



SEASON'S GREETINGS!
Wishing you the best this Holiday season from the staff of the Times

DEC. 17 – DEC. 30, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 26

Evergreen *Times*

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Evergreen HS student chosen to represent California in 2022 U.S. Senate Youth Program

By William Bellou
Publisher

Sneha Revanur (pictured above), a senior at Evergreen Valley High School, was announced as one of the California representatives for the 2022 United States Senate Youth Program.

Revanur joins her southern California co-representative for an opportunity to get an in-depth view of the Senate and the federal government from March 5-10.

The annual program will celebrate its 60th year of providing students a deeper understanding

See *REVANUR*, page 18



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Sacred Heart Community Service distributes more than 3,500 holiday food boxes

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Sacred Heart is continuing its tradition of distributing holiday food boxes to local families.

In the lead up to the Thanksgiving holiday Sacred Heart gave away nearly 4,000 boxes of food and this tradition will continue into the Christmas season with food distribution days scheduled this week.

The goal for this year is to distribute 3,500 food boxes so that families in need can enjoy a healthy holiday meal.

Each holiday food box contains non-perishable items, vegetables, fruit, bread, and a turkey, chicken, or ham—roughly 50 pounds of food which is the equivalent of \$100 worth of groceries. There are no zip code restrictions or appointments needed to pick up food.

Sacred Heart has made significant changes to this year's holiday food program to ensure families get the food they need while at the same time keeping our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Distribution will be spread over multiple days to decrease the number of people waiting in line. In accordance with the county public health regulations, Sacred Heart members, volunteers, and staff are



required to wear masks at all times.

Community members coming to pick up food are advised to please bring something to carry your food and ham/turkey to your car, bus stop or home. Many people use carts, strollers, rolling luggage, or cloth bags. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we do not have box holding, food sorting or volunteer assistance.

Sacred Heart's holiday program is made possible through the support of individuals in the community and groups including small busi-

nesses, faith communities, and schools. There is still a need for donated chicken, hams and turkeys to help every community member before the holiday.

Those interested in supporting Sacred Heart's holiday program can visit www.sacredheartcs.org/holidays to learn how to drop off food items or to make an online donation.

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit <https://www.sacredheartcs.org/volunteering>

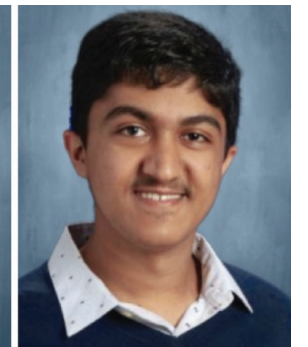
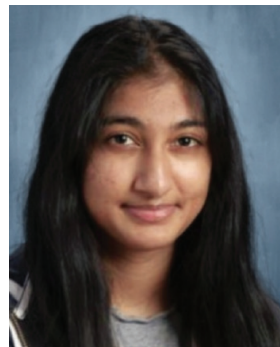
ESUHSD celebrates students who earned a rare 'perfect' score on an advanced placement exam

ESUHSD is celebrating the students that have earned a perfect score on an advanced placement exam.

Evergreen Valley High School students Nitya Golla, Steven Luo, Dougy Ouyang, and Shivam Pathak have recently earned a perfect score on a college-level Advanced Placement® (AP®) Exam in spring 2021.

Nitya Golla, Steven Luo, Dougy Ouyang, and Shivam Pathak (pictured, left to right) were each one of only 335 students in the world to earn every point possible on the AP Computer Science Principles Exam.

"EVHS is proud of this amazing accomplishment by Nitya, Steven, Dougy, and Shivam. This achievement is a testament to their hard work and determination, and the work of their teachers in guiding them towards this success," said Kyle Kleckner, Evergreen Valley



High School Principal. "Please join me in congratulating these four EVHS students!"

"Perfection is rare, whether in school tests or in life. Achieving perfection represents an extraordinary level of commitment and an absolute determination to be the best possible," said J. Manuel Herrera, ESUHSD Board Vice President.

The Advanced Placement Program is committed to ensuring that

students have access to the opportunities they have earned. Students who succeed in AP are not only more likely to succeed in college, but have the chance to save a significant amount of time and money by earning college credit or placement.

"AP courses and exams are college-level, requiring great focus and persistence among participating students," said Trevor Packer, head

of the Advanced Placement Program. "We applaud the educators who encourage students to challenge themselves, who motivate and encourage diverse students to achieve their academic potential."

Colleges and universities around the world receive AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, and/or consideration in the admission process. To learn more about AP, please visit exploread.org.

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Times **Local News****CAREER CORNER****2022 hiring trends**

By Angela Copeland

The New Year is almost here! And, like last year, the world has changed.

Our personal lives and our work lives will continue to look much different than they did three years ago in 2019. We've found a new normal. So, what does this mean for hiring next year in 2022? There are a few trends you should be on the lookout for.

Find Your Style: One of the great things that has come out of the pandemic is remote work. But, remote work isn't for everyone. The good news is, not every company is remote. This means that you, the job seeker, have an opportunity to decide which working style works the best for you. I firmly believe this split of in office, remote, and hybrid work environments will stick around long after the pandemic is over. This is the time to pick your perfect work environment.

Extend Your Search Area: In the past, if there were no jobs in your local area, you had two choices. You could stay with your current employer, or you could move. But, remote work breaks down the barrier of distance. If you're in a small market, you can now fish for jobs anywhere in the country. This opens up the possibilities. In some cases, it can also mean an increase in salary. If you're looking for remote opportunities, look beyond your local market. And, just because a job posting

has a city attached to it does not mean there's no chance of remote work.

Try New Roles: The job market is tight right now. Companies are having a tough time finding talent. This means that when a company tries to find a perfect candidate, they very likely will come up empty handed. For the job seeker, this is great. If you've thought of trying a new career field, this is the time to try. Hiring managers are much more likely to give an underdog applicant a shot when it's hard to find the perfect candidate.

Remote Learning: For years, companies have expected their employees to take charge of their education. When employees stay at an organization for fewer years, the company has less incentive to invest in training. They expect you to show up, ready to work. The problem is, in a remote world, it can be hard to increase your skills and knowledge. It's like you're on an island, focused only on your existing work. But, there are many free online courses available. Use them to keep yourself up to date while you're growing your career.

Whatever you do, don't sell yourself short in 2022. I know that the last two years have been scary. We've faced a lot of unknown together, and in quite an isolated fashion. But, companies are still hiring. And, you are still valuable. Accept that what is normal has changed. Make a new set of goals for the New Year, and let's move forward together.

Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.



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Financial aid tips for students

Avoid these common student financial aid mistakes

Many students spend more for college than necessary by making some common mistakes when seeking financial aid. Follow these tips from KHEAA to make sure you get the financial support you need.

Even if you don't believe you'll qualify for financial aid, you should still file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly called the FAFSA, each school year. You may find out that you qualify for federal and state student aid programs. Plus, some schools may require the FAFSA for students to be considered for merit-based scholarships.

Another common mistake is waiting until the last minute to apply for financial aid. Some programs have deadlines, while others have limited funds.

Colleges send each student who has applied for student aid a financial aid package. Students and their families should review these carefully, comparing offers from schools to see which is the best deal. Of course, cost is only a part of the higher-education decision. Students should also consider other factors, such as whether a school offers the academic program they want to pursue or if it meets other expectations they have.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents.

KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit www.kheaa.com.

Valley Currents

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

SJ City Council approves Al Fresco San José outdoor dining extension

By Times Media staff writers

The San José City Council unanimously passed the continuation of San José Al Fresco December 7. The successful Al Fresco outdoor dining activation is a program proposed by Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Dev Davis in May 2020, during the pandemic, to offer relief to struggling businesses.

