for further testing. The statewide average of children who meet the same criteria is 1.5%.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is no safe level of lead in children and no way to treat the adverse effects including brain development in children.

"This is about environmental justice, public health and equity for the 52,000 residents living around Reid-Hillview Airport," said Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez who represents the area.

"I have publicly and consistently supported the closure of Reid-Hillview Airport," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "To whatever extent the County's most recent lead study confirms safety and community health concerns, its closure seems all the more imperative. Yet there also remain critical health and safety issues that the County must resolve as a condition to its closure—and not as an afterthought."

***Some believe
that the airport
is imperative
for possible
emergencies
and also fire
suppression
operation.***

Possible closure

If the closure of the airport transpires, it can happen no earlier than 2031 based on a grant with the federal government and also would require permission from the Federal Aviation Administration, which has regulatory authority over the nation's airports.

However, supervisors are adamant the airport can shut down sooner despite potential legal issues from the Federal Aviation Administration, which has opposed the closure.

Supervisor Joe Simitian said he's ready to petition the FAA for early closure of Reid-Hillview; however, he said that before the supervisors' shutter the airport on one study of blood lead levels, he suggested the county commission a second blood study. "We'd also have more credibility in the community," Simitian said. Chavez and Supervisor Susan Ellenberg did not support a second study. According to county officials, approximately 52,000 people live near the airport. Last November, the supervisors voted to explore the possibility of consolidating Reid-Hillview's aviation with the San Martin Airport,

23 miles away near Gilroy.

John Aiken, director of aviation at Norman Mineta San Jose International Airport, is concerned that Reid-Hillview's closure will overload the city's downtown airport if investments at the San Martin Airport aren't made. One concern is a potential shift of general aviation aircraft to San Jose International Airport. "San Jose International doesn't have the capacity to absorb these aircraft or activities," Aiken said.

Affordable housing

The county has long had its eye on the possibility of developing affordable housing on the airport land. Advocates believe the land is best suited for other purposes based on the airport's safety, noise and lead poisoning concerns.

Some believe that the airport is imperative for possible emergencies and also fire suppression operations, but others believe the closing of the airport would have no effect on conducting emergency operations.

Holy Cannoli*Continued from page 1***Finding new ways to create revenue**

"We found new ways to create revenue and continued building our business while also creating jobs," said Jamie. "We supported our neighbors when possible through donations, and helped folks to safely celebrate holidays with menus that featured our versions of traditional fare."

Jaime said she purchased the bakery in late 2019, and like most in our world, she was unaware of what was about to happen. The pandemic and protests caused Holy Cannoli to shutter several times for the safety of the staff and clientele. The official grand opening was put off for more than a year, but the public continued their support of the business.

A new skip to her step

Would Jamie have purchased the busi-

ness knowing all of what she ultimately went through? "ABSOLUTELY!... I believe if this trialsome period was not put in front of me, we would still be successful and thriving, but now there's a new skip in my step," Jamie explained. "[It's] a new found strength bolstered by the many new and existing relationships we have developed."

Holy Cannoli General Manager Genesys Skye said she is so very proud of her mother.

"I've been with Holy Cannoli since 2013 and to see it grow this much has been an honor," said Skye. "We're so thankful for everyone who has been there since the beginning. The feeling of winning this award is absolutely deserved. The person I'm proudest of is my mother for never giving up. She's the hardest working person and everyone knows it. She wanted this award five years ago and I said to her when we received it, mom, you did it!"

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Motorcyclist dies in crash on Capitol Expressway

By Staff writers

A motorcyclist died in a collision on Capitol Expressway and Senter Road on Wednesday, August 11 at 11:41 p.m., according to San Jose police.

The collision involved a driver of a 2007 Toyota Corolla, Hoang Dang, 38, who was traveling east when he hit a man riding a 2007 Yamaha motorcycle. The motorcyclist was traveling south on Senter Road "at a high rate of speed" and ran a red light before the crash, police said. The motorcyclist died at the scene.

The driver of the Corolla stopped at the scene. Police said there was no evidence that the driver was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The death marked the city's 38th traffic death of the year.

Anyone with information about the fatal crash can contact Detective Eliseo Malvido with the San Jose Police Department traffic investigations unit at 408.277.4654.



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Valley Currents

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

Teenagers reach out to help others

Combating the digital divide by providing low-income families computing devices

By William Bellou
Publisher

Since the invention of the household computer, the rich and elite have always had easy access to new technology, while the poor struggle to catch up. Even in Silicon Valley, the epicenter of technological innovation, thousands of families have no devices or internet access.

ClosingTheDivide (CTD) was created for combating the digital divide through providing low-income families with computing devices.

E-waste program

CTD's e-waste program is based on a simple premise, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." The organization's research determined that the digital divide was coupled with another issue of e-waste. When the upper and middle class discard their working devices with every new consumer electronics release, those devices end up in landfills,



Local San Jose high schoolers (Pictured left to right: **Ayush Agarwal, Ankit Kapoor, Anish Thalamati, Daniel Xie**; Not Pictured: Leon Huang) have set out to close the "digital divide" - the disparity between low-income and high-income families in terms of access to technology. Pictured are some of CTD's current inventory: 20 PCs, 6 iMacs, 10 laptops, and 15 monitors. Additionally, the boxes contain 10 new Lenovo Chromebooks gifted by Omnipro, a San Francisco IT solutions integrator.

destroying the environment and polluting cities.

The organization collects discarded devices, refurbishes them, and then distributes them to the underprivileged. CTD picks up the devices at the time and location of the donor's choice to incentivize donations by making them as convenient as possible.

One of CTD's previous projects included

donating 10 refurbished HP Laptops to James Lick High School, which Mr. Barocio, Associate Principal of Educational Development, says "is assisting 10 students and families experiencing financial and technological hardships, helping bridge the technological gap in Silicon Valley." A donation was also delivered to a Cambodian village, helping hundreds of students access afterschool programs to learn English and become digitally literate.

CTD has also worked closely with TechExchange, a larger organization working in Oakland, to host digital literacy and programming classes across the Bay Area. TechExchange Director of Development, Amy Himes, speaks on the issue: "It's a pleasure to collaborate with this bright new organization as we work together to close the digital divide, throughout the Bay Area."

