

High school student Nishi Dharia designs life-saving incubator
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A clear vision
Lions Clubs and partners change lives by sending eyeglasses around the world – **SEE PAGE 9**

Cindy Chavez confirms she's running for San Jose mayor
SEE PAGE 4



OCT. 8 – OCT. 21, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 21

Evergreen Times

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The first place winner (second grade division) for this year's Back to School Creative Writing Contest is **Amaani Nehru Sharma**.

Silver Creek Academy 2021 Back to School Creative Writing Contest winners announced

Silver Creek Academy has announced the winners of its eleventh annual 2021 Back to School Creative Writing Contest.

The first place Creative Writing
See *WRITING*, page 8



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High school senior Nethra Srinivasan becomes advocate for early neuroscience and mental health education

The NeuroKidz is dedicated to enriching children's lives

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

Mental health and substance abuse are among the most devastating societal issues faced today by teenagers around the world.

The root cause of this issue is excessive stress, and children from underprivileged backgrounds are disproportionately impacted.

High school senior Nethra Srinivasan realized that if kids knew how their brains worked, they would know how to cope with pressure instead of succumbing to vaping and drugs. This realization motivated her to become a mental health and early neuroscience education advocate.

In the winter of 2018, Nethra founded The NeuroKidz, a youth-led international 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children from diverse backgrounds by providing exposure to neuroscience through STEAM (STEM infused with arts).

Nethra and her organization partners with elementary and middle schools in our community to spread a greater understanding of neuroscience through interactive lessons and hands-on activities. Their mission is to empower our youth, particularly from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in STEM and create equitable opportunities for all.

Within three years, The NeuroKidz has enriched the lives of 1250+ students in 10 states in the US and internationally in Greece,



The NeuroKidz is a youth-led international 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children from diverse backgrounds by providing exposure to neuroscience through STEAM (STEM infused with arts).

Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, India and Oman with the help of 65+ volunteers.

This fall, The NeuroKidz has partnered with Women in Neuroscience, Nigeria to spread Neuroscience edu-

cation to students in Nigeria. WINNG is a growing network of female African neuroscientists who are working to inspire and provide
See NEUROKIDZ, page 8

San Jose bans sale of flavored tobacco products

By **Tran Nguyen**

The City Council unanimously voted last week to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-juices and menthol cigarettes. It will not make it a crime for individuals to possess such products.

"Cotton candy, fruit punch, salt water taffy, gummy bear, bubble gum, those are flavors that should be candies and not cigarettes," said Councilmember Pam Foley, who's leading the effort. "These are the things that are killing our kids, or attracting our children to become addicted as early as middle school."

According to a Santa Clara County

survey, nearly one in three local teens have tried e-cigarettes—and one in eight currently use them. The survey also found eight out of 10 San Jose tobacco retailers sell flavored products, and almost a quarter sell them to underage youth.

The sale of hookah and flavored cigars is not included in the plan, which also raises the legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21—aligning with the state.

"It is a very important issue to me, and something that we need to address," Councilmember David Cohen said. "As I mentioned yesterday, it's not something that can be addressed by schools and just by parents, but something that the city has



San Jose is the largest city in California to ban flavored tobacco products in an effort to curb nicotine addiction among children.

to partner with to help address."

The city estimates the ban will directly affect 18 businesses, and will require 44 other retailers to register with a program that regulates the sale of tobacco products in San Jose. Local businesses have until July 2022 to stop selling flavored tobacco products.

The new law also bans new tobacco retailers within 1,000 feet of schools and within 500 feet of other tobacco shops.

Most locals want flavored tobacco gone, with three in five San Jose voters strongly supporting the ban, a recent survey shows.

See *TOBACCO*, page 20

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



Evergreen community working together to help Ernesto Yanez of Master Maintenance recover his stolen truck

Ernesto Yanez, owner of Master Maintenance (HVAC) located in San Jose, had his commercial truck stolen on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021 between 3 - 4 pm. from the visitors parking lot at Regional Hospital.

Ernesto says all of his tools and materials to perform his maintenance work are in the truck.

The Evergreen Valley community is working together to help Ernesto get back to work and continue servicing his customers. If you see his truck, please call the

police to report its location.

A Gofundme.com page has been set up to provide needed funds for Ernesto and his family.

Here's the link to the GoFundMe page: www.gofund.me/4ff833c6

"People like Ernesto are hard to find," said Evelyn Ramirez of SOS Auto Repair. "We're hoping everyone can find it in their hearts to help raise funds for him to rebuild, pay his expenses and provide for his family."

Presentation high school student Nishi Dharia designs life-saving incubator

17-year-old innovator helping save lives of premature babies in India

More than 15 million premature babies are born each year across the globe according to the World Health Organization, and India is the country with the highest rate with 3.5 million born annually.

Sadly, only one in ten of India's premature babies survive, but more than 70% could be saved if they had access to basic care and life-saving incubators.

Nishi Dharia, a 17-year-old senior at Presentation High School in San Jose, is now making a difference.

Nishi designed the "Impact Incubator" for her eighth-grade Science Fair project.

Inspired by the great need for incubators in rural India where electricity and access to health care is scarce, it took a lot of research, experimentation and a one-year scientific exercise and then a scientific report to create her own device to help those babies. In spite of her successful outcome, Nishi didn't win or even place in the Science Fair so she put it aside and turned her attention to high school.

While a Sophomore at Presentation High School, Nishi heard about the birth of her cousin's premature baby in India. While the baby was fortunate enough to be born in a hospital that had an incubator, the milestone renewed Nishi's desire to help those without access to incubators in India. Determined to help save precious lives, Nishi sprang into action and founded Impact Incubators, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the production and distribution of incubators in rural India.



Nishi Dharia, a 17-year-old senior at Presentation High School in San Jose, is now making a difference by distributing her "Impact Incubator" she designed for her eighth-grade Science Fair project.

Launched in the Spring of 2020 right at the start of the pandemic, Impact Incubators has to date distributed 100 incubators free of charge to families and doctors living in rural areas of India including the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. By early next year, Nishi hopes to have distributed 500 incubators, expanding her reach throughout India and into other countries like Bangladesh.

"I was finally able to visit India this summer," Nishi said. "During my trip, I was able to visit hospitals and mothers in Bangalore. I distributed 25 Impact Incubators as well as gave demonstrations on how to use them. I also received valuable feedback on how I can improve the incubator to make it more effective and easier to use. Going on

this trip made me feel so grateful that I had the opportunity to help people in my community and truly make an impact. I will continue to work on Impact Incubators, and I hope to visit again and meet many more doctors and parents."

"We are beyond proud of Nishi and the life-saving impact of her creative problem-solving," said Holly Elkins, Presentation High School President. "Effectively translating her ideas into action is exactly the type of courageous and compassionate leader we strive to inspire at Pres. We applaud her tenacity and can't wait to see what Nishi does next."

Nishi has raised more than \$6,000 through various creative fundraisers including a virtual concert and selling items from a clothing line she created and sold through Etsy and her website.

To learn more on how to support Impact Incubators, please visit impactincubators.org.



Nishi Dharia delivers several of her Impact Incubators to doctors at a health clinic in Bangalore, India, this summer. The Impact Incubator is a low-cost, easily accessible and safe incubator that is portable and reusable and can be used in hospitals and at home.