"San Jose Al fresco was a critical lifeline for many of our small businesses during the pandemic," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "San José restaurateurs and merchants are the backbone of our community and we must continue to help them on the road to economic recovery—while maintaining safe spaces for residents to socialize outdoors."

The extension allows the continued closure of city streets, such as San Pedro Square, for use by diners and shoppers through June 30, 2022. Parking lots and private property utilized under the program for similar outdoor uses will continue to be allowed for an additional year to December 2022. In both cases, longer closures will be considered at those times.

This action builds on Council's recent allocation of \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan funds to cover traffic safety barrier equipment rentals and lost meter revenue for existing Al Fresco parklets. This is in addition to the prior allocation of \$700,000 approved in the 2021-2022 operating budget which covered businesses' transition costs to more permanent parklet installations.

During the initial Al Fresco program, which streamlined the permitting process for outdoor dining and commerce, 131 businesses self-registered to conduct their operations on private property, 35 businesses received a permit for operations in a parklet on public sidewalks and private land, and 12 businesses received permits for operations on closed city streets. 17 permits were issued for Al Fresco business operations in parks.

To assist with the transition to a longer-term presence of Al Fresco-related spaces for businesses, San José is working with the Knight Foundation on a grant agreement for \$200,000 that would help produce a template design for parklets to ease the permitting process. Costs covered by the grant include staff facilitation, technical expert consultant review of the designs, and translation services.

Businesses seeking to pursue an Al Fresco parklet can contact City economic development staff at covid19sjbusiness@sanjoseca.gov for assistance.



In Evergreen an unsafe and perhaps unstable sinkhole has been discovered after a recent houseless abatement (removal) took place for clean-up and tree cutting.

'Hotel Sinkhole' discovered in Evergreen Valley

Dangerous secret living quarters found along Thompson Creek

By Kevin Larsen
Times Staff Writer

Some call them snake holes, swallow holes or sinkholes. They can show up out of no-where and in some cases devour houses. Certain conditions are needed for them to form.

In Evergreen an unsafe and perhaps unstable sinkhole has been discovered after a recent houseless abatement (removal) took place for clean-up and tree cutting.

Sinkholes are cavities and or pits that can be formed when rain or other sources

of water erodes the underground rock layers to create spaces. These holes could have been formed long ago perhaps over a hundred years.

Such underground holes are dramatic and dangerous for they can stay intact but when they get too big and there is not enough support, the ceiling may suddenly collapse creating a hole on the surface. Underground water can erode sediments and spall the cavern walls.

Thompson Creek

This newly discovered hole at a location along Thompson Creek is hidden so that if a person or wild animal were to fall into it, they might not be able to get out.

See SINKHOLES, page 21

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Times Local News

San José recognized as 'The Most Innovative City Government' in the United States

For the second year in a row, the Center for Digital Government recognized the City of San José as the most innovative city in the United States with a population of more than 500,000.

Winning this award means San José exemplifies the best deployment of technology to address the most pressing issues of city life.

From tackling social challenges like the digital divide to redoubling a commitment to equitably delivering the highest level of city services, San José's recognition through this award reflects the hard work of city staff who continue to strive for innovative service.

Continuous push to innovate

"The pandemic has tested, to the limits, the challenges of delivering services to residents equitably, but our resilient city staff has risen to meet the moment," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Their continuous push to innovate and iterate the best digital tools and outreach is a model to cities across the country and one of the finest exercises in public service in our city."

This award hits a major milestone in Mayor Liccardo's Smart City Vision aiming to make San José the most innovative city in the country. The Smart City Vision defined a series of core values and goals that influence the transformative, user-centric technology being developed for the benefit of our communities. The 2021 year was the fifth consecutive year San José has placed in the Center for Digital Government survey top ten and its second top place finish.

Increased reliance on online connectivity

Progress toward the City's Smart City Vision goals is spearheaded by teams within the City Information Technology (IT) Department, the San José Public Library, and the Mayor's Office Technology and Innovation. In a time marked by an increased reliance on online connectivity, these City teams partnered with a variety of commu-

nity partner organizations and local companies to achieve the following:

- Connect 300,000 residents - the size of the population of St. Louis, MO - by the end of 2022.
- IT staff worked with Google and SpringML to create an artificial intelligence-driven process to ensure city services accessed by the public, such as City Council and committee meetings, would have live transcriptions available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

- The \$24 million San José Digital Inclusion Fund operated by the San José Public Library is on track to connect 50,000 San Joséans with high-speed internet over the next ten years.

- Through the Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation, the City offers device refurbishment through a partnership with Revivn to bridge the device gap for low-income families and distribution of over 15,800 mobile WiFi hotspots.

In 2021, the City completed a new IT Strategic Plan aligned to the City Council's new City Roadmap. A "Drive to Digital" initiative supports community and economic recovery efforts, which provide process reengineering and automated service delivery.

Enhancing collaboration across departments

In addition to external changes to public service delivery, the City made strides in enhancing collaboration across departments including IT, Human Resources, Public Works, and others through Powered by People.

"City of San José departments protected lives and livelihoods through the pandemic. They used technology and data to provide crucial services in moments of historic need. Now, teams are focused on creating equity and opportunity as we recover. We continue to use IT in building a culture that cares for our digital workforce and our digital public," said City of San José Chief Information Officer, Rob Lloyd.

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. The Center is a division of eRepublic, the nation's only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

Evergreen families on the lookout for Santa!

NORAD continues to track Santa Claus

Evergreen families are on the lookout for Santa!

Yes, we know, it's hard to believe that the Christmas Day is here!

Perhaps you have some last-minute shopping left to do tonight and some meal preparation, but after that ... Woo-hoo!

As Santa's gets ready to visit Almaden Valley, how do you keep the kids calm and reassured that Santa's on his way on Christmas Eve?

Go online to make sure St. Nick and the reindeer are on schedule.

Here are a few places you and little ones can visit together.

For the young and the young at heart, **NORAD** hosts the "official" tracker website, noradsanta.org. The interactive site also features a video arcade, a library of fun facts and a playlist of Santa's favorite holiday classics. NORAD has also introduced a new mobile app.

For those who would like to make an old fashion **phone call** to check up on Mr. Clause, the Santa Operation Center (877-466-6723) opens at 4 a.m. Dec. 24.

Google is also in the tracking game, santatracker.google.com, and its activities include a Santa selfie, a dance class and snowflake coding. And don't forget Santa enthusiasts can track his annual flight on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube!

If your household has become dependent on **Alexa** for everything, just say, "Alexa, open Santa Tracker," and you'll be



updated with Santa's progress.

And for the on-the-go family, **OnStar** subscribers can receive updates as you're driving to grandma and grandpa's house.

The Santa Tracker program started in 1955, when a local Sears store in Colorado Springs printed a newspaper ad that invited kids to call a certain phone number to talk to Santa. The number was misprinted, and the calls ended up going to the Continental Air Defense Command, NORAD's predecessor.

The colonel on duty that night realized the mistake. He ordered his officers and his troops to start tracking Santa using their systems and telling the kids where Santa was throughout the night.

"While the tradition of tracking Santa began purely by accident, NORAD continues to track Santa," according to the website. "We're the only organization that has the technology, the qualifications, and the people to do it. And, we love it! NORAD is honored to be Santa's official tracker!"

Happy tracking! And don't forget the milk and cookies!

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Impact of Covid-19 on the health of ethnic minorities

'Good public health means good health for all'

By Dipti Venkatesh
Special to the Times

A disproportionate amount of racial and ethnic minorities have died due to COVID-19: Per the CDC, the death toll of Black or African American, Non-Hispanic persons is 2.0 times more than White, Non-Hispanic persons; 2.4 times more for American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic persons; and 2.3 times more for Hispanic or Latino persons, disparities revealing a lack of health equity.