Mr. Ranjan de Costa, CEO of Omnipro, who donated 10 new Lenovo Chromebooks, describes the partnership, saying, "ClosingTheDivide has made a massive societal impact through donating hundreds of computers to low-income families across the Bay Area. OmniPro is thrilled to support the efforts of these young entrepreneurs!"

Editor's note: If you're interested in donating your old or damaged electronics or volunteering at ClosingTheDivide, check out their website at: www.closingthedivide.foundation

Pound Puppy Rescue places Angus up for adoption

Pound Puppy Rescue has placed an adorable puppy called Angus up for adoption.

Angus is the sweetest, happiest, most playful pup that absolutely loves people and most of the time rolls right over onto his back for belly rubs. He enjoys playing with his much bigger foster siblings and is doing great with crate training so



far (already sleeps through the night and will go in his room on his own).

He is a high energy boy, but can settle if he gets his "zoomies" out. He looks like an Australian shepherd mix, but he has stocky legs. He'll likely be medium sized when he's full grown.

If you'd like to meet Angus, please apply online at www.poundpuppyrescue.org and be sure to read their FAQs (Adoptions are local and children in the home must be more than six years old. www.poundpuppyrescue.org

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Times **Feature**

Pedestrian fatality on Rigoletto Drive; driver flees the scene of the accident

San Jose Police Officers responded to the area of Rigoletto Drive and Brahms Avenue to investigate a collision involving a vehicle and a pedestrian on Aug. 22, at approximately 12:54 AM.

The preliminary investigation revealed the following:

An unknown type of vehicle was traveling westbound on Rigoletto Drive when it struck an adult male pedestrian that was walking across the street, outside of a marked crosswalk. The pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene immediately after the collision.

The possible suspect vehicle is believed to be similar to a 2006-2008 Acura TSX 4 door sedan. The vehicle may have damage to the front end.

This is the 40th fatal collision and the 41st victim of 2021. This is the 17th pedestrian death this year.

The identity of the victim will be released by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office after they confirm the victim's identity and notify next of kin.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Templeman #3556 of the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

New study finds Black women with low vitamin D levels are more likely to get COVID-19

By Staff writers

A new study shows that Black women with low vitamin D levels are more likely to get COVID-19, leading researchers at Boston University to surmise that attaining sufficient levels of vitamin D may help protect them from COVID-19.

Scientists assessed three levels of vitamin D — deficient, insufficient and sufficient — among women who had been tested for COVID using data from a 1995 Black Women's Health Study of 59,000 Black women ages 21 through 69 years.

The new study found that Black American women with deficient levels of vitamin D had a 69% greater risk of COVID-19 infection than women with sufficient vitamin D levels.

In addition, the study showed the risk of getting COVID-19. Vitamin D deficiency and obesity are also known to lead to a higher risk of osteoporosis, cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Vitamin D can be obtained through diet or supplements, or produced by the body in response to exposure of the skin to sunlight. Researchers say that individuals, especially people with darker skin, have lower levels of vitamin D; roughly half of the world's population has levels below 30 ng/ml.

Earlier studies found early deaths from the virus were obese or all races low on Vitamin D.



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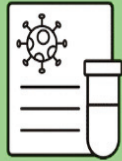
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What is pooled COVID testing?



What is pooled testing?

Pooling can test 25 people using one test. All students in a class, pod, or cohort swab their own noses and place their swabs in a single tube (that's the pooling step). The samples in that tube are then run as a single sample, using one test.

What if the pool is positive?

Families will not have access to an online account. The District will notify families if there is a positive pool and a follow-up test will be given to each individual.



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Times Community News

Evergreen School District conducting pooled weekly COVID-19 testing of students, staff

By Johanna Villareal
Special to the Times

As part of its approaches to maintaining a safe environment for Evergreen School District employees, students, families, and the community, the district is partnering with Concentric by Ginkgo to provide a free pooled and onsite weekly testing program for its students and staff.

The new testing program applies to elementary schools and only students with completed consent forms are able to participate in the weekly testing. Further instructions regarding providing consent have been emailed to parents/guardians of current students. Per California law, employees who are not vaccinated will be required to participate in weekly testing.

Pooling can test 25 people per group using one test. Pooled testing will provide important information on prevalence of COVID-19 in each school and more accurate information for surveillance and quarantining.

"Conducting routine testing helps us act quickly to contain outbreaks, protecting our students and the community," said Evergreen Superintendent Dr. Emy Flores.

"Conducting routine testing helps us to act quickly to contain outbreaks, protecting our students and the community."

The onsite testing is expected to help save employees and families' time related to obtaining COVID-19 testing and results. Test results are typically available between 24-72 hours.

For more information, parents should contact their child's school office.

Editor's Note: Pooling samples is safe and involves mixing several samples together in a "batch" or pooled sample, then testing the pooled sample with a diagnostic test. This approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested using the same amount of resources. For example, four samples may be tested together, using only the resources needed for a single test.

The new testing program applies to elementary schools and only students with completed consent forms are able to participate in the weekly testing.



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Beatrice Jean Brown
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Served as Secretary for the East Side Union High School District

Beatrice Jean Brown passed away peacefully in San Jose at the age of 93. She was born in the small village of Lancaster, New York to Earl and Ida May Cornish.

Bea was resilient and strong of character, having grown up in tough times with the “Greatest Generation” of Americans who courageously fought their way through the Great Depression and World War II.

She was a secretary for more than 30 years, most of which were in the East Side Union High School District in San Jose.

Her family and friends meant everything to her. Her greatest legacy was to let her loved ones know they were cherished and important to her. She made friends easily and kept them for life. Bea was a woman of faith and personified what it meant to be a good Christian, facing the end of her life with grace, dignity, and optimism, knowing with certainty that she would be embraced by her Heavenly Father.

Bea was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Robert Brown. Left to cherish her memory are her four children, Larry Brown (Tamera), Beverly Brown, Daniel Brown and Christina Nash (John), as well as 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Family and friends honored Bea at a memorial service on August 18, at the Oak Hill Funeral Home’s Chapel of the Roses in San Jose.