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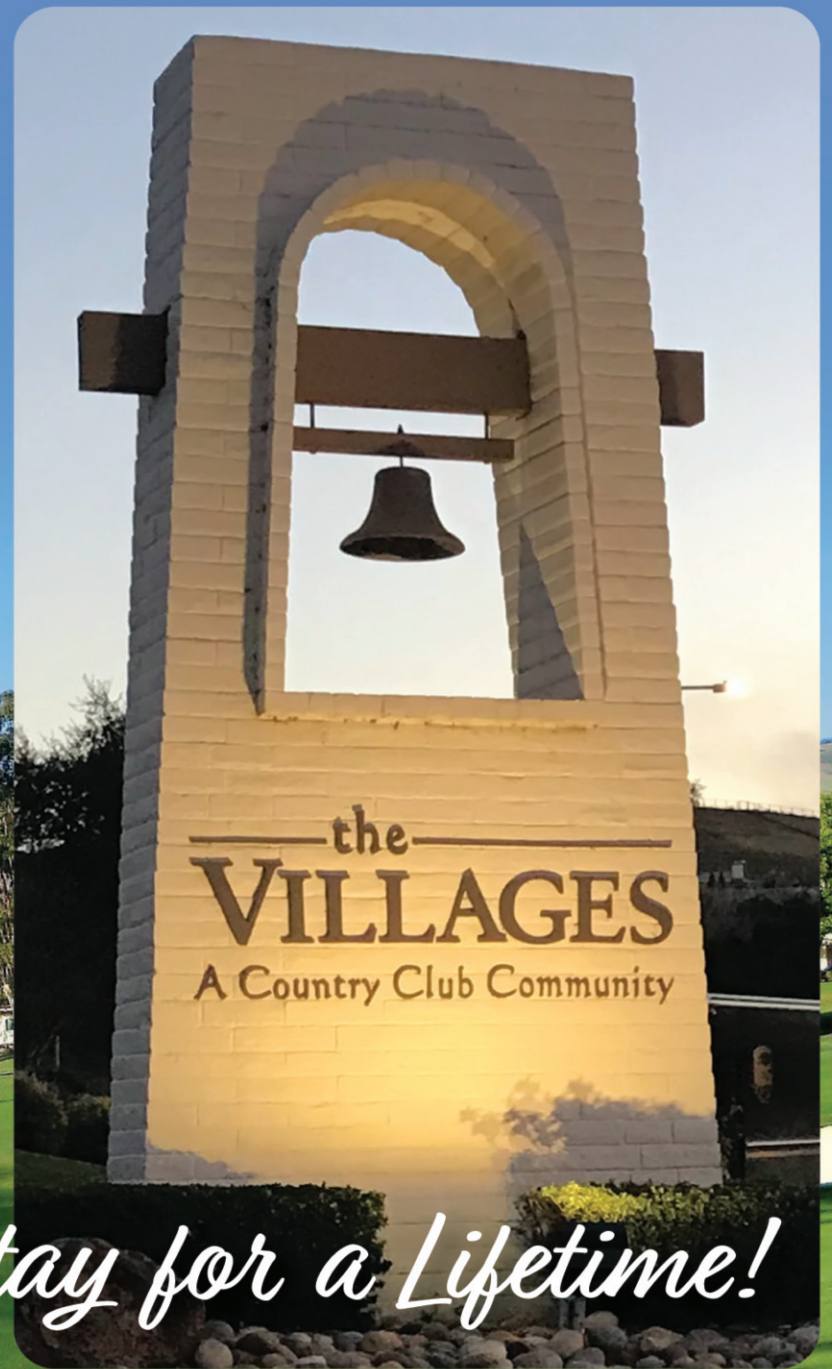
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East San Jose becoming a 'dumping ground' for abandoned cars

By Times staff writers

East San Jose is becoming a 'dumping ground' for abandoned cars resulting in residents placing orange cones to reserve parking spots in front of their homes.

An East San Jose resident, who protected her parking space with pylons, said, "Verbal fights sometimes break-out over parking which can be frightening. That's why you are seeing cones up and down the streets just to be able to have the right to park in front of our own homes."

"People are absolutely using East San Jose as storage for their extra vehicles," said San Jose City planning Commissioner Rolando Bonilla.

To address the problem, Bonilla wants to implement a parking permit system to circumvent vehicle owners traveling to East San Jose and leaving damaged or inoperable cars parked in neighborhoods for long periods of time.

Bonilla is proposing a parking permit pilot program that calls for two to four permits per parcel to be provided by the city at no cost to the property owner or tenant. The program would likely be similar to a neighborhood permit program near San Jose State University that prevents thousands of students from flooding adjacent streets.

Bonilla plans on soliciting the support from city council members to place the proposal on the Rules Committee agenda. If approved, the parking permit program could head to a vote before the full council by the end of October.

Valley Currents

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

Cindy Chavez confirms she's running for San Jose mayor

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After leading supporters in a chant in front of her home near downtown, Supervisor Cindy Chavez announced she's running for mayor of San Jose.

"Equality has been my North Star. And so many of you here have shown me the way," Chavez said. "I wanna live in a city of equals. A city where birth place and birthright and birth gender don't make a difference."

Chavez confirmed Thursday what had become one of the worst kept secrets in Silicon Valley politics. As Chavez for months sought endorsements and even participated in a candidate forum, insiders speculated the veteran politician was eyeing the city's top political job — but she avoided questions and dodged reporters.

Now, she's in the race with a new campaign slogan—city of equals.

Chavez joins a handful of others vying to replace Mayor Sam Liccardo after he terms out in 2022: Councilmember Raul Peralez, who was the first to announce in April, and his two council colleagues, Dev Davis and Matt Mahan, who joined the race days ago. Also running is former Congressional candidate Jonathan Royce Esteban—a long-shot in the race.

Chavez has become a household name in South Bay politics and has earned a reputation for calling the shots in the valley's labor movement.

She was joined Thursday by more than 100 supporters — one of the most notable being former Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Guardino, who often supports candidates from the business faction and those aligned with his close friend, Liccardo. Liccardo has not officially endorsed a candidate but he reportedly encouraged Mahan to run. The mayor's chief of staff was overheard calling Mahan the city's next mayor at the councilmember's campaign launch.

"Cindy combines visionary goals with the attention to detail to bring those goals to reality," Guardino said, citing accomplishments such as the affordable housing Measure A and the children's health care initiative. "Cindy steps forward to do the work, then steps back when it's time to take the bows. She's selflessly driven by the goal rather than the glory."

Chavez picked off two labor-friendly supporters from the San Jose City Council: David Cohen and Magdalena Carrasco, though it's unclear if they'll also support Peralez.

Assemblymember Evan Low, who said he's



Santa Clara County Supervisor **Cindy Chavez** announced her run for mayor at an event outside her home Thursday. Photo by Eli Wolfe.

known Chavez for close to 20 years, said she supported the fight against Prop 8, which eliminated the rights of gay people to marry. Low noted that there are no elected representatives in San Jose who are Asian, but he said Chavez has been a strong ally, including amid the uptick of violence against Asians during the pandemic.

"I am deeply committed to Cindy as mayor," Low said. "During the pandemic, the person who called my phone the most to try to get state resources was none other than Cindy Chavez."

The longtime politician was first elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2013, and won another 4-year term last year. She also served as the board president.

Chavez has deep ties to labor in San Jose, having previously served as the head of Working Partnerships USA and the South Bay Labor Council—the latter being a critical source of endorsements in the 2022 race. She also served on the San Jose City Council from 1997 to 2007 and as vice mayor from 2005 to 2007. She sits as a member of the VTA Board of Directors, where she has helped oversee assistance to the families of victims of the mass shooting in May.

"I knew Cindy always had our back, and would never be afraid to take charge," Gilroy Councilmember Rebeca Armendariz said Thursday.

But this isn't her first shot at running San Jose. Chavez ran for mayor in 2006 and lost to Chuck Reed.

Chavez and Peralez recently squared off in a forum to discuss civic issues in San Jose that the next mayor should prioritize. Both will be competing for labor endorsements

and dollars, while Davis and Mahan seek support from business groups.

Chavez for decades has positioned herself as a progressive Democrat.

"I'm deeply committed to Cindy as mayor," said Assemblyman Evan Low. "But let me just tell you something, it's been a difficult time for all of us during the pandemic... the person who calls my phone the most to try to get state resources was none other than Cindy Chavez."

She recently co-authored a memo with Supervisor Susan Ellenberg seeking to improve jail conditions and joined her colleagues in a vote of no confidence in Sheriff Laurie Smith.

One of her signature issues is affordable housing and she championed Measure A, a \$950M homelessness bond measure, in 2016. But a recent audit showed the county is woefully behind on getting the projects off the ground — and the funding might not be enough as building costs rise.

Chavez was also a vocal leader in the fight to close Reid-Hillview Airport amid concerns that leaded fuel was poisoning the community.