General occupation, environment and education

There are many reasons why racial and ethnic minorities are more susceptible to COVID-19, three being minorities' general occupation, environment, and education. People from racial and ethnic minorities make up a large proportion of essential workers in retail, public transportation, and factory personnel and such work increases the chance of exposure to COVID-19 because of close contact with other people and in-person work.

Crowded living and lack of social distancing

Crowded living spaces and unstable housing thwart COVID prevention efforts like quarantining and self-isolation. Also, the proximity to family members/housemates mitigates the use of social distancing and proper hygiene. Unstable housing situations can lead to homelessness or inadequate living situations, which contributes to a COVID-positive environment. Many racial and ethnic groups are not fully aware of effective COVID prevention measures. Because they do not know what symptoms to look out for and what to do when they might get COVID, they are unable to catch the illness in its early stages and receive proper treatment.

Bridging the gap

As minorities often do not have the same chances for obtaining equitable health, what is it being done to bridge the gap during this pandemic? The CDC is taking steps in the right direction, as outlined in their "COVID-19 Response Health Equity Strategy." There are four initiatives for CDC's strategy, including: "Expanding the evidence base," which includes increasing the number of programs for "testing, contact tracing, isolation, healthcare, and recovery from the impact of unintended negative consequences of mitigation strategies," "expanding program and practice activities to support essential and frontline workers to prevent transmission of COVID-19" and "expanding an inclusive workforce equipped to assess and address the needs of an increasingly diverse U.S. population."

As our national public health system works toward supporting equitable health



for all individuals, we, as a community, must do our part to ensure these policies reach all vulnerable groups in our communities. Good public health means good health for all.

Editor's note: Dipti Venkatesh is a junior at Evergreen Valley High School. She is the founder and president of HealthEquity-Plus(www.healthequityplus.net), a youth-led group whose mission is to teach the community about the disparities and equality in healthcare among different groups and make a difference by pushing for equi-

ty in healthcare for all. She is the secretary of her school's Health Occupations. Students of America(HOSA) chapter. Dipti is an active member of the community. She is an avid advocate against tobacco and vape usage speaking at city council about how big tobacco targets youth in our communities and minorities and as a National Youth Ambassador representing the state of California, she works to eliminate the usage of tobacco and e-cigarettes among youth on a larger scale. Dipti is also volunteering at the San Jose VA where she assists veterans. Along with these, she has volunteered at Hearts & Minds Activity Center, an adult day care designed for persons with all types of dementia where she led activities, such as art therapy, aimed at increasing cognitive function. Through these efforts Dipti has received a Silver Medal in Congressional Award. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the world and taken over 618,000 lives in the USA alone, and is a mirror of our public healthcare system during a national emergency.

Resources:

CDC, Health Equity Strategy, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/cdc-strategy.html>

CDC, COVID-19 Health Equity, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/increased-risk-exposure.html>

CDC, COVID-19 Investigations, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>



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Alice Pham

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Pedestrian succumbs to injuries from traffic accident near Huran Drive in Evergreen Valley

Last December, San Jose Police officers responded to the area of Tully Road and Huran Drive in Evergreen to investigate a collision involving a vehicle and a pedestrian.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2007 Toyota Camry was traveling eastbound on Tully Road when it collided with a pedestrian in the roadway. The pedestrian was not in a crosswalk.

The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital and was stabilized, but remained in critical condition. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and was cooperative with the investigation.

On December 9th, 2021, the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit was notified by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office that the pedestrian succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased on December 8th, 2021.

This is the 55th fatal collision and the 57th victim of 2021. This is the 22nd pedestrian fatality of the year.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Bowen #4461 of the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

Submit crime tips and remain anonymous by using the P3TIPS mobile app, calling the tip line at (408) 947-STOP, or on www.svcrimestoppers.org. If the information you submit leads to an arrest, you are eligible for a cash reward from the Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers Program.

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AUTOS 2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S E high performance; 800 HP and 1K LB-FT

By Sean Eastwood
Mercedes-AMG has finally entered the hybrid era.
Known for its cutting edge internal combustion performance cars, Mercedes has electrified

the 2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S E Performance. Its powerful 4.0-liter twin-turbo V-8, nestled up front, is joined by a rear-mounted electric motor providing a total combined output of an incredible 831 hp and a full 1,033 lb-ft of torque. The E Performance features what AMG calls an Electric Drive Unit (EDU) on the rear axle, which consists of a 201-hp, 236 lb-ft electric motor, electrically actuated two-speed gearbox, and electronically controlled limited-slip differential housed in a single unit. Just above it, there's a 6.1-kWh lithium-ion battery pack.



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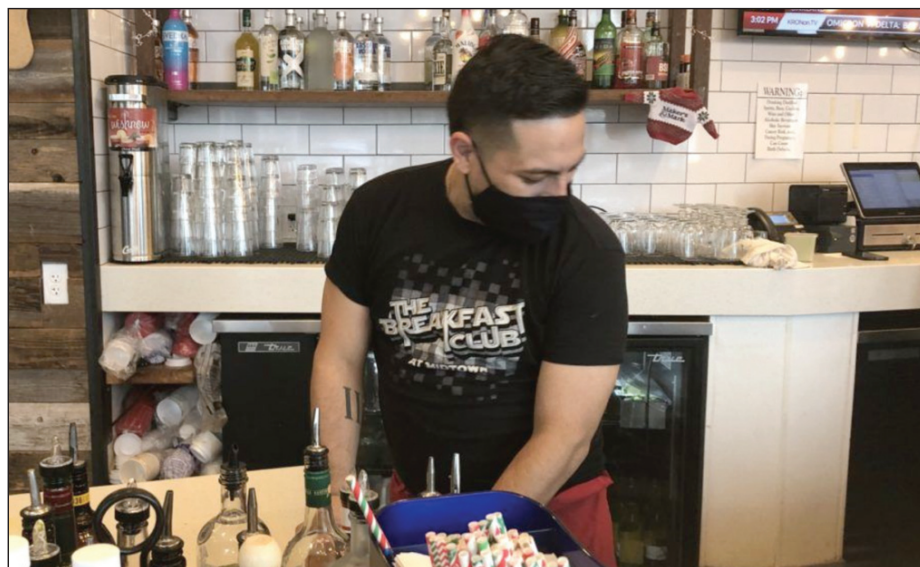


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Times Local News



The Breakfast Club at Midtown isn't as busy as it was pre-pandemic and manager **Alan Medina** thinks it might not survive another shutdown. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

Santa Clara County businesses brace for COVID once again

By Lorraine Gabbert

After almost two years of struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses may not be able to survive another hit caused by the omicron variant.

To help small businesses endure, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$20 million in federal pandemic relief grants on Tuesday. The details are still being worked out.

Join Us Beauty at 1405 W. San Carlos St. in San Jose sells wigs, hair extensions and beauty products—and could use a lifeline. The shop has seen its income slashed in half since reopening due to product shortages and a lack of customers. People who used to buy hair extensions every two months now shop every six months, said owner Kyu Lee.

The family-owned business not only lost customers, but owes significant back rent. Early in the pandemic, it was shut down for six months while debt accumulated.

Lee said while the owner of his uncle's sandwich shop in San Francisco forgave his back rent and is only requiring him to pay half this year, Lee's landlord isn't as lenient. Lee has been at the same location for close to 13 years. If he is forced to close again, it might be for good.

The nearby nail salon and Italian Brothers Bakery on West San Carlos Street both closed during the pandemic. The bakery did well, but left when the landlord wouldn't give them a break on rent, Lee said.