Carole Ishimatsu
April 1, 1944 - August 2, 2021

Beloved teacher in the Evergreen School District

Carole Naomi Ishimatsu passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones in Santa Clara on August 2, 2021.

She was born and raised in Honolulu to Hatsue and Toshio Gushiken where she attended Farrington High and the University of Hawaii. Carole lived in San Jose for nearly 50 years and received her teaching credential from San Jose State.

She is survived by her husband, Brooke, their three children, Darin, Jennifer and Todd and grandchildren, Claire, Lauren, Lily and Austin. Carole was a devoted mother, friend and family member. She was a dedicated and beloved teacher at San Jose’s Millbrook Elementary, O.B Whaley Elementary and Chaboya Middle School.

Carole loved photography and music and was a coffee, hummus and scone aficionado and had a special talent for picking perfectly ripe fruit. We remember Carole for her lively



warmth, generosity, zest for life and courage to overcome life’s challenges.

Due to the current health situation, a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Inc. Magazine reveals annual list of America’s Fastest-Growing Private Companies—the Inc. 5000

By Staff writers

Inc. magazine today revealed that EQ1 Real Estate is No. 4965 on its annual Inc. 5000 list, the most prestigious ranking of the nation’s fastest-growing private companies. EQ1 operates in Evergreen Valley locat-

ed on the Villages Parkway.

The list represents a unique look at the most successful companies within the American economy’s most dynamic segment—its independent small businesses. Intuit, Zappos, Under Armour, Microsoft, Patagonia, and many other well-known names gained their first national exposure as honorees on the Inc. 5000.

“I am honored that our company has again been recognized as one of America’s Fastest-Growing Private Companies,” said Mike Bui (inset), President and CEO of EQ1 Real Estate. “We are proud that our entire team rallied together to keep



moving forward and continued helping our clients buy and sell real estate in the midst of all the uncertainty and trials during the past year. We are grateful for our clients’ trust and business, as well as our vendors and partners for their continuous support.”

The team at EQ1 is committed to growth and development as well as community service. The company launched their 501(c)(3) foundation last year called EQ1

Gives.

They are currently partnering with a number of charities within the local community who are helping people and families in need.

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tioner of the faith founded
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and learning. Sikhism is
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Looking on the bright side: Educational changes following Covid-19

By Patrick Quinn

Here are five positive lasting effects and emerging trends in education that the pandemic acted as a catalyst for.

1. Internet and online education brings equal opportunity to everyone, no matter your economic status.

Over the past year, the economic inequality impacting education has come to the forefront on people's minds. This year, policymakers at both the state and federal levels are working together to make broadband ubiquitous. As we look ahead, positive change is on the horizon as we work as a society to address these types of challenges and problems.

2. Schools are prioritizing social-emotional learning.

The past year has been an extended period of collective trauma and isolation that may be during extremely formative years. We don't know the lasting impacts it will have, but we do know that students need support from their teachers; teachers need support from their administrators, and so on. Social-emotional learning will rise to the forefront as key to academic recovery, for both students and teachers.

3. Educators are embracing formative learning and assessment models.

After the pandemic occurred in March of 2020, the last few months of the academic year were basically put on hold. Learning, testing, assessments, and more were cancelled which led us to a unique opportunity to rethink learning models. Over the past year, we saw a move toward competency-based, student-centered models that promote student engagement and agency in the learning process, while easing learning loss.

4. Parents and guardians are becoming more actively involved in their kids' education.

Prior to the pandemic, kids had a way of talking themselves out of conversations surrounding their grades and education to their guardians. With students now learning from their homes, parents and guardians have no choice but to be more attune to what they're learning and how they're performing. Virtual learning led to an increase in parent's using Brainly, and Brainly followed suit with the creation of Brainly for Parents. This platform allows parents to find deeper answers, for better understanding and explanations for their children. This allows students and parents to learn together.

5. Students are learning bet-



The pandemic has caused some schools to prioritize social-emotional learning.

ter time management and taking control of their own educational outcomes.

Students are learning that it's their responsibility (and theirs alone) to find the time and energy to finish their school assignments on time, without being micromanaged. Virtual learning requires teachers to trust their students, and it requires students to follow through on their own. While this may require a great amount of self-discipline for anyone, let alone an adolescent child, many students are not only proving themselves capable but actually

starting to thrive in this new self-directed learning environment. Thanks to Brainly's peer to peer learning community that provides 24/7 help, along with the recent addition of new products to its suite of online learning tools like Brainly Tutor and the AI-powered Math Solver app, it's now easier than ever for students to find all the help they need online so they can become self-directed learners.

Though the pandemic made everything seemingly more challenging, it exposed many flaws that occur throughout our public

education system on a daily basis. Many improvements can be made systemically, improvements that would not have been brought to the public's attention without the pandemic occurring. The silver lining that is COVID-19 acted as a catalyst for positive change and has challenged Americans to care about the flaws in educational eq-

uity.

About the author: Patrick Quinn — a parenting expert at online learning platform Brainly, father of three school-age kids, and former teacher— has outlined five silver linings for the US education system that have come out of one of the most turbulent times for students and teachers alike.

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Times Opinion

OP-ED

Khamis: Yes In God's Backyard

By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times



In the past, Santa Clara County faith leaders welcomed the unhoused into their houses of worship through the Winter Faith Collaborative and allowed their parking lots to be used for overnight parking. Once again, our faith community is stepping up to help address some of our most difficult socio-economic issues.

Faith leaders have now leaned into a new initiative called “Yes In God’s Backyard,” commonly referred to as YIGBY. The faith community aims to use their surplus land to build housing with a “vision to get people out of poverty.” Although this proposal can help put a real dent in our housing supply and help alleviate the housing crisis, cities have the final word on land use and many hurdles have to be overcome before city leaders approve a policy to allow residential units to be built on church lands.

The state and San Jose are attempting to clear the existing bureaucratic hurdles to allow for opportunities to build housing on land zoned Public/Quasi Public, or PQP. Typically, the PQP designation applies to places of worship and schools because they are considered places for public assembly. Once the zoning hurdles are removed, this can pave the way for proponents of YIGBY to build housing on church land. The city will separately develop a PQP policy specifically for schools.