Chavez told San José Spotlight that she'd like to expand affordable housing options for people living in the city. Even though the city, county and various partners have housed 19,000 people over the past five years, she said progress is hard to appreciate when people are still living on the street.

"One of the opportunities there is really to take a look at how to expand housing for extremely low-income people," Chavez said. "We have to expand being able to build affordable housing at the lower end of the spectrum."

EvergreenTimes

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Times Local News



Evergreen teen killed in horrific car crash on Gurdwara Ave.

By Times Media staff writers

Ateen, Daniel Bugarin Hernandez, died after a car careened into a tree and flipped over on a San Jose street late Tuesday night, critically injuring two other young people.

On Wednesday afternoon, September 29 the deadly crash took place just after 10 p.m. in the area of Gurdwara Ave. and Carrera Ct. near Aborn Rd. Two vehicles were involved in the collision, with one striking a tree in the center median.

The car involved in the loss of life was a

2001 gray Honda heading southbound on Gurdwara Avenue at a “high rate of speed” when it crashed into a tree in the median, according to authorities. The car flipped over after hitting the tree and landed in the northbound lane of Gurdwara Ave.

Investigators said 16-year-old Hernandez was sitting in the front passenger seat and was pronounced dead at the scene. The male driver and two other male passengers — all juveniles — were transported to a local hospital. Both male passengers suffered life threatening injuries.

It was the 46th fatal collision in San Jose this year.

Cause of the crash was still under investigation. It was not known if alcohol or drugs played a role in the crash.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Aldinger #4183 of the San José Police Department’s Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.



CALDOR FIRE BURNS UP TO WRITER'S PORCH

A fire burned up to *Evergreen Times* staff writer **Frank Shortt's** porch, but firefighters were able to save the house and its contents. It was a miracle indeed. “My daughter lost her cabin and their Jeep,” Shortt said. “They had just come home and unfortunately, everything in their house was lost.

Op-ed

What is the truth about the water shortage?

By Frank Shortt
Times staff writer

Water shortage! Water shortage!

This is the cry all over California by our local governments. Do they believe their own cries of panic? Can we rely upon their judgment?

In every large city, throughout the state, building is being allowed at breakneck speed.

Elaborate high rises are being built on every vacant lot. This is all allowed by our city councils and at the same time they are imposing a 35% reduction of water soon. Herein lays the hypocrisy of government. They are saying, but doing not!

Why all this building? Is it because our city governments have come up short, through wasteful spending, and shortsightedness, for tax income, to make ends meet. Why are they so blind? Do they not know that more housing in an area brings a need for more police protection? Do they not know that more housing means more people, thus more traffic congestion? Does this not produce more pollution and a larger drain on the, already overloaded, welfare system? Every time a toilet is flushed, four gallons of water goes into our sewer

system. On the average, while taking a shower, 35-55 gallons of water is used. The math is easy in determining the amount of water being used by one high-rise community. This does not even take into consideration the water used for drinking and cooking purposes.

The average citizen is helpless to do anything about the decisions made by local governments. Most council chambers are in the busiest areas of the city, making no provision for parking, thus no opposition to their nefarious schemes of carrying out what has already been decided, behind closed doors, at an earlier date.

Do we have a water shortage in California? Yes, the atmosphere, both political and naturally, has become very dry! Lakes, reservoirs, and streams are drying up due to the latest drought. Yes, we do have a water shortage, but, this is being added to by government officials not using their heads for something besides a hat rack!

It was recently declared that the Middle East is facing the greatest water shortage that has been in modern times. This is all due to drought and the influx of tourism in most of the M.E. countries. After all, most M.E. cities are built in the desert! The histo-

ry of the M.E. is one of battle after battle for the water holes. So has Climate Change been going on all this time?

The tilt of the earth has much more to do with water shortage than climate change. As the earth moves closer to the sun, as it has a tendency to do so in phases, the water supply will naturally drain away from the area where it tilts and the temperatures will rise causing more use of water resources through bathing, watering of plants, and natural dehydration due to the high temperatures!

Local governments, especially California, could have saved their water supply years and years ago through desalinization. The U.S. Navy has been doing it for many years through distillation processes. California, probably one of the richest states in America due to the great technology boom, has wasted every effort to obtain fresh water. No, they would rather let the water supplies run low and cry to the Federal Government for help each time there is a crisis. What are our California leaders thinking? Are they assured more personal income because of the antiquated methods to obtain potable water? With all the tax money that has been wasted through the years we could have had water running to and fro from the Great Lakes in great gushes through stainless steel pipes! Expensive you say? Yes, but, after all, California has the richest economy in the World as a single state! Where is all the money going?

Grizzly Flat, California, a little 49'er era gold mining community was almost deci-

mated recently due to lack of water to fight the blaze. This is known as the Caldor Fire. It has been said that most of the water used in trying to put out the awful ‘tornado of blazes’ rushing through was from a ladies well in the vicinity of Grizzly Flat. With the right leadership California can do a better job of preserving water for emergencies and keeping forests maintained to prevent forest fires, wildfires in general, and supplying water to farmers and the general public as needed.

Ed and Leanne Lee, Evergreen Residents, lost their home with all belongings, including their jeep that was taken up recently for safekeeping from vandals in San Jose as both their boys are in college. Children’s furniture, made by Leanne’s grandfather, Joe Teixeira, was also taken recently for storage to be used by maybe future generations as it has been used by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren!

Had the forests been maintained between Caldor and Grizzly Flat, there would have been a happier ending to this story as hundreds of citizens lost their homes because of the fire being fueled by the underbrush and dry trees that are leftovers from the last plague to hit the El Dorado National Forest, the, infamous pine beetle! That plague killed millions of trees in its wake and fire did the rest! As of this writing, the Caldor Fire rages on uncontained as, it seems, all concerned were caught with their pants down!

Looks like we are in for a very hot time in California in the following months, unless, the Creator of all things takes a hand!

Times **Community News**



2021 Silver Creek Academy Back To School Writing Contest Winners!

First Grade Division

- 1st Place: Veeraj P. – My Secret Lightning Powers
- 2nd Place: Audrey Leigh – Heroes Wear Masks
- 3rd Place: Simon Lang – Masks Forever Gone

Second Grade Division

- 1st Place: Amaani Nehru S. – Tina's Superpowers
- 2nd Place: Stavroula P. – Finding My Purpose
- 3rd Place: *Tied – *Sahana Venba C. – My Mask Power
*Shanaya G. – My Special Mask

Third Grade Division

- 1st Place: Roman A. – What A Day
- 2nd Place: Amal K. – My Magic Mask
- 3rd Place: *Tied – *Emma Joanna X. – Super Mask
*Akshara K. – The Kingdom of the Desert

Fourth Grade Division

- 1st Place: Ayaan S. – The Back To School Adventure
- 2nd Place: *Tied – *Dhriti S. – Superpowers
*Eylul G. – The Mystery of the Mask
- 3rd Place: *Tied – *Saanvi J. – Mask Story
*Lambros P. – The Magic of the Mask

Fifth Grade Division

- 1st Place: *Tied – Ashwin K. – My Diary
*Anish M. – The Weather Wizard
- 2nd Place: *Tied – Anagh P. – Abby's Mask Adventure
*Aarav P. – The Hero of Healthiness
- 3rd Place: *Tied * Aarya P. – Joe's Mask Adventure
*Saima P. – Mask Teleportation: Gone Right

Sixth Grade Division

- 1st Place: Vyom S. – The Hidden Power
- 2nd Place: Aaryan M. – Super Mask
- 3rd Place: Dhyana D. – Mask The Time

Seventh Grade Division

- 1st Place: Shreya Nair M. – Wish Upon A Mask
- 2nd Place: William Wu – The Magical Face Mask
- 3rd Place: Ivy Le – Masked Fortune

Eighth Grade Division

- 1st Place: Anjali M – There and Back Again
- 2nd Place: Katelyn S. – Out of Nowhere
- 3rd Place: Viviane L. – I Wish Upon A Mask

Writing

Continued from page 1

winner this year in the second grade division is Amaani Nehru Sharma. This year the Academy received more than 160 submissions.

This year's creative writing topic was based on the idea that a character receives a magical mask from his or her teacher, and an interesting adventure ensues.