"If there's a shutdown for two to three months or longer we're going to have to pack up and go somewhere else," Lee told San José Spotlight. "We don't want to add another \$30,000 to \$40,000 in back rent. It's a little shop, but the rent is not cheap."

The store's rent is \$5,500 per month for about 900 square feet. Lee took out a Small Business Association loan and has insurance to pay, he said.

The shop owner is exhausted from COVID mandates and having to wear a mask, but he hasn't let down his guard because he has elderly parents, a baby and young daughter at home. His parents used to assist him in the shop, but with the potential to catch COVID and a dwindling customer base, they rarely come in now.

"I'm tired of it," he said. "Every time we get close (to normal), we have to take a step back. Hopefully the small business will survive, and things will get better. We just want our normal lives back."

Small businesses share struggles

Pure Tea Bar, at 6195 Santa Teresa Blvd. in San Jose, lost all its employees at the start of the pandemic. Now the tea bar operates with 60% of staff. The shop has 30-35% less income compared to pre-pandemic revenue. To survive, the business cut hours and pivoted to pick-up orders.

Like Lee, Truc worries about the omicron variant affecting business, as well as his health. He said customers are already staying away.

The Breakfast Club at Midtown, located at 1432 W. San Carlos St., has fared better. The eatery isn't as busy as it was pre-pandemic, said manager Alan Medina, but he thinks it would survive another shutdown. Even though it lost some staff and income, Medina said the business adapted quickly to new regulations.

"During COVID, the community came together to help us out," Medina told San José Spotlight. "We have a great loyal following. I think the same loyal following would be ready to tackle the next wave."

Santa Clara County Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said this week one of the challenges of the pandemic is uncertainty—and not knowing how the new variant will affect Santa Clara County.

"We're still in uncertain times," Cody said. "Just when we think that we've got things quieted down, there's another challenge around the corner."

The omicron variant, first discovered two weeks ago in Africa, is now documented in more than 50 countries and 18 states, Cody said, including California. The first case in the United States was confirmed in San Francisco, according to the California and San Francisco departments of public health.

As of Dec. 8, there have been 153,112 positive COVID-19 infections in Santa Clara County with an average of 195 new cases in the past seven days. There have been 1,918 deaths since the start of the pandemic. More than 90% of residents age 12+, more than 84% of residents ages 5+ are fully vaccinated and 478,922 residents have received booster shots.

According to the county, the local COVID case count has risen in recent weeks.

"It will just be a matter of time before we detect (omicron) here in Santa Clara County," Cody said.

Times **Community News**

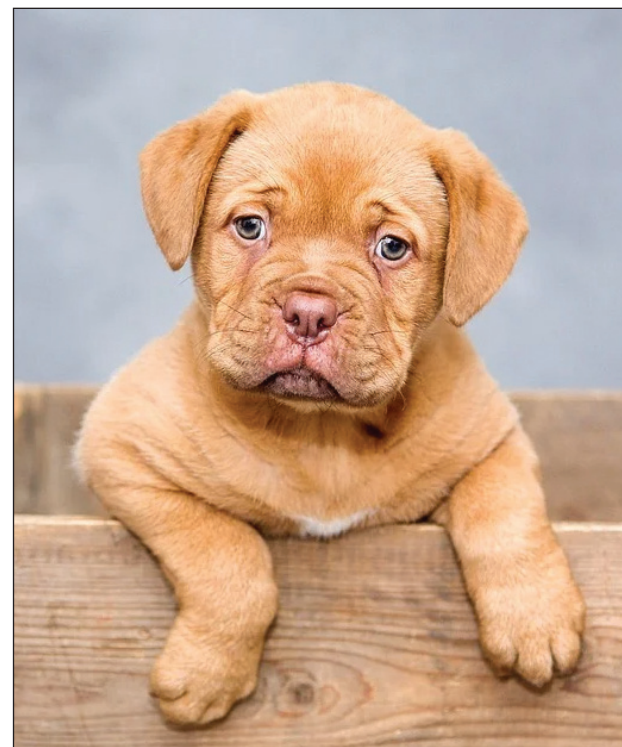
Buying a puppy online is still risky, BBB warns: average loss \$1,000+ plus the disappointment

Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises extreme caution when shopping for a pet online because scams are especially pervasive during the holiday season, when families are looking to add a furry family member as a gift.

The demand for “quarantine puppies” and other pets increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing with it a spike in scams that has persisted even as

virus-related lockdowns have abated. Knowing the red flags associated with this scam can help consumers avoid heartache and losing their money.

Online shopping scams have skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and pet scams make up 35% of online shopping scams reported to BBB ScamTracker. They are expected to be twice as frequent this year compared to 2019 and more than four times more numerous than 2017,



when BBB published its first investigative study about online puppy scams.

“Scammers like to capitalize on high demand during the holidays by posting pictures of pets in Christmas hats and other gear,” says Steve McFarland, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Los Angeles and Silicon Valley. “Once the consumer is lured in, the scammer refuses to let the person meet the pet before buying, often claiming this is for health and safety reasons.”

McFarland continues, “Scammers sometimes insist on shipping the animal through a delivery agency of some kind, often an airline. That in and of itself is a scam: fake web pages impersonating real businesses that offer pet delivery. The scammer also may demand fees for vaccinations or other last-minute needs. When in fact, the pet doesn’t exist and the consumer has lost money and emotional investment.”

The largest group of victims are ages 25-35, followed by 35-44. The average financial loss reported to ScamTracker was \$1,088. While 82% of pet scam reports involved dogs, other reports included cats, birds and iguanas.

The tactics used in pet scams continue to evolve. Scammers increasingly ask for payment through untraceable cash apps such as Zelle, Google Pay, Cash App, Venmo and Apple Pay. A review of ScamTracker data finds that the vast majority of reports listed Zelle as the payment method involving the purchase of online pets.

A Castro Valley, California, woman lost \$1,350 during the summer of 2021 when she and her husband tried to buy a Samoyed puppy online. She signed a contract to purchase the puppy from someone posing as a breeder who contacted her via email. She paid the scammer \$1,350 via Zelle. She said she knew she had been scammed when the shipping company handling the puppy’s delivery contacted her and asked her to rent a temperature-regulated crate.

If you plan to purchase a pet online, here are BBB’s recommendations for avoiding a scam:

- See the pet in person before paying any money. Or consider a video call so you can see the seller and the pet for sale. Since scammers are not likely to comply with the request, this may help avoid a scam.
- Do a reverse image search of the photo of the pet and search for a distinctive phrase in the description.
- Do research to get a sense of a fair price for the breed you’re considering. Think twice if someone advertises a purebred dog for free or at a deeply discounted price; it could be a fraudulent offer.
- Check out a local animal shelter online for pets you can meet before adopting.
- The media and public are encouraged to help educate those looking for pets online by sharing BBB’s tips and study.

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Safe At Home

Safe at Home program addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home.

Ways to get involved

Volunteers Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, April 17 & 24, 2021, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

Contractors We work with contractors that possess CA contractor specialty (Class C) in painting, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or electrical.

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Times Local News



Quick Service Jewelry Design latest victim of 'smash and grab' robberies

It happened again!

The latest Smash and Grab Robbery happened at *Quick Service Jewelry Design* late

Thursday night, Dec. 2 inside the Eastridge Mall in San Jose.

San Jose Police officers say four masked suspects entered the business with hammers and started smashing display cases.

They took several items and then left on foot.

No one was hurt during the robbery.

Santa Clara County Supes create 'Small Business Resiliency Grant Program'

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors affirmed their support for our small businesses as we continue to navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic and its impacts on our local economy and jobs. Supervisor Otto Lee joined Supervisor Susan Ellenberg for a joint referral for the creation of this program.

"Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, and they have also been among the hardest hit by the pandemic. When we first provided support to our small businesses, the demand for funding far exceeded available funds. This grant program will help local businesses that are struggling to stay open, with a focus on equity, COVID-19 response, and resiliency," said Supervisor Lee.

As a small business owner himself, Supervisor Lee knows first-hand the challenges small businesses faced to stay open during the pandemic. A Paycheck Protection Program, PPP, loan was critical for his law firm. Supervisor Lee continued, "I'm grateful that we had the PPP loan to support the firm. The pandemic presented a lot of fiscal uncertainty. Thanks to these loans and grant programs, small businesses are still open and staff are still gainfully employed."

This referral allocates \$20M of ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funding to the Small Business Resiliency Grant Program. Past recipients of the Small Business Grant Program included a wide range of small businesses, the vast majority of which have 5 employees or fewer. Grantees included barbers, beauticians and nail salons, day care and home care, restaurants and coffee shops, dentists and chiropractors, dry cleaners and shoe cobblers, dance and fitness studios, retailers, professional offices, schools and nonprofits.

Supervisor Otto Lee represents District 3 on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors which represents the Northern neighborhoods of Sunnyvale, Milpitas, Alviso, Berryessa, East Foothills, Evergreen Valley and Rosemary Gardens neighborhoods of San José. He is a former Sunnyvale Mayor & Councilmember, Retired U.S. Navy Commander, intellectual property attorney and father.

More information is available at SupervisorLee.org or contact us anytime at Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org



Study finds US citizens concerned with stolen porch packages

According to a recent study, nearly 46% of Americans claim that when it comes to theft, they are most concerned about their packages being stolen.

Although the number of property crimes fell nationwide by 7.8 percent, package theft remains a top home security concern, especially during the holiday season as online orders and deliveries are increasing.

To better understand how package theft can be avoided, here are the following stats:

- 50% of Americans use a doorbell camera or security device to deter package theft
- 30.25% of Americans rated home security systems as very effective
- 81% of victims got a refund
- 47% of victims filed police report
- 48% of Americans avoid buying expensive items online due to fear of them getting stolen
- 55% of those with stolen packages reported package theft during the 2019 holiday season

Times **Feature**

The intrinsic art of crying, pt. 2

By **Apoorva Panidapu**
Special to the Times

Want to have a job to make people cry? Instead of becoming a dentist or acting in a Halloween Haunted House, you can do what Dutch photographer Maurice Mikkers does: invite strangers to your house, make them cry, and collect their tears. (It's less gruesome than it sounds, promise!)

In January 2015, Mikkers went through the indescribable and tremendous pain of stubbing his toe against a table. At this point, he was working on studying the crystallization of Diclofenac (a drug that treats pain and symptoms of arthritis), and he had the sudden inspiration to capture his tear with a micropipette and observe it under his microscope. He tried several light techniques to capture its structure, from the standard bright-field technique that's typically used in high-school to the polarization technique, which he had used for his other crystallization photographs. Though both produced wonderful results, he felt something was missing. So, he installed the dark-field condenser in his microscope and voila! Beauty unlocked.



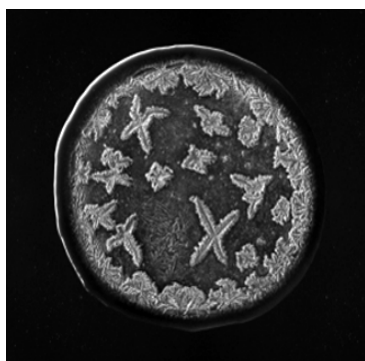
Gems in STEM
By **Apoorva Panidapu**



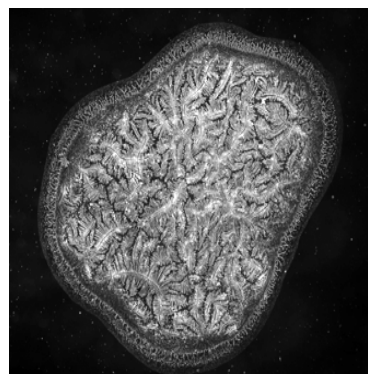
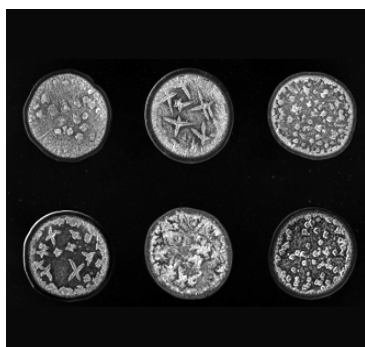
Maurice Mikkers: Tear After Cutting White Onions (Reflex Tear)

Someone captures the tear with a micropipette, puts it in a mini reaction tube, then dispenses it onto a microscopic slide with several small drops. The tear then takes five to thirty minutes to crystallize. (This variation in time comes from the variety of variables, like temperature, humidity, the tear's composition, and you!)

After crystallization, they're finally ready to be imaged. The tears' microscopic structures are largely created by crystallized minerals binding with mucins, but given every tear's differing composition and viscosity, Mikkers actually has yet to find two tears that look alike!



Tear from onion (above);
Six tears (below)



Mikkers' first tear under the microscope — A Tear of Pain (Emotional Tear)

Much like Rose-Lynn Fisher's work (which we talked about in the last column), he wanted to see if a tear born from the pain of stubbing your toe was different from, say, a tearful response to a movie where the dog dies. So, he started his project, "Imaginarium of Tears"—inviting anyone and everyone to share their tears (and their stories). To collect a tear sample, they bring something that makes them cry, like a poem or movie, to his house, or they can go the more painful route of cutting an onion or pulling out a nose hair.

Maurice Mikkers: 6 tears from 6 different people

"The fact that we don't really know what causes this variation — it might be the humidity of the atmosphere, the composition of the tear, or even the source of the pain that drew the tear from the eye in the first place — imbues the project with a sense of mystery and exploration."

- Maurice Mikkers

Indeed, there hasn't been much research on how our tears crystallize, so Mikkers made it his new mission to explore the variables behind each tear's unique crystallized form.

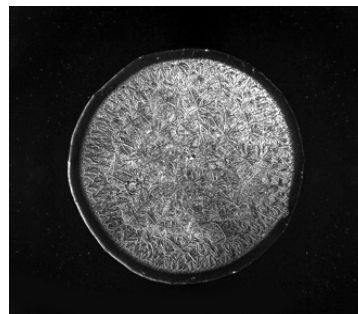
A good starting point in this ex-



There hasn't been much research on how our tears crystallize, so Mikkers made it his new mission to explore the variables behind each tear's unique crystallized form.

ploration would be the tear's creator. As Dr. Naomi Chayen, Head of the Crystallization Group in Computational and Systems Medicine at the Imperial College in London, said, "The first thing is that [the crystallization] would depend on who the tear comes from." According to Dr. Chayen, we should leverage spectroscopy, a procedure in which we can measure a crystal's composition by passing X-rays through it, to investigate whether the tears' composition or the way it dries is behind the vast spectrum of microscopic structures.

If we can understand this, we can potentially manipulate a tear's crystallization to our liking — basically creating a new art form! So YEAH, I'll cry at Clifford the Red Dog and whatever else. I'm an artist and tears are my art. What are you gonna do, cry about it?



Maurice Mikkers: A Tear of Sadness (Emotional Tear)

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

IN MEMORY

William (Bill) Jackson

Nov. 1941 - Dec. 2021
Resident of Evergreen Valley



William (Bill) Jackson passed away peacefully after a 10 year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

In 1964 Bill married his childhood sweetheart, Cynthia (Cynie) Witbeck. "Best thing I've ever done." Soon after his San Jose State graduation, Bill began his teaching career. He taught science at Dartmouth Middle School for 34 years

and coached a variety of sports for many of those.