In September 2020, San Jose approved a Citywide Residential Anti-Displacement Strategy that included analyzing zoning changes in limited cases for places of worship. Mayor Sam Liccardo included funding in the 2021-22 budget to conduct the necessary outreach to explore the conditions for which PQP zoned properties would be allowed to use a portion of their land for construction of residential units. A broader proposal to change zoning on a statewide level, Senate Bill 899, was shelved in November last year but could be revived.

In San Jose, the Cathedral of Faith has been in talks with the city and Mayor Liccardo for more than a year in hopes of building 200 units to house low-income residents on their unused land. They have already begun the long and difficult process of changing the zoning for their property from PQP to residential zoning.

Cathedral of Faith has received funding from the Sand Hill Foundation, a nonprofit that provides funding for promising organizations working to alleviate poverty and build housing. According to Elliot Sands, COO of the Sand Hill Foundation, the Cathedral of Faith has secured \$20 mil-

lion in funding from the foundation. The church leadership is hoping that the PQP YIGBY policy development for “assembly use” currently in the works with the planning and housing departments will clear the way for development to commence in early to mid 2022.

The Cathedral of Faith land development project is being used as a model for other churches. However, before we declare this a victory in addressing the housing crisis, many questions remain for the PQP YIGBY policy under development. What will be the affordability mix of low income units to market rate units? Who will manage these properties after they are built?

While the Cathedral of Faith’s project is not in a low density area, many churches are. Will those churches be allowed to build high density housing in low density neighborhoods? Will churches lose long term assets for short term financial gains if they are able to sell to developers? What will happen to the assembly space for the community?

These questions and more will be discussed in San Jose’s community outreach efforts taking place in August through October. The city is hosting a community meeting on the development policy on

“Yes In God’s Backyard,” commonly referred to as YIGBY, is when the faith community aims to use their surplus land to build housing with a “vision to get people out of poverty.”

Aug. 19 from 6-8 p.m. on Zoom. For the outreach meeting link and city updates on affordable housing on sites with assembly use, visit: tinyurl.com/yrah4m2h.

The hope is to get community buy-in to create an ordinance that will allow PQP zoned properties to build residential housing by right, meaning churches could develop their land without going through the rezoning process in the future. Again, the PQP policy development of schools is being done separately from the policy for churches.

The devil is in the details and these discussions are happening concurrently alongside several other recommendations from San Jose, including anti-displacement strategy, urban villages and Opportunity Housing. One thing for sure is that these will be heated discussions.

Johnny Khamis is a former San Jose councilmember representing District 10. He now works as a public relations consultant for the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors (SCCAOR).

Will San Jose's Vietnamese Heritage Garden ever blossom?

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

When a group of Vietnamese leaders came up with the idea of a heritage garden almost 40 years ago, the vision was grand.

The Viet Heritage Garden in San Jose was supposed to be a cultural oasis featuring mini-replicas of different historical Vietnamese landmarks, a reflection pond and a pathway to a community center.

Today, the garden stands bare in Kelley Park with a red brick imperial gate, a fence and three flagpoles. Overgrown grass, shrubs and trash cover the ground. Part of the entryway is graffitied.

The garden is rarely used, except for a monthly Vietnamese flag raising event. A corner of the four-acre plot functions as a community garden, where some older Vietnamese residents grow vegetables.

"I walk by it all the time, but I didn't know what to make of it," East San Jose native and college student Thao Truong told San José Spotlight. "I'm not even sure what it is."

A passion project decades in the making, the Viet Heritage Garden project was tainted by years of delay and disputes between the city and the nonprofit in charge of development before funding ran out, community members and leaders say.

The project was touted as a way to pay homage to the journey that thousands of refugees took to flee Vietnam following the fall of Saigon in 1975, as it would also serve as a space for the largest Vietnamese population in any American city to gather and socialize.

Will the vision of a vibrant Viet Heritage Garden ever come to life?

"The enthusiasm and interest is still there," former Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen told San José Spotlight. "But the biggest barrier right now is funding."

Years of delays

Following her historic win in 2005 as the first Vietnamese American councilmember in San Jose, Nguyen started pushing for the

heritage garden project in City Hall. But it wasn't until she became vice mayor six years later that the project took off.

Community members long dreamed of the heritage garden; Nguyen told San José Spotlight. "I had a little bit more discretion in terms of asking for funding then," Nguyen said. "But it's very hard for any one elected official to be able to convince their colleagues to spend that significant amount of money on one particular project."

Visionaries came to her with sketches featuring a number of mini-replicas of Vietnamese historic structures, such as the One Pillar Pagoda, Hùng Temple, Pagoda of the Celestial Lady and Tomb of Lê Văn Duyệt. Similar to the Japanese Friendship Garden located on the other end of Kelley Park, the Viet Heritage Garden would also have a reflection pond filled with lotus, an iconic water flower in Vietnam.

The vision of the garden changed over the years, Nguyen said, but the support and desire for the project was "tremendous" during her tenure. "It was significant because it's a way to not only preserve the Vietnamese culture, but it is also taking an important part of history and ensuring that it is ever present in the city of San Jose," she said.

While Nguyen rallied the city for funding, the Vietnamese Heritage Society, a local nonprofit, took charge in designing and building the garden. Between 2006 and 2012, the project received more than \$2 million in funding from the city, county and state. The heritage society also raised more than \$1 million from community members to bring the garden to life.

The project broke ground in 2011, but construction halted after the city claimed improper management by the Vietnamese Heritage Society, an allegation the nonprofit disputed, according to a news report. But the longer they waited, the more expensive it was going to be, with construction costs rising across San Jose. The heritage society could only finish the first phase of the proj-



San Jose Viet Heritage Garden in Kelley Park. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

ect, which included the imperial gate, a parking lot and three flagpoles.

Vietnamese Heritage Society Chairman Dr. Ngai Nguyen didn't respond to inquiries about the garden. In 2016, the city cut ties with the heritage society and took over the project, saying the site was a health and safety hazard, according to a city memo. In total, more than \$3.5 million was spent on the project.