The writing contest was open for students from first through eighth grade, and required students to submit original short stories.

"The judges really enjoyed reading all of the short stories, and it was great to see students' creativity flourish," Silver Creek Academy's founder Shelley Swircek said.

First, second, and third place winners were declared across each grade level division. Swircek said as a special thank you, the Academy provided prizes, books, and goodie bags to all who entered.

"We loved seeing all the hard work and effort that students put into their creative short stories, and we look forward to reading future submissions in our upcoming events," Swircek said.

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



The NeuroKidz's mission is to empower youth, particularly from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in STEM and create equitable opportunities for all.

NeuroKidz

Continued from page 1

mentorship and access to opportunities for more women who are interested in a career in neuroscience and STEM disciplines. The NeuroKidz and WINNg are excited for this collaboration.

"Crafting young minds' careers in neuroscience has been my greatest passion and legacy to humanity," said Nigeria, Dr. Chinna Orish MBBS, PhD and founder of WINNg who heads the Department of Anatomy, University of Portharcourt. "To achieve this, we rock the collaborative juice flowing with the NeuroKidz."

The NeuroKidz is also proud to announce a collaboration with Santa Clara County's School Linked Services to conduct workshops for middle and high schools to promote healthy brains and neuroscience starting October 2021.

The NeuroKidz is currently welcoming high school volunteers to join their team. To learn more about the organization or for information on bringing this program to your elementary school, starting a volunteer chapter at your high school, donations, business sponsorships, and to join its team check out theneurokidz.org.

Follow them on Facebook @neurokidz and Instagram @theneurokidz for the latest updates.



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Lions Clubs and partners change lives by sending 118,000 pairs of prescription eyeglasses around the world

San Jose community comes together to support international medical missions

More than 1,000 local members of Lions Clubs International, Lions in Sight of California and Nevada, and the San Jose State University Delta Gamma Sorority held the largest used eyeglass recycling service event in the country, preparing 118,000 pairs of glasses for medical missions around the world.

California State Senator Dave Cortese, California State Assembly Member Alex Lee, San Jose City Council Member Dev Davis, and Brian Bates, VP, San Jose State University each spoke at the event.

The international medical missions are organized and staffed by Lions in Sight of California and Nevada, a non-profit Lions foundation, with Lions Club members that are licensed Doctors of Optometry. They work with other Lions Club volunteers who help select and fit donated glasses. Thousands of individuals with sight impairment are provided the gift of improved vision. A big part of a Lions in Sight mission is watching the smile on the face of someone who can see clearly for the first time in their life.

"We Lions are proud to lead this hands-on community partnership in service toward meeting the needs of the blind and visually impaired," said Dr. Bill Iannaccone, COO, Lions in Sight, and Past International Director, Lions Clubs International. "This recycling project is vital to our mission to provide eye care and eyeglasses to those in need around the world."

The event was hosted at Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, San Jose, a non-profit that provides in-person services to over 3,300 local blind and visually impaired individuals and their families annually.

"Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is honored that our San Jose facility is the epicenter for this amazing service project," said Karae Lisle, CEO. "Vista Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, annually provides needed support services to thousands of people living with vision loss. We have longstanding ties with the Lions, and treasure this committed partnership. This eyeglass recycling effort demonstrates how together as a community of service volunteers we can serve more people who desperately need vision support worldwide."

Processing so many pairs of used donated eyeglasses is a massive community undertaking with Lions, the Delta Gamma sorority of San Jose State, and Vista Center staff and client volunteers all rolling up their sleeves to sort, clean, grade by prescription, and package the glasses for shipment to Lions in Sight medical missions.

"Our fraternal service project is "Service for Sight," said collegiate chapter officer Lauren Barnes, vice president: Foundation. "The 70-member Gamma Eta-San Jose State chapter, which is part of the 250,000-member international Delta Gamma Fraternity, embraces the opportunity and is eager to work hand-in-hand in this wonderful humanitarian service effort."

The 118,000 used prescription eyeglasses which weigh 20,000 pounds were provided to Lions in Sight of California and Nevada by a large corporate donor, with similar sized batches of glasses anticipated to be processed in the months to come.



Processing this and similar sized batches of glasses to be received in the near future requires an ongoing stream of volunteers and monetary support.

If you are interested in learning more about this community service project, please contact Bob Stewart at bob@lionstewart.com. Monetary donations to Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired can be made online at www.vistacenter.org. Monetary donations to Lions in Sight can be made online via www.lionsinsight.net/donate.

About Lions in Sight

Lions In Sight was founded in 1987 as a non-profit 501(c)3 to work through local Lions Club members in California and Nevada to

collect used eyeglasses for recycling and distribution internationally. The collected glasses are sorted, cleaned, processed, and packaged for delivery to clinics in developing nations. Volunteer doctors and Lions Club members travel to the clinics with the eyeglasses and exam equipment. Each year thousands of needy visually impaired children and adults receive the gift of improved vision through the volunteer efforts of Lions In Sight.



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San Jose, CA 95123

Reservations: 408.270.5463

Sun - Thursday 11am - 9pm

Friday - Saturday 11am - 10pm

For event info contact: Michelle@MexicoLindoSJ.com

Follow us on Instagram for updates & weekly specials: @mexicolindosc

Places of Worship



CAMPBELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
400 W. Campbell Ave. Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 378-4418
Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz
No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all.
Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.
Our ministries/activities include:
• Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
• A Food Pantry serving anyone in need--open Tu/Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
• Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater produc-

tions, informative lectures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment.
Our activities flow from our core values:
• Extravagant Joy
• Passionate Faith
• Loving Respect
• Deep Connectedness
• Intentional Growth
• Shared Laughter
Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC
6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.
www.ccvaucc.org.
We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco

Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.
Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments.
1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion
2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.
Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118
408.265.5837
www.bibleroad.org
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN
6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243
Web: www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)
http://www.eicsanjose.org
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose, CA 95148. (408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine holy book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. Please visit our website to learn more.
Jazāk Allāhu Khayran!

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchSJ.net
See you on Facebook
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor
Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am

Together let us build lives toward excellence!
Music Institute (408) 791-7772
After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

1
thepoint.church

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

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual

growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchsanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ਰਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148
The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful

grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

Want to submit a news item for the Evergreen Times?

Press day: October 21, 2021
Deadline: October 18, 2021

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Evergreen Times

Get listed!
For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

Times Local News

Community proves resilient while facing ups and downs

By Sylvia Arenas
Special to the Times

These past two years, we have been no strangers to ups and downs. If these tribulations have revealed anything, it is that we must continue to lean on one another, to hold one another up in both the good times and the bad.

Our resilience as individuals and as a community will no doubt be tested again -- with the COVID-19 Delta variant and more, but I believe that together we are stronger and better.

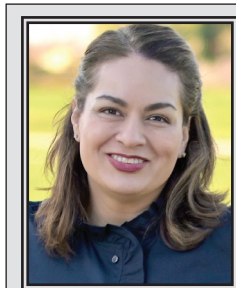
As we slowly start meeting in-person again, please remember to follow our Public Health Department guidelines and mask up as we find new and safe ways to spend time with our family and friends.

In the spirit of safe and fun gatherings, I am excited to share that I will be bringing back Fall Family Festival, at a smaller scale of our District 8 signature event!

Fall Family Festival

This year's Fall Family Festival will adhere to our Public Health Department guidelines and will take place at Lake Cunningham Park on Sunday, October 24th, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Some of the family-friendly activities we have lined up are extreme air jumpers, a rock-climbing wall, photo booth, pumpkin patch, inflatable soccer



District 8 Report

By Sylvia Arenas
City Councilmember

arena, (that's right -- an inflatable soccer arena), and way more!

I can't wait to see you all again this month at our beloved Lake Cunningham in District 8!

No Wrong Door Referral System

On Tuesday, September 28 the City Council approved my proposal to develop a "No Wrong Door" referral system for the City's programs.

It's no secret that collaboration strengthens our systems of care, and the

stakes are high when services are not integrated. A disjointed maze of eligibility criteria, forms, and programs can prevent even the most determined individual from obtaining critical support for their family.