Bill and Cynie's greatest joy was raising two wonderful sons, Tom and Mike, who grew into great men and made them proud. They brought two special ladies into our family, Jill and Tamra, plus 5 magnifi-

cent grandkids, Logan and Delaney (Tom and Jill) and Ava, Owen, and Cole (Mike and Tamra). They provided new joys, laughter, and pride! Bill and Cynie moved to The Villages Golf Community 23+ years ago, providing time to make great friends, play golf, and enjoy years of travel.

A private gathering will be held for family as per Bill's wishes. "I've lived a good life. No regrets."

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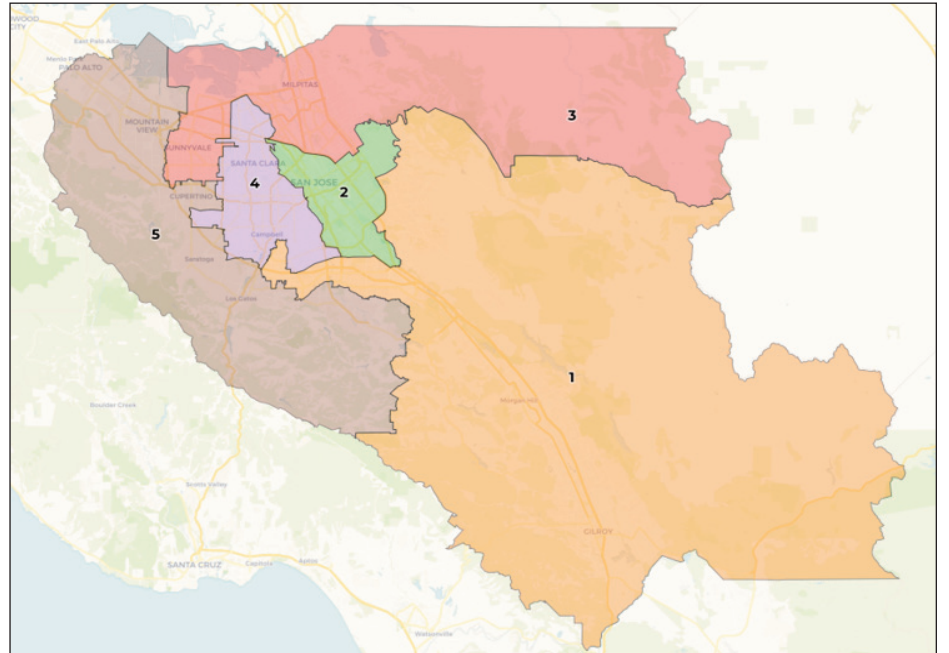
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Times Feature



The Santa Clara County Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve the 90195 Map, introduced by Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

Santa Clara County lawmakers choose new political map

New redistricting map unites Evergreen Valley

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After months of intense debate and controversy, Santa Clara County has taken an important step to finalize its political boundaries for the next decade.

The Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 on Tuesday to advance a map known as draft 90195, introduced by Supervisor Cindy Chavez. The map is a variation of the Yellow Map, a controversial option advanced by a coalition of civil rights and labor groups. Supervisors considered eight other maps during their meeting, mostly variations of the Yellow Map.

Supervisors Chavez, Susan Ellenberg and Otto Lee voted in favor of the 90195 Map. Supervisors Mike Wasserman and Joe Simitian voted against it. Chavez's map is a modified version of the Yellow Map, previously known as the Unity Map.

The 90195 Map has a population deviation of 4.1%, meaning it has a relatively equal number of people living in each of the county's five districts. It's similar to the Yellow Map in that it creates a "majority-minority" Asian-Pacific Islander district in District 3, and maintains a Latino influence district in District 2.

Critically, the map removes Los Gatos and Almaden Valley from District 1 and places them in District 5—a point of controversy that has prompted fierce debates in past meetings and legal questions from opponents. The map also unites Evergreen, does not split the Willow Glen neighborhood and uses barriers like the Capitol Expressway and the Guadalupe River to create natural district boundaries.

Chavez expressed confidence in the 90195 Map's positive attributes. She acknowledged the challenges of the redistricting process, noting every tweak to an existing boundary line can have significant consequences for residents.

"Every time you touch a census tract it has a ripple effect on another area,"

Chavez said. "So these were really challenging to put together."

Moving the lines

The Yellow Map, introduced months ago by groups including Silicon Valley Rising Action, Asian Law Alliance and the San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP, upset opponents who claimed it would dilute conservative power in District 1 by cleaving off Almaden Valley and Los Gatos.

Gerrymandering accusations

Several community leaders accused the map of gerrymandering because it would exclude two candidates from the District 1 election—former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis and Los Gatos Vice Mayor Rob Rennie. They also raised last-minute legal issues and claimed Chavez should have been barred from voting due to alleged conflicts of interest.

Chavez said the 90195 Map improves on the Yellow Map by reducing the population imbalance between districts and improving contiguity and compactness of borders—criteria required by state and federal law for jurisdictions engaged in the once-in-a-decade redrawing of political lines.

Wasserman reintroduced the EE 2.0 Map, an option discarded at a November meeting. He said it deserved consideration because it has the lowest population imbalance of any proposal at 1.2%. He said the county currently has a 17.2% deviation, well above the state guideline of 10%.

"I attribute a lot of that to the fact we didn't start with the lowest deviation possible 11 years ago," Wasserman said.

Residents still unhappy

Residents in favor of Chavez's map largely echoed what has been said of the Yellow Map: that it will provide better representation to communities historically marginalized in county politics.

"It provides our citizens with equity because of the fact that we will have a voice in South County as opposed to the way it's set up now," said resident Marty Estrada.

Several residents spoke in favor of the EE 2.0 Map, arguing it has the lowest deviation.

See MAP, next page

Times **Feature**Photo of **Tito Muñoz** courtesy of the artists and Symphony Silicon Valley

Symphony San Jose presents **American Masters: Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein, Ellington Jan. 22-23**

Symphony San Jose presents *American Masters* January Jan. 22 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

Four composers, whose works defined America in the '30s and '40s, come together on one grand program: George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and Duke Ellington.

Copland's expansive, optimistic Appalachian Spring became known as "the quintessential American sound." In fact, all four composers could stake that claim. Gershwin and Bernstein each gave us a brilliant mix of symphonic music, jazz and Broadway.

Duke Ellington's stunning reflection on Black history from slavery to the Harlem Renaissance is considered one of the greatest examples of long-form jazz. Drawing on the blues, soaring gospel music, work songs, swing, and more, Ellington created an all-American orchestral masterpiece.

Conductor: Tito Muñoz

The Program:

Aaron Copland: Appalachian Spring

George Gershwin: Cuban Overture

Leonard Bernstein: On the Town (Three Dances)

Duke Ellington: Black Brown & Beige

Tito Muñoz, conductor: Praised for his versatility, technical clarity, and keen musical insight, Tito Muñoz is internationally recognized as one of the most gifted con-

ductors on the podium today. Now in his fourth season as Music Director of the Phoenix Symphony, Mr. Muñoz previously served as Music Director of the Opéra National de Lorraine and the Orchestre symphonique et lyrique de Nancy in France. Prior appointments include Assistant Conductor positions with the Cleveland Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and the Aspen Music Festival.

Long-form Jazz: The Rich Legacy of Duke Ellington

One of America's most prolific composers, Duke Ellington is credited with over a thousand works. He often called them 'American Music' rather than jazz. Ellington's 30-year collaboration with composer-arranger-pianist Billy Strayhorn produced not only countless songs but several long-form compositions - suites more at home in concert halls than in, say, Harlem's famed Cotton Club. The greatest of these is *Black Brown & Beige*.

Symphony San Jose is supported in part by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose.