Little has been done since. The garden is maintained weekly, and its community garden program will undergo renovation later this year, said city spokesperson Daniel Lazo.

"It's just been sitting there, for too long," said one resident who's lived across from the garden for 25 years. She requested not

to be identified. "I think it ended up being a waste of taxpayer money."

What lies ahead

San Jose boasts in its 2040 General Plan to be the first city in the U.S. to have a Vietnamese heritage garden, but plans to build out the empty lot on Roberts Avenue are nowhere in sight.

In a 2016 memo, officials noted that the city will oversee any further work on the garden, but funding must come from the community.

"I wish that we could have done more (with the garden)," Nguyen said. "And I hope that we still can make it a landmark... The hardest part about this project is getting the city to designate a space, and we do

See GARDEN, page 20



A corner of the Viet Heritage Garden has been converted into a community garden. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

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Times Feature

It's time for a breakdown (of numbers)

By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As a recap: this column 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.

And now it's time for a breakdown... (cue *My Lovin' (You're Never Gonna Get It)* by En Vogue.)

In particular, a breakdown of numbers! Today we'll be talking about partitions of numbers. At first glance, they're a fairly simple concept: a **partition** of a positive number "n" is a way to break it up into a sum of positive integers. For example, the partitions of 5 are 1+1+1+1+1, 2+1+1+1, 2+2+1, 3+1+1, 3+2, 4+1, and 5, for a total of 7 partitions. Note that 5 still counts as a partition of 5. Also, notice the order of the numbers in the sum doesn't matter: 5=2+3 is considered the same as 5=3+2, so we don't count it twice.

It can get a little tiring looking at long sums of numbers, so we can instead represent these partitions with fun graphs! The most common types are **Ferrers diagrams** and **Young diagrams**. To be honest, there's not a huge difference between them, unless you're really passionate about distinguishing dots and boxes.

Some brief history: Ferrers diagrams are named after British mathematician Norman Ferrers. You may also be thinking of the fantastic chocolate delight, Ferrero Rocher... okay maybe not, but I am now. However, these are not related (as far as I know), but funnily enough the diagrams look like lines of these heavenly chocolate balls. Per usual, the best way to demonstrate is with a picture:

For n=15, one partition is 6+3+3+2+1, which is ordered from the largest to smallest **parts** (the numbers in the sum). Each row is the size of a part in the partition.

```

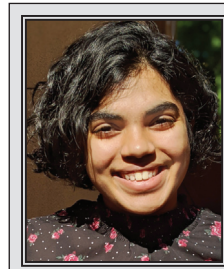
6   • • • • •
+3  • • •
+3  • • •
+2  • •
+1  •
= 15
    
```

(See what I mean about the Rochers?! Here's another example— these are all the 5 partitions of the number 4 represented as Ferrers diagrams (image taken from Wikipedia):

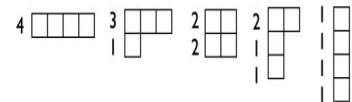
```

••••  •••  •••  ••  •
      •   ••  •   •
          •   •   •
              •   •
                  •
4   = 3+1 = 2+2 = 2+1+1 = 1+1+1+1
    
```

Now let's quickly touch on Young diagrams, which work the same way as Ferrers diagrams (at least with the conventions we're using). Young diagrams were named after another British mathematician Alfred Young (the Brits are really killing the partition game!), but uses boxes instead of dots. Here's an example: the same 5 partitions of the number 4 represented as Young diagrams this time:



Gems in STEM
 By Apoorva Panidapu



While this difference seems irrelevant, these Young diagrams can be modified into something called Young tableaux (by filling the currently empty boxes with numbers), which are very significant in the study of symmetric polynomials and group representation theory!

Though they aren't the most complicated, these diagrams are handy, and can really simplify some proofs (and also tie into generating functions quite nicely). I would give some examples, but unfortunately this article can only be so long. But look out for a future column that elaborates on this!

Okay, and? Why do we care about partitions?

Well, if you must have applications, par-

Perhaps surprisingly, beyond pure math, partitions also make an appearance in genetics, like in Ewen's sampling formula, and in statistical mechanics (both classical and quantum)!

titions are used in many, many areas. Of course, they are used in lots of pure math (as mentioned above), like in studying symmetry polynomials. But they're also used in the mathematics of shuffling (which does make some sense as you are breaking apart a fixed number of cards). Perhaps surprisingly, partitions also make an appearance in genetics, like in Ewen's sampling formula, and in statistical mechanics (both classical and quantum)! One major example is the equipartition theorem, which can be thought of as "shuffling energies," which is something you've definitely thought about if you've taken physics. Hence, understanding this partition function is incredibly useful across STEM!

And so it seems we have, in fact, gotten it, a contradiction to En Vogue's anthem! (So we can hold off on a breakdown for now). In the meantime, I'm going to go make a Ferrers diagram out of Ferrero Rochers now. Until next time!

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

CDPH launches new campaign to combat teen vaping

Teens that vape are more likely to test positive for COVID-19;

'Tell Your Story' campaign builds awareness in teens trying to quit

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) launched a new advertising campaign called "Tell Your Story," in response to the latest high school vaping data from its 2019-20 California Student Tobacco Survey.

California has made progress in combating the youth vaping epidemic, but with kids going back to in-person learning, it is crucial we continue making progress.

The survey, which includes data from September 2019 to March 2020, revealed that California's high school vaping rate is at its lowest in four years (8.2%) while the number of California teens trying to quit vaping more than doubled since 2018. During the same time, numerous youth and young adults were hospitalized due to the e-cigarette, or vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) outbreak, sending a warning to young people across the state. California was the first state in the nation to respond to the deadly EVALI outbreak with a large-scale public awareness advertising campaign to protect young people, launched by Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order on September 16, 2019.

As California was responding to the EVALI epidemic, the COVID-19 pandemic created another public health crisis that attacks the lungs, reinforcing lung health as a top priority. Smoking and vaping harms the lungs, putting Californians who vape at greater risk from COVID-19. Research has shown teens who have tried vaping are five times more likely to test positive for COVID-19.