The goal is for families that qualify for a program like rental assistance to be referred to and pre-qualified for other City programs, like recreational programming and scholarships, and digital literacy services. By streamlining processes and implementing referral paths that make it easier for people to navigate and access the services they need, we can help empower residents to make informed decisions about the City's offerings. The goal is to simplify the access points for families to access and participate in the City's system of programs and services through a

City internal referral system.

Eviction Moratorium Ends September 30 - Help Still Available

California's statewide eviction moratorium ends on Sept. 30, 2021. If you are at risk of eviction or are having difficulty paying rent, apply for rental assistance today - do not wait. Submitting an emergency rental assistance application is the best way to protect yourself from eviction.

The eviction help center in San José City Hall is now on the 12th floor. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A second eviction help center is open at the Franklin-McKinley School District office, located at 645 Wool Creek Drive in San José. This location is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Housing Department staff are on site at both locations to answer questions about eligibility and assist tenants and landlords with the application process for rental assistance from both the State of California and the Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System. For more information, please call 408-975-4444 or email evictionhelp@sanjoseca.gov

First ever pilot project in the city of San José to address illegal street racing and sideshow activities

I have heard concerns from our vigilant neighbors about illegal street racing and sideshow activities.

This prompted my partnership with our Department of Transportation to explore innovative strategies for a quick build pilot project to prevent sideshows.

I'm happy to share that the first ever pilot project in the City of San José to address sideshow activities has been com-



The sideshow project eliminates space for cars to attempt sideshows and illegal stunts in the intersection of Tully Road and Ruby Ave and will improve the overall safety of pedestrians for our children and families to again walk and play in our neighborhoods.

pleted as of last month! This project will eliminate space for cars to attempt sideshows and illegal stunts in the intersection of Tully Road and Ruby Ave and will improve the overall safety of pedestrians for our children and families to again walk and play in our neighborhoods.

Pavement Project

It's that time of the year again - it's street repaving season! In 2021, over 200 miles of streets are set to be repaved throughout the City, including local neighborhood streets in District 8! Do you want to know if your street is getting paved this year? Our Department of Transportation (DOT) has launched a pavement story map that allows the community to track progress of the 2021 construction season. You can check if your street is scheduled to be repaired there.

Please make sure to pay attention to mailers, door hangers, and signs on your street for no parking dates and other important information. If your street is scheduled to be repaired soon, DOT will be sending notifications via mail two weeks and 48 hours before construction.

National Night Out

Thank you to all our amazing neighborhood groups and associations who planned and attended National Night Out events in their communities last August, including: Welch Park Neighborhood Association, Meadowfair, Brahms/ Edgeview Neighborhood Association, Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association, Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association, Norwood Neighborhood Association, and more!

National Night Out was filled with family-friendly fun, food, crafts and even pony rides! It was so great to see new and familiar faces. Thank you to the San Jose Police Department and the San Jose Fire Department for stopping by at our District 8 events, and to Community Seva for donating backpacks for children & families at Meyer Elementary School, Welch, and Meadowfair.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if there's an issue in your neighborhood or if we can be of assistance on City related matters at District8@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 535-4908 to connect with someone on my team.

AI-ght, what's all this then?: An intro to Artificial Intelligence

By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

Jarvis, please pull up some quick articles to teach me about AI...Jarvis? JARVIS?

Oh wait, my bad, I forgot that you're not real outside of Marvel. Please excuse me, I'm just going to go sob in the corner while Siri tells me she "didn't quite get that" in an endless, torturous loop.

If you're the singular person on Earth who has never seen an MCU movie and you didn't quite get that, absolutely no worries (but I hope you move to a more exciting rock soon)! I'm messing with you, here's the rundown: J.A.R.V.I.S. is a fictional AI system created by billionaire genius Tony Stark, essentially a virtual assistant that can do anything from making predictions from enormous piles of data to mimicking human language (and occasionally cracking a joke), which we'll soon see is harder than it

seems!

Right now, some of you may be thinking WTF (Well, That's Fantastic, but I don't know what this has to do with anything). Patience, young grasshopper. If you haven't already guessed it, today we are going to be learning about AI, i.e. Artificial Intelligence (which is what our dear J.A.R.V.I.S. is)!

What is AI?

Let's get right into it: what exactly is AI? Well, think about it this way: just like artificial flavors are designed to mimic natural ingredients, artificial intelligence is designed to mimic human intelligence. In short, AI is about figuring out how to make machines smart so they can solve problems that we don't have the capacity to solve.

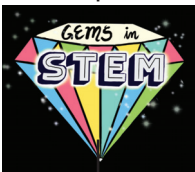
Currently, AI is fantastic at analyzing huge amounts of data in order to complete specific tasks, but it isn't so good at transferring these skills to other tasks, learning things after one-try, or grasping abstract concepts—which are all part of human intelligence.

There's a bit of a misconception about what AI is in various media, from Hollywood to sci-fi literature, and it is often thought of as this scary, futuristic threat. But, the reality is that AI is already here and exists all around us—it just doesn't eloquently speak or attempt to eliminate



Gems in STEM

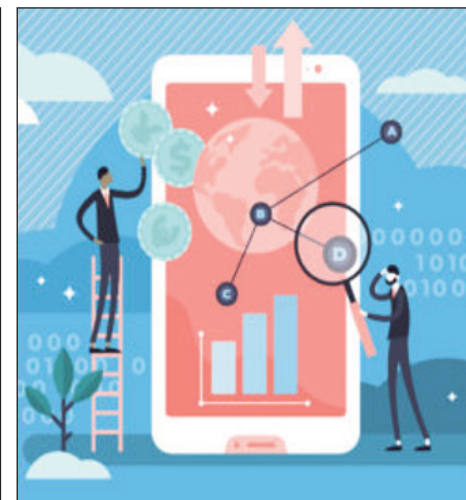
By Apoorva Panidapu



us...yet ;). It powers search engines, recommends your next Netflix binge, and is revolutionizing science and healthcare: radiologists can use it to detect tumors down to the exact shape and volume, and astronomers use AI to find exoplanets in distant solar systems. It has even been used to appeal parking tickets for free, and overturned over \$3 million in fines in just a couple months! I just started learning how to drive, SIGN ME UP. (For those wondering, it is called DoNotPay and has now turned into a "robot lawyer"!)

The possibilities of what AI can achieve are endless, from fraud prevention to addressing climate change to enhancing our digital media experience. In fact, there is already AI-generated music that some find indistinguishable from music created by people!

We can see that current AI can accomplish specific actions like booking meetings, managing online shopping recommendations, driving a car—whatever it's told to do. However, it is not self-aware and can't actually think like a human, though it can mimic a few of our actions. These AIs are also not strictly creative, though Amazon Alexa's song "It's Raining in the Cloud (When My Wi-Fi Left Me)" is a musical masterpiece, in my opinion.



More intelligent machines?

So, what if a machine could carry out all these tasks, exercise creativity, and more? This is where we get into sci-fi territory—this more advanced intelligence is called artificial general intelligence (AGI), which is when a machine can understand, learn, and carry out any task that a human can. This is followed by an even broader type of intelligence: Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI), which are machines that are smarter than all collective minds on Earth. That's pretty spooky (which is fitting because it is Spooky Season right now)! Fear not—neither AGI nor ASI exist currently, and most people think it is a looong ways away.

On that scary note, we'll call it an article here! Next time, we'll talk about the methods that go into AI, like machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, and more—so make sure to check it out. Until next time!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021 | 10AM-3PM

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL



JOIN COUNCILWOMAN SYLVIA ARENAS FOR A FREE EVENT

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SYLVIA ARENAS



SAN JOSE PARKS, RECREATION & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Times **Feature**

California stimulus checks will start going out by mail soon; here's when you could get yours

By Sean Eastwood

Times Media staff writer

California is nearly ready to begin mailing paper checks to residents who are eligible for Golden State Stimulus payments.

Qualified residents are expected to receive physical checks on Oct. 6, according to a schedule on the California Franchise Board's website.

State officials stated that more than 2.5 million payments of up to \$1,100 have been deposited into the bank accounts of eligible Californians whose information was already on hand with the state tax agency as the preferred refund method.