Box office: Call 408.286.2600; www.symphonysanjosere.org Or visit the Box Office between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre.

Map

Continued from previous page
population deviation and maintains cultural continuity in South County.

"South County fundamentally differs from the rest of Santa Clara County in that our residents do not enjoy the job growth, transportation services or income level as the rest of the county," said Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley, adding the addition of four San Jose communities to her district will dilute representation of rural residents.

David Noel, president of the Erikson Neighborhood Association, unsuccessfully urged a last-minute recusal before the vote.

"I respectfully ask Supervisor Chavez to abstain from voting on district maps given

her close association with the groups that funded and created the map," Noel said. Several conservative leaders claim Chavez should have been barred from voting on the Yellow Map because she previously worked for South Bay Labor Council and Working Partnerships USA, both of which participated in creating the map. They also claim there is a conflict of interest because Chavez participated in a fundraiser for Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine, who is running for the District 1 supervisor seat.

The board asked the county surveyor to prepare a description of the adjusted supervisorial boundaries, and for County Counsel to report back on Dec. 14 with a resolution of the redistricting plans.

Contact **Eli Wolfe** at eli@sanjosespotlight.com or @EliWolfe4 on Twitter.

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Mayor Sam Liccardo and San Jose Police blast release of two homicide suspects without bail

By Times Media staff writers
San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and the San Jose Police Department are livid.
The Mayor and police officials are calling the recent release of two homicide suspects without bail "outrageous."
"I appreciate the purpose of bail reform, but releasing a homicide suspect without bail is outrageous," Liccardo said in the statement issued in an email. "The pendulum has swung too far, and it's our neighborhoods that endure the most crime that suffer as a result."

San Jose Police Media Relations said that two suspects arrested in connection with a fatal shooting on Halloween had been released without bail, and sharply critical of "the criminal justice system."
The police announcement tweet stated "Our homicide detectives do an exceptional job. Suspects Anzures and Castillo were arrested for homicide 29. The DA filed charges on both. They are no longer in jail. The criminal jus-



tice system believes they are fine out of custody without bail."
Within seconds, a new tweet added:
"Yes you read that correctly, two homicide suspects, charged, out of custody. Our community deserves better, the victim's family deserve better. The taking of someone's life is the ultimate crime. The system has failed."
Efrain Anzures, 27, and Alfred Castillo,

26, were arrested in the hours after an investigation of a shooting Oct. 31 in the 5200 block of Great Oaks Drive, where officers arrived and found a man suffering from at least one gunshot wound. The victim was taken to a hospital where he later died, according to police.
Anzures was booked into county jail on suspicion of homicide, while Castillo was booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and being an accessory to homicide, police said. Both men are San Jose residents.

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Times **Local News**

Kids are now learning math on their phone

New ways of instantly breaking down math solving approaches with cyber help

Ask any middle or high school student which subject is the hardest to find quality help with online, and you will undoubtedly hear that Math remains the most challenging. Backing this up, a recent survey of students showed that math is the

number one subject in 35 states that students are struggling with this year alone, making up 35% of the questions alone on Brainly's platform.

This is why Brainly, the world's largest online learning platform and homework help community, created Math Solver, their online feature focused specifically on providing step-by-step solutions to complex math problems.

Math Tutor is available for free as part of Brainly's suite of learning tools and is accessible to all 350M users across 35 countries, on supported mobile and tablet devices.

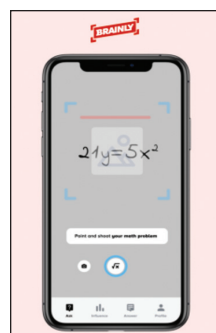
Math Solver, was created to remove the confusion and anxiety from mathematics and provide users with a clear path to solving even the most difficult algebra problems. By simply taking a photo of the problem, or writing it into your mobile device's touchscreen, Math Solver instantly provides a detailed step by step explanation or a graphic visual of the solution. Math Solver's straight forward, step by step walkthroughs have also been created to help parents, who are often just as stumped as kids are when it comes to assisting with math study.

"During the last year, Brainly continues to be an integral part of how students are learning, with the shift to virtual education," said Patrick Quinn, resident parenting expert at Brainly. "Math has always been the most active topic on Brainly so we know just how helpful this product will be for Brainly users."

If your kid is struggling with Math, you know that they are certainly not alone. These top five states are the ones who struggle with math the most: Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina.

For more personal assistance with all other subjects, Brainly Tutor offers one-on-one instant access to qualified teachers to help solve problems and answer questions in real time. With Math Solver and Brainly Tutor, Brainly provides support to both students and parents looking for help outside of the classroom.

Editor's Note: To learn more go to Brainly.com



Opera San Jose announces appointment of new general director Shawna Lucey

Opera San José (OSJ) has announced the appointment of nationally acclaimed opera and theater director Shawna Lucey as its new General Director and CEO.

Lucey, who will officially join Opera San José in January 2022, brings both a wealth of opera experience and an exciting artistic vision to the Northern California-based company which has captured a national reputation for its development of opera talent through its residency program, as

well as international acclaim for its inventive digital offerings.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Opera San José family as the next General Director," said Lucey. "Opera San José's vibrant energy, support for emerging talent, and artistic excellence drew me to the company as a stage director in 2018. It is now my honor to carry forward the mission of this innovative company into our operatic future."

With over 15 years of industry experience, Lucey steps into the post recently vacated by Khori

Dastoor, who is assuming the General Director and CEO role at Houston Grand Opera.

Lucey's appointment as the fourth General Director in OSJ's history will begin midway through the company's critically acclaimed 38th season and long-awaited return to the California Theatre. She will be overseeing the upcoming productions of Bizet's Carmen and Bernstein's West Side Story, as well as the return of the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition.

More information is available at www.operasj.org.



Opera San José has announced the appointment of nationally acclaimed opera and theater director **Shawna Lucey** as its new General Director, beginning in January 2022. Photo Credit: Ken Howard

Shawn Ansari – Record Sale



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Times Feature

Revanur

Continued from page 1

of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Through the intensive week-long program, student representatives meet the highest level of elected and appointed leaders, attend briefings, and spend time with mentors from top departments. Each representative will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship.

High school juniors and seniors across the nation were nominated by educators and principals to participate in the program. Only two representatives from each state and the District of Columbia are chosen based on their extraordinary leadership skills, commitment to their communities, and academic and extracurricular activities.

Aside from establishing her own international youth-led organization, Encode Justice, Revanur is an active member of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) Youth Advisory Group (YAG). She represents her peers in mental health-re-

lated policymaking discussions.

As a collaborative effort to reduce barriers for youth in need of support, decrease stigma around mental health, and focus on prevention and early intervention, the SCCOE and Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department established the YAG.

"Santa Clara County students are leaders in our community," said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan County Superintendent of Schools. "Their insight and input contribute to the success of their peers, our schools, and society."

The advisory group includes youth from Santa Clara County ages 14-21. Their input ensures the youth's voice is included in relevant and effective mental health services on school campuses. Youth advisors are advocates for mental health, engage in community education regarding mental health, represent youth where decisions are made regarding services, and contribute to program development.

The Santa Clara County Board of Education will recognize Revanur at its December 15 Board meeting.

Report: 2021's Most Fun Cities in America

With the average American spending over \$2,900 on entertainment each year, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's Most Fun Cities in America, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.


To help Americans find the cities with the greatest number and variety of cheap, fun activities, WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities across 65 key metrics, ranging from fitness clubs per capita to movie costs to average open hours of breweries.