"By addressing the dangers of vaping as part of our preparation for schools reopening, California is taking an even more proactive approach in protecting youth health," said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer. "Returning to in-person learning could mean a spike in teen vaping use at exactly the wrong time. It's critical young people know the facts about the dangers of vaping and have the support and resources they need to avoid use or quit."

The "Tell Your Story" campaign features real stories from young people and highlights their journey to quit vaping. The campaign educates youth and young adults about the harmful health effects of vapes and connects them with evidenced-based resources to quit, especially as they're exposed to increased social pressure in school environments.

"Seeing the impact vaping had on my health and my family, after I got out of the hospital, I knew I had to focus on living a healthier lifestyle, and that started with quitting vaping," said Blake Gray, a 20-year-old content creator and "Tell Your Story" campaign ambassador from Los Angeles. Gray underwent emergency surgery in 2019 when he was diagnosed with pneumomediastinum, caused by a vaping injury that burned a hole in his esophagus. "I'd tried quitting before, and it was easy to fall back into old habits. But with the support of friends and family, I was able to get into the



best shape of my life and found myself in a much better place mentally as well without needing to vape."

Recognizing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, the new campaign uses empathy and understanding for the difficult journey young people face when they quit vaping, rather than emphasizing the negative health impacts of using tobacco.

The "Tell Your Story" campaign promotes the "I Can Quit" text message program, an evidenced-based quit vaping effort that helps support the quitting process and emphasizes how to develop and successfully practice coping strategies. The program is centered on a desired quit date and then adjusts the content and timing of the texts, so they are relevant to the users' phase of quitting. The text program covers topics including motivation, planning, goal setting, seeking support, self-talk, withdrawal management, recovering from slips and much more.

The annual student tobacco survey conducted by CDPH, in partnership with University of California, San Diego, assessed the use of and attitudes toward tobacco products among middle and high school students along with social and environmental exposure to various tobacco products and advertisements. Additional key findings from the report include:

- Overall tobacco use (9.7%) among high school students was mainly driven by the rate of vape use (8.2%). Vape products were the most used tobacco product among students across gender, race/ethnicity, and grade.

- In 2020, 11.6% of LGBTQ+ identifying high school students in California vaped, compared to the overall California high school vaping rate of 8.2%.

- High school students who rated their mental health as poor had higher current tobacco use prevalence (16.1%) compared to those who rated their mental health as good to excellent (7.9%).

- The vast majority of teens who vape use flavored vapes (96.2%).

Californians looking to quit can text "I Can Quit" to 66819 or visit NoVapes.org to join the free, confidential text message program.



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Times Feature

Reid Hillview Airport update

By Mike Wasserman
Special to the Times

The Board of Supervisors yesterday deliberated past midnight about the County's Airborne Lead Study at Reid Hillview Airport, and the resulting actions necessary to prevent lead contamination at and around the airport. I am grateful to the

hundreds of community members, pilots and advocates who waited hours to weigh in.

In summary, the Study concluded that the closer someone lives to an airport with planes using leaded fuel, the higher the exposure to lead. It also articulated that lead in the blood of children is extremely harmful, causing irreversible damage. Knowing this, I pushed for immediate action. My thought was that if we can quickly switch to



County Report
Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor

unleaded fuel, we can quickly stop the harmful lead emissions.

I believe that the most direct way to address the lead problem is to remove it. Period. Which is why in April of this year, I asked County staff to look into making unleaded fuel available at our airports. Last night, the Board voted to "Direct Administration and County Counsel to take such actions as may be necessary to expeditiously eliminate lead exposure from operations at Reid-

Hillview Airport, consistent with all established federal, state, and local laws and all court orders. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, both prohibiting the sale or use of leaded fuel, and pursuing any and all available paths to early closure prior to 2031."

I also pushed to ensure that San Jose's problem doesn't simply become San Martin's problem. The Board universally supported my resolution affirming that any future actions taken at Reid Hillview must not adversely impact the residents of San Martin and South County.

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Times Feature

Tech Jargon of the Week

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Natural Language Processing

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing the way we look at the world. From our smartphones to devices like Amazon’s Alexa, we live in a world surrounded by machine learning. It’s no big surprise that businesses, big or small, are coming up with solutions and innovative products that use AI.

AI consists of many disciplines, and Natural Language Processing (NLP) is one of them. NLP is the branch of AI that has many important implications on the ways that computers and humans interact. It is the ability for a computer to truly understand human language and process

it in the same way that a human does.

Think about it this way. Every day, a human says thousands of words that other humans interpret to do countless things. At its core, it’s simple communication, but we all know words run deeper than that. There’s a context that we derive from everything someone says. Whether they imply something with their body language or how often they mention something. While NLP doesn’t focus on voice modulations, it does draw contextual patterns to learn and gain value.

Let’s use an example to show just how powerful NLP is when used in a practical situation. When you’re typing on an iPhone, like many of us do every day, you’ll see word suggestions on what you’re currently typing. That’s NLP in action.

It’s a very small feature that most of us may not have noticed, but that’s why NLP is so important. It has other uses for businesses too. Companies like Google want to understand what is best to advertise to their users. They use historical search terms used by users to capitalize and advertise in new ways to users.

There are multiple steps involved in the working of a simple NLP problem. The first step depends on the application of the system. Voice-based systems like Alexa or Google Assistant need to translate your words into text. That’s done using different models like Markov models. Next is the actual understanding of the language and context. Each NLP system uses slightly different techniques, but overall, they’re fairly similar. The systems try to break each work down into its part of

speech (noun, verb etc.), and then determine in what context they are being said.

Next step is to analyze the words using the algorithms and grammar rules. The result is the ability to categorize what is said in many ways. Depending on the underlying focus of the NLP software, the results get used in different ways.

As NLP develops even further, we may expect to see more products using better human to AI interaction in the market. NLP is most definitely playing an essential role in leading edge analytics soon.

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.

The San José Police Department encourages the public to stay aware and stay safe in school zones

As students head back to the classroom, schools and the communities around them are going to be busier than they have been since the start of the pandemic.

The San José Police Department reminds everyone to stay aware and stay safe with increased traffic returning to school zones.