For those not signed up for the direct deposit refund option, checks will be mailed out starting next week and will continue to be issued through the beginning of 2022.

The Golden State Stimulus Program

Under the Golden State Stimulus program, California will send a \$600 payment to qualifying residents, plus another \$500 if they claimed at least one dependent on their tax return last year.

Residents eligible for the program are those who: submitted their 2020 tax return (or do so by the Oct. 15 deadline); earned between \$1 and \$75,000 last year (adjusted gross income plus wages) last year; have a

Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN); and can't be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

California will be sending out the Golden State Stimulus checks to eligible residents in batches based on the last three digits of the recipient's ZIP code.

The following timeline provided by the Franchise Tax Board shows when the payments are anticipated to be sent:

Last 3 digits of ZIP code	Mailing timeframes
000-044	10/06/2021 through 10/27/2021
045-220	10/18/2021 through 11/05/2021
221-375	11/1/2021 through 11/19/2021
376-584	11/15/2021 through 12/03/2021
585-719	11/29/2021 through 12/17/2021
720-927	12/13/2021 through 12/31/2021
928-999	12/27/2021 through 1/11/2022

(California Franchise Tax Board)

It will take up to three weeks for payments to be received once mailed out, according to the agency.

Payments are part of a \$100-billion budget plan signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom over the summer, and the program is being funded in part by federal COVID-19 recovery funds.

WHEN JOURNALISM IS NOT PRESENT TO SERVE COMMUNITIES, BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

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Evergreen Times
Serving the community since 1982

Times Media, Inc.

- Almaden Times
- Evergreen Times
- Willow Glen Times

Source: University of North Carolina School of Media & Journalism



SJECCD SURPLUS LAND COMMUNITY MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2021 | 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

PLEASE JOIN SAN JOSÉ - EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TO SHARE YOUR INPUT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF SJECCD'S SURPLUS LAND.

zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/surplusland-oct21>



TO SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK IN WRITING, VISIT:
<https://tinyurl.com/sjeccdland>

San José - Evergreen Community College District strives to make events accessible to everyone. Please email chancellorsoffice@sjeccd.edu at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if you require sign language interpretation or other accommodations.



SAN JOSÉ · EVERGREEN
Community College District



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Times Feature

City of San Jose hosts ceremony officially apologizing for a century of discriminatory actions against Chinese community

The City of San Jose, Mayor Sam Liccardo, Councilmember Raul Perez and other elected officials, along with Chinese American community leaders and residents marked the adoption of a historic City Council resolution apologizing for the City's role in acts of discrimination against the Chinese immigrant community and its descendants.

The ceremony took place on Wednesday, September 29 at noon at the Circle of Palms Plaza adjacent to the San José Museum of Art and the Fairmont Hotel in Downtown San José. The plaza sits on the site of the 2nd Market Street Chinatown which was destroyed by arson in 1887 after being declared a public nuisance and a health hazard by the City Council. The occasion was marked by a formal reading of the City Council resolution, remarks from local Chinese American elected officials, a sharing of historical context, and a response from the Chinese American community.

"Thirty-four years ago, San José commemorated the tragic destruction of the 2nd Market Street Chinatown, a century prior--but with each new generation, we must reemphasize our commitment to justice and renew our contrition, not just for these failings but for all acts of disrespect and violence against our Black, Latino, Indigenous, and AAPI community members," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "This reconciliation acknowledges the mistakes of our city's past and serves as a reminder to continue striving for an inclusive society."

The City Council resolution was the result of months of close collaboration with Chinese American community organizations and local historians. The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, the Chinese Historical Society of America, and the Chinese American Historical Museum at History Park San José, all contributed to the development of the resolution in partnership with the City of San José Office of Racial Equity. The resolution recognizes the history of the Chinese community in San José, the five Chinatowns that existed in the city be-



Mayor Sam Liccardo and the City of San Jose officially issued an apology for "acts of injustices against Chinese Immigrants" in the mid 1800's.

tween 1866 and 1931, and the systemic racism and xenophobia that characterized official City policies and actions towards the Chinese community.

"The apology by the City is an act of grace. As a descendant of a Chinese worker driven out of Market St. Chinatown by an arson fire, I feel peace," said Connie Young Yu, local historian and author of "Chinatown, San José, USA." "We are now all part of the same community, recognizing the past, only to go forward together."

"Having grown up in San José since the 1930s where my family and I, as a fourth generation Chinese American, experienced some instances of racial discrimination, it is a gratifying moment to see the City of San José acknowledging past wrongs against its Chinese citizens with this resolution to make it right today and into the future," said Gerrye Kee Wong, the co-founder of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project which built and gifted a replica of the historic Ng Shing Gung temple building to the City of San José for History Park as a gesture of friendship from the Chinese community in 1991. "I thank the 2021 City Council leaders on our museum's 30th anniversary year for adopting this important resolution."

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St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen Stanford Blood Drive: October 23

St. Francis of Assisi of Evergreen is sponsoring a Stanford Blood Drive on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **St. Francis Community Center** located at 5111 San Felipe Rd in Evergreen.

The event is open to the public and any

and all eligible donors are encouraged to come by that Saturday and become a blood donor.

Due to the large number of companies shut down, there is a big shortage of blood types, so your donation will be impactful. Be sure to wear your mask.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up in advance in order to minimize wait times.

To register, call Tom at (408) 476-6104 or visit: www.tinyurl.com/8evv4m6v

Times **Feature**

Peninsula Open Space Trust appoints Olivia White Lopez as Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Olivia White Lopez (inset) has been appointed as Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Lopez will serve as the central driver for the organization's DEI strategic plan, adopted in 2020, and she will facilitate cultural and operational change to build an environment where people representing diverse backgrounds can thrive and also contribute to POST's mission.

Lopez will work to support and encourage diverse, inclusive and equitable engagement with POST partners and communities throughout the region and advise on diversifying hiring practices at all levels of the organization. She will report to the president of POST.

"I have always been drawn to mission-driven organizations in my work. Peninsula Open Space Trust's mission to do their work 'for the benefit of all' particularly resonates with me," said Lopez. "I look for-

ward to working alongside the entire organization to help translate that goal into action."



Lopez previously served as senior manager of DEI and people programs for Kiva, a nonprofit that is dedicated to financial inclusion. In that role, Ms. White Lopez designed and led an organizational DEI strategy and task force and developed internal resources to support cross-functional collaboration on DEI initiatives.

About Peninsula Open Space Trust

POST protects open space on the Peninsula and in the South Bay for the benefit of all. As a private nonprofit land trust, POST has been responsible for saving more than 80,000 acres since its founding in 1977. POST works with private landowners and public agencies to connect people and nature.

Visit openspacetrust.org for more information.



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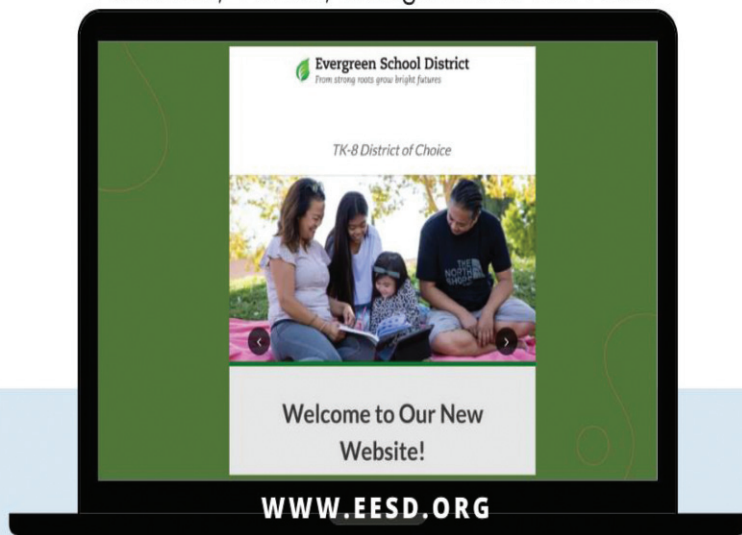
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Newsom wants school children K-12 to get COVID-19 vaccine

Only medical restrictions can qualify a student for exemption

Gov. Gavin Newsom said last Friday that California will require children attending schools in the state to be vaccinated against the disease.