Top 20 Most Fun Cities in America


- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Las Vegas, NV | 11. Tampa, FL |
| 2. Orlando, FL | 12. Denver, CO |
| 3. Atlanta, GA | 13. Portland, OR |
| 4. Miami, FL | 14. Seattle, WA |
| 5. New Orleans, LA | 15. Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| 6. San Francisco, CA | 16. San Diego, CA |
| 7. Austin, TX | 17. Cincinnati, OH |
| 8. Chicago, IL | 18. Washington, DC |
| 9. Honolulu, HI | 19. Houston, TX |
| 10. New York, NY | 20. St. Louis, MO |

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- Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6 PM.

- 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.

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www.ccavucc.org.

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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.

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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 7:30 AM and 10:45 AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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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.

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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!



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Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00 AM, 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!

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Evergreen Times

Times **Feature**

The camera was lowered into the sinkhole to capture the interior living quarters of the cavern

Sinkholes

Continued from page 4

The water company (or tree clearing company) came months ago during the pandemic and removed lots of gigantic old growth eucalyptus trees in this area. An A-Frame was put over the hole.

Plight of the houseless

One resident said, “ya, they live in there, it keeps them warm and offers shelter. Some steal from stores, get caught, go to jail and have that happen over and over again.”

Another person said that they knew of a young lady who was kicked out of her house for doing drugs. She ended up in the creek because her family wanted nothing to do with her.

Others have stated that prostitution may be a part of the way of life with some homeless individuals. Social workers may need to play

a heavier role.

To be fair, there are also hard workers who are homeless. The rent of rooms and need for good credit ratings can block people from obtaining a place to live.

Tent may have hidden secret den for years

Perhaps a tent was placed over the hole and the houseless group of people used the sinkhole by entering the tent for years on end. When the frosts come (we can see it on the lawns and roofs and even cars) perhaps the warmth of the enclosed clay walls raised the temperature to a warmer hospitable state.

The summer heat may have also offered a choice to go to the underground cave cooling area. The rectangular carving out of the floor could have been an area for a mattress.

At ‘Hotel Sinkhole’ the toilets don’t flush, room service never answers but the robins cheerfully offer wake up reminders for the



Cooking area and pan left untouched.

guests.

To live underground is a choice. The sinkhole ceiling could collapse for landscape truck tracks can be found on the powder dust ground as they rolled over the hidden underground area the size of a swimming pool. If the dirt is 3’ thick that would equate to tons of rock falling into the cavern.

During the exodus of the abatement while the large old growth trees were cut, those who custodian the Thompson Creek took time to place a warning over the hole but perhaps found it too expensive to fill it with sand.

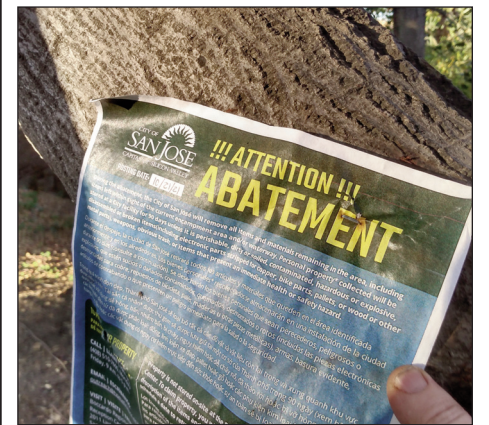
For now, the area is clear and there is only a solitary A-Frame put out over the secret subterranean hole. When the rains come perhaps changes in the soil will occur. If it opens up it could swallow someone.

If the A frame is removed, someone might fall into the unseen chasm and have to yell for help hoping a passerby would hear.



If you look closely you will see a coke bottle on the trunk of large tree that was cut down.

Perhaps it’s true that the first step one should take in finding a sinkhole is to keep far away from it.



"Campers" are asked to leave area with abatement signs.







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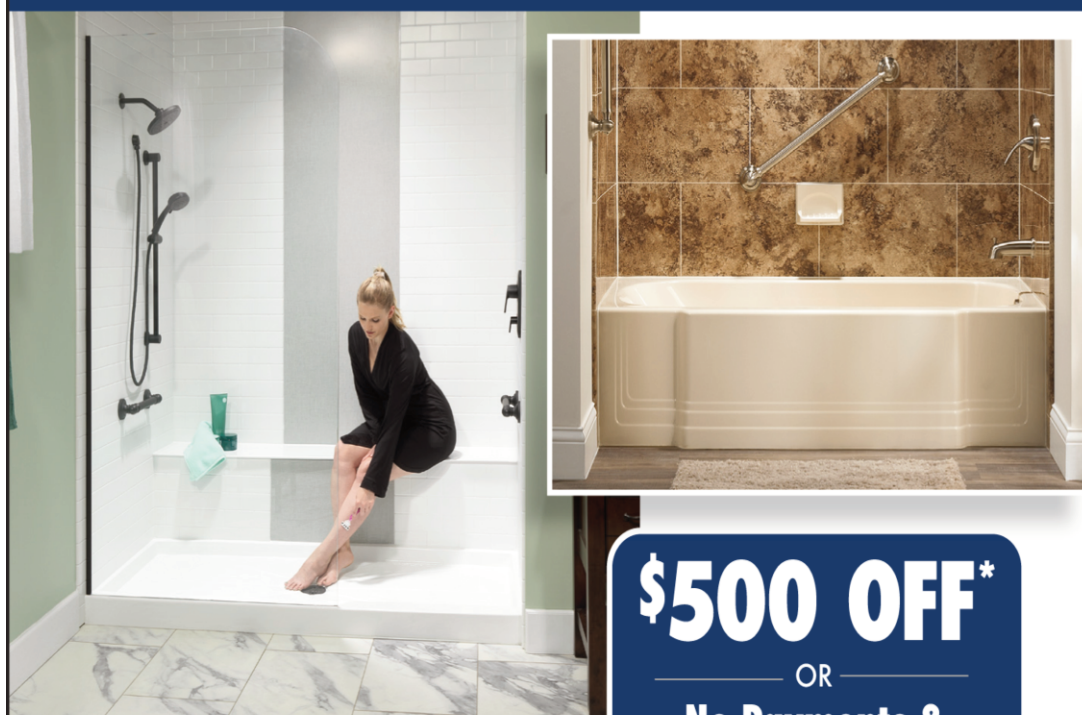
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**No Payments &
No Interest
For 18 Months****

OFFER EXPIRES 12.31.2021

Military & Senior
Discounts Available

CALL NOW!

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BCI BATH & SHOWER

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires December 31, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic, Inc.



Sold over list price in less than 1 week!

352 Madison Drive, San Jose

Situated on a quiet street in lovely Blossom Valley, this beautiful home has been updated with numerous modern touches and features an entertainer’s dream of a back yard. With plenty of living space and a bright, airy atmosphere throughout, the home allows for comfortable home living and remote work. Multiple guest rooms can be easily be converted into any type of room you wish, making this home the ultimate source for letting your imagination run wild. Close to major thoroughfares, outdoor spaces, shopping, dining, and more, this home will let you experience South Bay living at its finest.



- Home Summary**
- Three bedrooms and two full bathrooms
 - 1,556 square feet of living space
 - Situated on a 6,213 square foot lot
 - Attached two-car garage
 - Part of wonderful Blossom Valley community



Offered at \$1,385,000



JJ JACKIE JONES
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DRE 01355719



Sale Pending

\$2,800,000 | 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath
2875 Sq Ft | 10.114 Sq Ft Lot

Amazing Views from Almaden Country View Estates. Multi-level home on a quiet cul-de sac with spectacular views from backyard, kitchen, family room and master bedroom. Living room with stunning fireplace, formal dining room, kitchen with wood flooring, tile counters, and plenty of cabinetry, family room with door to the backyard with fabulous views of the surrounding hills. Three-car attached garage. San Jose Unified School District: Williams Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.

1136 Starling View Court

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.

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COMPASS



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