There are going to be more parents, students and staff outside than residents have seen in the past year,” said San José Police Lieutenant Anaya. “Please drive carefully in school zones, especially during pick-up and drop-off times.”

This includes remembering what to do around school buses.

“The easiest, safest, thing to do is to stop the car when you encounter a school bus with a stop sign and flashing red lights,” said Lieutenant Anaya. “There are going to be students getting on and off the school bus. It’s also the law.”

California law requires drivers to stop when a school bus is in front of them and extends its stop sign with flashing red lights. Drivers must remain stopped if the red lights are on. Drivers in both directions must stop on any two-lane road without a median or a center turn lane.

The San José Police Department offers the following tips to stay safe around schools:

- Slow down.
- Follow any school rules for dropping off or picking up students.
- Stop for school buses. Watch for children rushing to catch the bus or exiting.
- Whenever possible, avoid blocking the crosswalk while waiting to make a right-hand turn.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street. Make sure cars see you.
- Walk on sidewalks, when available. Cross at marked crosswalks, preferably at stop signs or signals.
- Watch for cars entering or backing out of driveways or leaving parking spaces.

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Times **Community News**

Report: Safest states during COVID-19

With around 51% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and vaccination being essential for getting the economy back on track, WalletHub released updated rankings for the Safest States During COVID-19 on August 18, 2021.

In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. Our data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as



well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A.

California's Safety During Coronavirus
(1=Best; 25=Avg.):
• 9th – Vaccination Rate
• 17th – Positive Testing

Rate
• 29th – Hospitalization Rate
• 3rd – Death Rate
• 21st – Transmission Rate
A list of the safest states during COVID follows:

Overall Rank / State	Total Score	26	Utah	83.03
1 Vermont	99.00	27	Iowa	82.36
2 Connecticut	95.43	28	Oregon	82.05
3 Massachusetts	94.63	29	West Virginia	81.78
4 Maine	93.80	30	Nebraska	80.53
5 Rhode Island	93.54	31	Arizona	79.87
6 Maryland	93.47	32	North Carolina	79.11
7 District of Columbia	92.60	33	Montana	76.28
8 New Hampshire	91.69	34	Indiana	75.79
9 New York	91.62	35	Wyoming	75.43
10 New Jersey	91.61	36	South Dakota	74.14
11 Pennsylvania	91.05	37	Kansas	73.65
12 California	90.39	38	Kentucky	70.74
13 Hawaii	90.17	39	Florida	67.98
14 Delaware	89.71	40	Texas	66.79
15 Illinois	89.05	41	Missouri	66.30
16 Minnesota	88.51	42	South Carolina	66.28
17 Colorado	88.14	43	Tennessee	65.78
18 Virginia	87.97	44	Georgia	65.52
19 Wisconsin	87.60	45	Alabama	61.52
20 New Mexico	84.98	46	Oklahoma	61.25
21 Alaska	84.46	47	Idaho	54.39
22 Michigan	84.08	48	Nevada	53.28
23 Ohio	83.99	49	Arkansas	47.32
24 North Dakota	83.47	50	Mississippi	44.81
25 Washington	83.41	51	Louisiana	35.07

To view the full report and your state's rank, visit: wallethub.com/edu/safest-states-during-covid/86567.

Report: States that are recovering the quickest from COVID-19

With the unemployment rate at 5.4% and around 51% of the population fully vaccinated, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released updated rankings for the States That Are Recovering the Quickest From COVID-19.

To identify the states that are having the most successful recoveries, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 18 key metrics. Our data set ranges from the share of the population fully vaccinated to the real GDP vs. pre-COVID levels.

Recovery from COVID-19 in California (1=Quickest, 25=Avg.):

- 17th – Share of Population Fully Vaccinated
 - 17th – Share of Vaccine Supply Used
 - 10th – COVID-19 Death Rate
 - 32nd – COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate
 - 41st – Share of Hospitals with Staff Shortages
 - 23rd – Share of Hospitals with Supply Shortages
 - 42nd – Average Daily Restaurant Visits
 - 16th – Real GDP vs. Pre-COVID Levels
 - 44th – Unemployment Rate vs. Pre-COVID Levels
 - 35th – Total Weekly Job Postings vs. Pre-COVID Levels
 - 42nd – Total Weekly Consumer Spending vs. Pre-COVID Levels
 - 15th – Real Estate Active Listings vs. Pre-COVID Levels
- For the full report, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-covid-recovery/90947>

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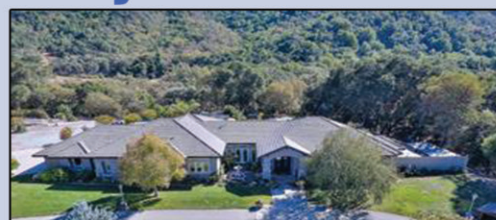
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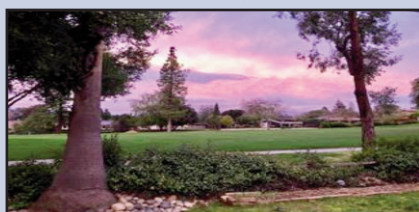
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Times News



A model of how the Viet Heritage Garden was envisioned. *Photo courtesy of San Jose.*

Garden

Continued from page 13

have that. Now it's really up to the community to come up with the money, working with the county and the city and perhaps even the state of California."

The former vice mayor said she's helping with fundraising efforts to bring a monument project to the garden—a project originally backed by the city and Santa Clara County in 2019.

The monument will be a life-size statue of two soldiers, one American and one South Vietnamese. It will be a symbol of

reconciliation and healing, according to the proposal.

Bien Doan, a San Jose Fire Department captain who recently announced his bid for the District 7 City Council seat, knows the garden issue is a sore subject for the community.

"The current state is unacceptable... All you see is a gate, some fences. There's no movement and it's sad," Doan said. "It saddens me to see that (we're) such a great community and we barely have anything. And I hope that someday we find funding and build a heritage center just like the Mexican Heritage Plaza."

Lloyd Alaban contributed to this article.