“We’re leaning forward,” Newsom said. “We want to end this pandemic. We are all exhausted by it.”

Speaking at a school in San Francisco, Newsom predicted other states will follow

California’s lead.

Newsom said the requirement will roll out in phases for grades 7-12 and then for grades K-6. It will become effective in the school term following full U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the vaccine for children in those grades, he said.

The administration expects it to apply to grades 7-12 next July. The requirement doesn’t apply to child care or colleges.

In August, the FDA granted full formal approval of the Pfizer shots for children ages

16 and older after the company provided evidence from extensive trials demonstrating its safety and efficacy. Regulators concluded the vaccines are safer for kids than COVID-19, and note that children can also spread the disease to those who are more vulnerable. U.S. health officials have not attributed any heart inflammation deaths to the vaccines, though they were investigating the June death of a 13-year-old boy days after his second shot.

California already requires children en-

tering transitional kindergarten or kindergarten to be vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, polio, hepatitis B, bacterial meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Under a controversial 2015 state law, California eliminated an allowance for “personal belief” exemptions to those vaccine requirements, following a measles outbreak at Disneyland.

Only medical restrictions can qualify a child attending public or private school for exemption.

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San Jose to fund low-income internet access with helium crypto mining

San Jose partners with Helium, CETF to increase resident connectivity

By William Bellou
Publisher

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, in partnership with Helium and California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), announced a first-of-its-kind, public-private partnership that minimizes financial barriers to broadband internet access for low-income San Joseans.

This initiative uses HNT cryptocurrency tokens mined through Helium Hotspot devices and converted to prepaid gift cards that will go to qualifying, low-income residents to subsidize their internet plans. During its pilot period, the program aims to cover the expenses of low-cost internet plans for over 1,300 low-income households for one year by providing participants with a one-time \$120 payment.

New approach to wireless connectivity

Helium is a crypto startup with an inventive approach to wireless connectivity: rather than rely on major wireless carriers, it uses a network of user-operated nodes distributed around the world to power Internet of Things (IoT) devices. That kind of out-of-the-box thinking is now being used to fund a public-benefit project as well.

Mayor Liccardo embraces use of emerging technologies

"Here in the heart of Silicon Valley, San José must set an example for how to solve problems with emerging technologies and public-private partnerships," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Becoming a smarter city means leveraging emerging technologies that improve how we serve our community, making it safer, more sustainable, and more equitable. This first-of-its-kind partnership between the Mayor's Office, Helium, and CETF represents one of many innovative public-private partnership models that we're advancing to bridge the digital divide for residents."

The launch includes:

- Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation (MOTI) will deploy and install 20 Helium-compatible Hotspots to volunteer residents and small businesses across San José during a six-month pilot period. The Helium-compatible Hotspots, purchased by CETF, will further expand the decentralized wireless Helium Network to increase local Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructure, supporting San José's Smart City Vision to provide inclusive connectivity and serve as a test lab for innovative pilot programs in response to civic challenges.

- Once the device is up and running, it begins to mine Helium cryptocurrency tokens (HNT). The Hotspots mine the HNT cryptocurrency in a safe, data-efficient, and environmentally-friendly manner; they only require the energy of an LED light bulb and transmit less than two megabytes per month in data. The transactions are recorded on a blockchain to ensure decentralization, security, and anonymity.

- CETF will hold the HNT mined by the Hotspots. The HNT will be converted into prepaid, cash cards and given directly to low-income households to subsidize their internet expenses. All of the HNT mined from the Hotspots will go toward subsidy payouts to San José residents.

- The Mayor's Office will work with CETF and the San José Digital Inclusion Fund to



identify and qualify residents. Residents, who qualify through the San José Digital Inclusion Fund, and its 21 grantees, can obtain prepaid, cash cards, which can be used to pay for low-cost internet plans. The City will leverage its San José Digital Inclusion Fund, along with its 21 community-based organization partners, to identify families, educate them on the pilot program, and onboard them to qualify and receive the benefits.

Democratizing and decentralizing the internet

"To democratize and decentralize the internet is the driving force behind the Helium Network and this program with the City of San

José brings that mission to life," said Amir Haleem, Co-founder and CEO of Helium. "Bridging the digital divide for its citizens, and doing so through a use-case such as this shows that San José is at the forefront of how municipalities can drive real change moving forward."

The IoT infrastructure powered by the Helium devices will improve the delivery of city-wide services like air quality monitoring, fire detection, water leakage, and climate-related opportunities. Today, Helium and its 200,000+ Hotspots provide access to the largest peer-to-peer, IoT network in the world.

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Times **Community News**

Madurai Mani Iyer: A great Carnatic musician

By **Veena Krishnan**
Special to the Times

One of the great musicians of the 20th century celebrated his birthday in October.

Madurai Mani Iyer (inset, born October 25, 1912) was born in Madurai and was originally named Subramanian. Mani Iyer's father desired for his son to become like the great Sri. Pushpavanam, a famous singer who died at an early age. Sri. Rajam Bhagavathar, a neighbor, was Mani Iyer's first guru with whom he

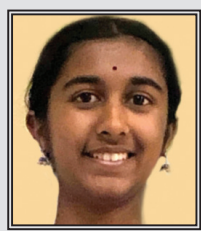


received primary education and Vedic studies.

Mani Iyer also learned from other gurus. When he was in Secondary school, Sri. Harikesanallur Muthiah

started learning from at the age of nine. He also learned from Sri. Rajam Bhagavathar's guru Ettayapuram Ramachandra Bhagavathar. He also received primary education and Vedic studies.

Bhagavathar, a great Carnatic exponent, started Shri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Vidyalayam in Madurai which Mani Iyer attended. Having shown great interest in music, Mani Iyer's father stopped his education at the Secondary school level so he could be completely in music. Mani Iyer was a passionate student and continued learning from his gurus. He quickly



About Carnatic Music

By **Veena Krishnan**

got well-versed in the musical nuances, which he further developed by attending concerts by famous musicians.

Mazhavarayanendal Subbarama Bhagavathar was a small-scale singer whom Mani Iyer was influenced by. When Mani attended his concerts, he would be fascinated by the unique style of singing Subbara-

ma Bhagavathar had. This style was introduced to Mani Iyer by Sri. Rajam Bhagavathar and can be

marked by the intense creativity and improvisation (mano- dharmam) plus the sarvalaghu swarams (non-repetitive swara patterns). Mani Iyer chose to adopt this style and would later become a master of this. Some other musicians that inspired Mani Iyer were Madurai Nagaswamy Bhagavathar and Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar.

Mani Iyer had his arangetram (debut full-length concert) in a temple on the Kumbabhishekham (an auspicious day) at a little less than 12 years old! Rasikas were delighted by his performance and encouraged him to perform more which eventually led him to his first performance at Madras in 1927. A year later, his father died, leaving Mani Iyer the sole breadwinner of his family. He chose to move to a house in Madras/Chennai with his family and pursue his musical career. He also pursued other hobbies such as his passion for the English language and English and Tamil news. Mani Iyer had a rough start to his career in Chennai. Many didn't appreciate his unique style and elaboration of rare ragams. He quickly adapted his style to include more major ragams but still honor his desire of singing rare ragams. He also made a mark on many krithis (songs) with his style.

In 1943, Mani Iyer was first to earn the title "Ganakaladhara" and left an unforgettable concert at the function. Mani Iyer was struck with illness in 1944 which forced him to pause his performing and seek treatment for a few years. After recovering, Mani Iyer's voice was lowered significantly and could not reach higher notes as well. He also had to adapt his singing in other ways which were initially not widely accepted but later appreciated. He continued his musical career and in 1959, received the Madras Music Academy's "Sangeetha Kalanidhi" award. He won other awards such as the "Sangeet Natak Akademi Award" (1960), and the "Isai Perarignar" award (1963).

Mani Iyer's health declined again in 1964 when he lost his eyesight but still performed, though not as frequently. On March 31, 1968, he gave one of his last concerts. Just before another concert in May that year, his health declined even more and he had to cancel his concert. Sri. Lalgudi Jayaraman, who was supposed to be his violin accompaniment, played many signature Madurai Mani Iyer krithis on that day as a solo concert. Madurai Mani Iyer passed away on June 8, 1968 and was missed by many. His simplicity, modesty, and kindness touched everyone's hearts. Mani Iyer remained unmarried and his legacy is carried on by his nephew, Sri. T. V. Shankaranarayanan, who later passed it on to his children, and his disciples.

Madurai Mani Iyer was a legendary musician and will be remembered and revered by the Carnatic world forever.

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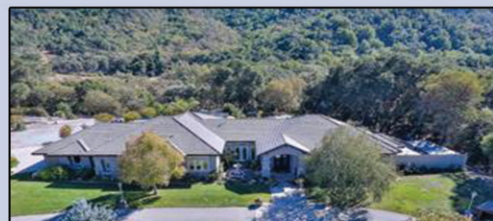
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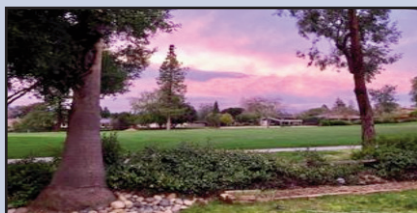
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Times Cover Story

Tobacco

Continued from page 1

More than 70 residents, including teachers and students, spoke at the meeting, with a majority in support of the ban.

"I have seen firsthand youth who use flavored tobacco products in my own home, at my kids' high school and at the middle school where I teach," said teacher Marin Lopez. "Tobacco companies or retailers should not be allowed to profit off of risking our kids' health... It is urgent that we remove these products that are easily accessible to San Jose youth."

Health experts also emphasized the importance of banning the sale of flavored tobacco in San Jose.

"It's become clear that menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars are the main factor of death and disease in the Black community," said Dr. Phil Gardiner, co-chair of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council. "Let's be clear that this has been going on for some 30 years, and you have the chance to stop it here."

Tobacco retailers in the county are concentrated in neighborhoods with a higher percentage of low-income residents or people of color, according to Santa Clara County Public Health.

Some residents said San Jose isn't going far enough, pushing the city to also include hookah and other flavored products in the ban.

"It is also vitally important that you remove the proposed exemptions for hookah, premium cigars and loose-leaf tobacco," resident Lizze Velton said. "Many Bay Area jurisdictions, including Santa Clara County itself have comprehensive policies with no exemp-

tions. Why choose to do less?"

Councilmember Matt Mahan said the city should be mindful when it comes to hookah, and that smoking hookah at an adults-only lounge is "a very different social and cultural use case than simply buying something labeled as a hookah product in a retail establishment and can very easily get handed off to a child."

Local business owners pushed back on the ban, saying it won't help solve the problem of children smoking.

"What you are doing is not helping the kids' epidemic with vaping, but it's going to make it worse," business owner Nam Nguyen said, citing a rise in cigarette use in San Francisco after passing a similar ban in 2017. "Business owners are not the bad guys... We only cater to adults. Let the state and the government decide on these policies."

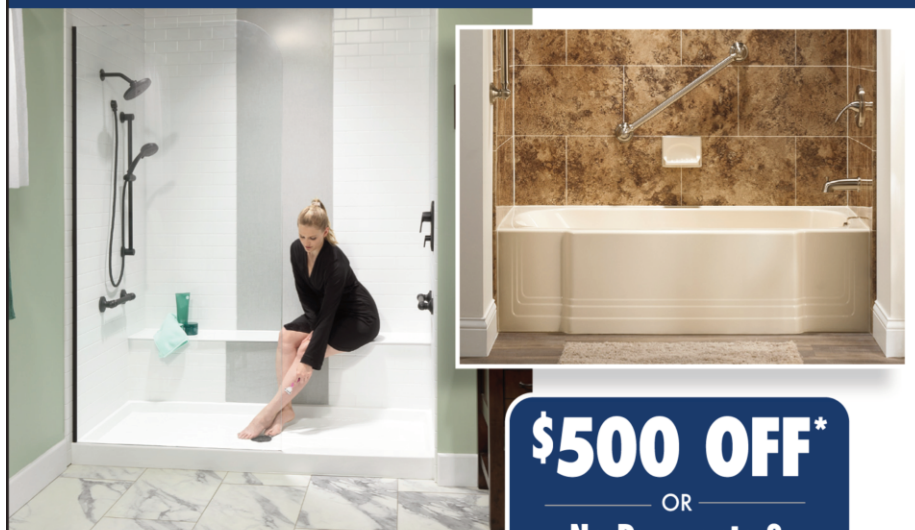
Business owners told the city in a recent virtual meeting that the ban of such products will hurt them financially. Out of 121 tobacco shops that responded to a city survey, 82% oppose the ban.

Santa Clara County, as well as cities such as Gilroy, Palo Alto, Los Gatos and Cupertino have passed similar bans on flavored tobacco products.

"This ordinance isn't perfect, but the goal is to get it passed," Foley said, adding the city will look at it again in a year. "Because frankly, Big Tobacco is not going to stop with this, they will figure out some other distribution system, some other way to reach our kids—and we have to be prepared for that and be prepared to act quickly."

Contact Tran Nguyen at tran@sanjos-espotlight.com or follow @nguyenntrann on twitter.

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Times **Feature**

The importance of water

By Latha K

Ayurveda Wellness Counselor

As I mentioned in my previous article, here is an easy step that we all can follow to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

It is very important to drink enough water to maintain a healthy body. Our body is made up of 70% water.

Let's understand "what happens if we don't drink water?"

You are likely to get dehydrated. The effects of dehydration are dry skin, cracked lips, headaches, bad breath, feeling thirsty, fatigue, low blood pressure, muscle cramps, decrease in sweat production and cravings for sugary foods etc.

Tips:

- Sip water throughout the day.
- Avoid drinking water in one shot.
- Always sit to drink water.
- Drink when you are thirsty.

Start your day with one or two cups of warm water, it helps for good bowel movements. It boosts the metabolism, helps in losing weight, relieves constipation and cleans the stomach.

Always drink warm or room temperature water, it helps for good digestion.

Sipping water during the meal is ideal, it helps digestion, blood circulation and prevents constipation.

General guidelines - Ideal Time to drink



Ayurveda
By Latha K
Ayurveda Wellness Counselor

water:

Two cups of warm water on empty stomach in the morning.

1 cup after breakfast, lunch, dinner and before bedtime.

Why should you sit down to drink water?

When the muscles and the nervous system are relaxed, the kidney filters the impurities better. But, when you stand and drink, water flows ahead without filtration. Because of this, the impurities remain in the bladder or kidneys. Also, when the water comes down with a

force, the essential nutrients don't reach all parts of the body. It also leads to joint pain and kidney problems.

Why should you drink water 1 hour before or after meal?

Food digests well if water is consumed after an hour by sipping. If water is consumed immediately before or after a meal, the water will dilute the gastric juices and food does not digest well. It leads to acidity, indigestion and gas or constipation. Sipping water during a meal is ok.

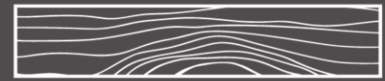
Let's follow the above daily. Being mindful of what you do is very important. But, at the same time, it should not stress you out.

Sometimes, if you forget to follow the above, it's OK. But be mindful and try to follow if possible.

Contact Latha K by email at latha.ayurveda@gmail.com.



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Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

Public Hearing

Evergreen School District
From strong roots grow bright futures

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Hearing scheduled for the October 14, 2021 Evergreen School District Board of Trustees Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing, register at: <https://eesd.info/3hRlmgG>

Re: THE AVAILABILITY OF TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

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**Open House
Sat.-Sun. 1-4**

1056 Summershore Court, San Jose

Nestled amongst the redwoods and with fantastic views, this lovely two-story condo is a dream! Inside, its open concept floorplan and bright, airy atmosphere make for comfortable home living and remote work, while the private patio in the back has peaceful setting close to the community pond. The home is part of the wonderful Waterside/Summerton gated community that features numerous amenities, including a pool and spa, tennis courts, and more. 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 San Jose has to offer.



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