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Times **Features**

Saint Thyagaraja, a great Carnatic composer

By Veena Krishnan
Special to the Times

In the previous article, I wrote about a raga called Ananda Bhairavi. I mentioned a composition, Mari Vere Gati, which is in this raga and was composed by Shyama Sastri. Shyama Sastri was the oldest of the Trinity, or the three great composers of Carnatic music. Thyagaraja and Muttuswami Dikshitar are the other two, and this time, our focus will be on Saint Thyagaraja. His repertoire of compositions is huge and very popular among the Carnatic community.

Saint Thyagaraja was born in 1767 named Kakarla Tyagabrahmam after the residing deity in a temple from the place he was born. He started learning Carnatic music from an early age and showed great talent. Thyagaraja composed songs throughout his lifetime. His compositions were mainly in the Telugu language, although some were in Sanskrit. As Thyagaraja was a devotee of Lord Rama, a majority of his compositions are on this deity.

Although Saint Thyagaraja's legacy still

carries on, he faced many hardships during his life. After his parents died, he was left with a very small house and an image of Lord Rama.

He would sing his praises to Lord Rama on the streets and bring the rice that was offered to him to feed his family. Though he received offers that would lead to glory, he declined them and decided to compose only with his pure bhakthi (devotion) towards Lord Rama.

As I said before, Saint Thyagaraja composed many songs.

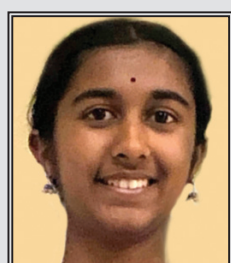


hana is located in Thiruvaiyaru and many great musicians attend to sing the Pancharatna Kritis together.

Other great compositions of Saint Thyagaraja are Saamajavaragamana, Raaju Vedale, and Chakkani Raja. Some other compositions are Aparadhamula Norva and Girirajasuta. A very interesting piece, Guruleka Etuvanti, does not praise a God, but gives thanks to gurus, or teachers.

Saint Thyagaraja was a great composer and his works are very melodious and meaningful. He has contributed a lot to Carnatic music and will be remembered forever.

Inset is an image of the trinity of Carnatic music. Saint Thyagaraja is in the middle.



Ragam Report
By Veena Krishnan

Small Business Grant Program to assist in protecting workers

Santa Clara County's new Small Business Grant Program is offering grants up to \$5,000 to small businesses in the County that have taken, or plan to take, steps to protect their workers and customers from COVID-19.

The first phase of the grant program will total more than \$500,000 in financial help for local business owners who have been hard-

est hit by the pandemic. The program was launched in August in partnership with the Silicon Valley and Hispanic Small Business Development Centers.

Businesses can apply for grants to offset the costs of providing paid time for their employees to get vaccinated or tested, constructing outdoor service areas, upgrading air filtration systems, modifying physical layouts or ordering and payment systems, purchasing hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment, or taking other protective steps.

Grants will be awarded through a lottery system that accounts for equity and inclusion considerations such as business size and the

location of the business in areas of the county least likely to have access to capital or other banking services.

The County will fund the grant program with the fees it has assessed against businesses that violated public health orders during the pandemic. The County will reinvest virtually all fines the County has collected from noncompliant businesses back into the small business community that is doing its part to protect the public from COVID-19. The application deadline is September 7, 2021.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, visit: www.svsbdc.org/sc-covid-grant







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Public Hearing



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Hearing scheduled for the September 9, 2021 Evergreen School District Board of Trustees Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing, register at <https://eesd.info/2UilMEQ> Re: THE AVAILABILITY OF TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.



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JUST LISTED



2885 Buena Crest Court, San Jose

2BD/2BA, 1050 sf. Part of the quiet Yerba Buena Villas community in a spectacular Evergreen neighborhood, this lovely modern townhome is perfect for both entertaining and everyday living. Its open concept floorplan and soaring vaulted ceilings create a comfortable, light-filled atmosphere. The owners' suite features a luxurious attached bathroom while the gourmet kitchen has been fitted with stainless steel appliances and plenty of cooking space. Both the extra bedroom and spacious loft can be easily converted into any type of room you wish, making this home the ultimate source for letting your imagination run

wild. Close to major thoroughfares, lush parks, marvelous schools, shopping, dining, and more, this home will let you experience South Bay living at its finest. \$785,000



1442 Carnot Drive, San Jose

3BD/2BA, 1441 sf. Just a short walk from Downtown Willow Glen, this lovely two-story Colonial Style townhome is a dream! Inside, its open concept floor plan and bright, airy atmosphere make for comfortable home living and remote work, while the private backyard is perfect for entertaining friends and family. The home, which overlooks a lush greenbelt zone, is part of a wonderful community that features numerous amenities, including a pool. Its central location close to major thoroughfares makes commuting a breeze, while also giving you the ability to take advantage of all the spectacular dining, parks, and entertainment that Willow Glen has to offer. \$910,000



JUST LISTED



JUST LISTED



6418 Menlo Drive, San Jose

3BD/2BA, 1468 sf. Not far from the Almaden Foothills sits this lovely single-level home. A dream for entertainers and gardeners, the home has stunning curb appeal with mature landscaping and a private, spacious backyard. Its open concept floor plan and bright, airy atmosphere throughout make for comfortable home living and remote work. Multiple guest rooms can be easily converted into any type of room you wish—the perfect outlet for letting your imagination run wild. Close to major

thoroughfares, Almaden Golf and Country club, parks, shopping, dining, and more, this home will let you experience South Bay living at its finest. \$1,415,000



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7089 Royal Ridge Drive San Jose

\$2,750,000 | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath
2851 Sq Ft | .39 Acre Lot

This updated and desirable home in Almaden's Country Club neighborhood, borders the Almaden Quicksilver County Park, and has a backyard gate that provides access to a trail that connects to the Webb Canyon and New Almaden trails. The backyard is spacious and provides multiple outdoor dining and entertaining spaces that wrap around the solar-heated pool and spa. Highly acclaimed schools are nearby, including Williams Elementary, Bret Harte Middle, and Leland High School.



20214 Viewcrest Drive San Jose

\$2,999,000 | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath
3536 Sq Ft | 2.5 Acre Lot

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

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