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JAN. 14 – JAN. 27, 2022 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 2

EvergreenTimes

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Rain totals reported for Evergreen/Silver Creek recent storms

Jaqueline Bogard is reporting the rain totals for the area's most recent storms using her rain gauge at her Silver Creek Country Club home.

"We had rain on and off for over a week and we received a total of 4.06 inches in our rain gauge bringing our YTD total to 9.75 inches, which includes last Friday's 0.01 inch." There is no rain in the forecast here for the foreseeable future.

Bogard said last year's rain season total only yielded 8.99 inches. "Normal for Evergreen Valley is about 16 inches.

The calculations for year-to-date totals began October 1.

Arenas running for Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors District 1 Seat

Evergreen District makes up largest voter block in newly redrawn open seat

By William Bellou
Publisher

San Jose City Councilmember Sylvia Arenas declared her candidacy for the District 1 seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on Friday, January 7.

"Since the day I took office, I have been a tireless advocate for making the needs of children and families the priority at San Jose City Hall. Together we have achieved real results," Arenas said. "However, there is so much more that can only be done by the County and their health and social services agencies."

In late December, the Board of Supervisors voted in a controversial move to expand District 1 to include Evergreen Valley and Silver Creek Valley, the area Arenas currently represents on the City Council. While District 1 no longer encompasses Almaden Valley or Los Gatos, the cities of Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy remain in District 1.

"San Jose and south county families need a passionate advocate on the Board of Supervisors," Arenas said. "They need a tireless fighter for the needs of our most vulnerable. They



Councilmember **Sylvia Arenas** with husband **José**, son **Andres**, and daughter **Anna**. Photo: sanjoseca.gov

need someone who is ready to go from Day 1 to serve in this critical role. That's why I'm running, and why I'm confident that the voters will again put their faith in my dedicated service to our community."

The District 1 race is one of the most contested, as it has the most candidates running including former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis, Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine

and Santa Clara County Board of Education trustee Claudia Rossi. Los Gatos Mayor Rob Rennie, who was also running for District 1 supervisor, ended his campaign after his town was drawn out and placed in District 5. Khamis is moving back into District 1 to stay in the race after being drawn out in the redistricting process.

District demographics have changed to create a more equal balance of white, Latino and Asian residents, which gives labor-leaning candidates a better chance to win the seat, retired SJSU political science professor Terry Christensen said.

"Arenas has got a pretty strong base in Evergreen," Christensen told San José Spotlight. "But another Latina in the race could split that vote between (Arenas and Rossi) so I think it will be a tight race."

Christensen believes conservative voices still have a good chance at representing the district, noting that parts of Silver Creek Valley and The Villages Golf and Country Club, for example, vote more conservatively.

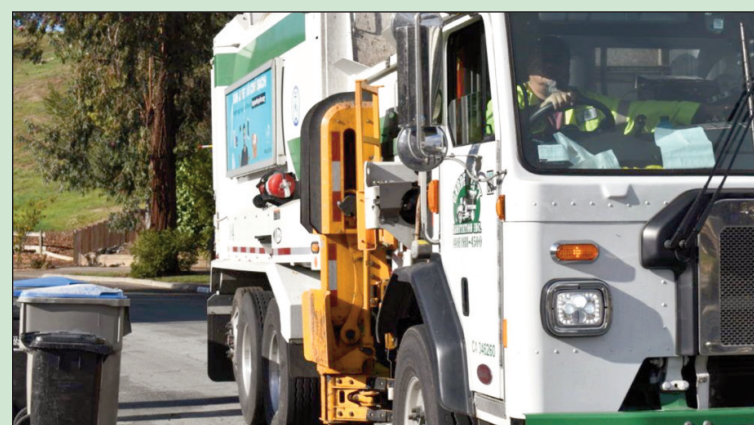
In her councilmember bio, Arenas points to her work to reform the city's response to rising rates of sexual assaults and improve public safety.

During her time on council, Arenas launched San Jose's Family Friendly Initiative, which works to increase access to early education, after school programs, safe housing and paid family leave.

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While some Santa Clara County cities are affected by SB 1383, San Jose residents won't see a big change as organic materials are already sorted at a recovery facility. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

State law changes what Silicon Valley residents can throw away

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Scraping food off your plate into the trash just become a no-no in more Santa Clara County cities as of 2022.

California's new composting law ushered by Senate Bill 1383 aims to fight climate change by reducing methane emissions created by organic material in landfills.

The bill requires a 75% reduction in organic waste disposal from 2014 levels by 2025 of up to 27 million tons of organic waste.

Rachel Machi Wagoner, director of CalRecycle, the agency that oversees the state's waste management, said SB 1383 is the biggest change to the trash system since recycling in the 1980s.

See **RECYCLING**, page 18

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

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Times Local News



Although December brought several storms that dumped nearly 17 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, most of the state's large reservoirs still remain well below normal levels. *Photo: wikipedia*

New rules introduced to curb water wasting

Voluntary conservation efforts continue to fall short of Newsom's target

Although recent rains have brought some drought relief to many areas of California, voluntary reductions in residential water use has missed its target for five months.

Total state-wide reduction was just 6.8% in November, compared with November 2020.

Amid that news, and emphasizing that Cali-

fornia's drought still isn't over, state water officials approved new rules to prohibit wasteful water practices such as washing cars without a hose shutoff nozzle.

Although December brought several storms that dumped nearly 17 feet of snow in the Sierra and soaked cities from Northern to Southern California, most of the state's large reservoirs still remain well below normal levels.

Three months remain in the winter rainy season with no guarantees on how many more storms the state will receive.

"Despite record levels of precipitation in some areas, we're not out of the woods yet," said Eric Oppenheimer, chief deputy director of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The state water board voted 4-0 to approve emergency rules to prohibit wasteful uses of water statewide, including hosing down driveways and sidewalks and running sprinklers so much that water runs into the street. Fines for violators could reach \$500, although enforcement would be up to local water agencies.

The new water conservation rules expire in 2023.

A new year often brings new opportunities for each of us

By Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.

County Superintendent of Schools

I hope you had a restful winter break.

A new school year often brings new opportunities for each of us, whether it is learning a new skill or building better habits. I look forward to our continued collaboration, supporting community goals, celebrating successes, and advancing efforts that help our children thrive.

With the new year, a new law will take effect that requires all California public schools to provide free menstrual products for students in sixth grade and up beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

The law also applies to California State Uni-

versity schools and all community college districts. The Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021 builds upon a 2017 law requiring low-income schools in disadvantaged areas to provide students with free menstrual products. Access to menstrual products in schools and public facilities promotes equity, protects the health of students, and can reduce school absences.

While we left 2021 in the past, COVID-19 is still with us. The health and well-being of our students, staff and community are top of mind. I urge all members of the community to utilize the prevention measures, such as universal masking, testing, vaccinations, and booster shots to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Testing, vaccinations, and boosters are available free of cost. Insurance is not required and immigration status is not asked.

Our county public health officer has stressed the importance and urgency of boosters for all those who are eligible. To schedule a vaccination or booster, please visit www.sccfreevax.com. For testing appointments, please visit www.sccfreetest.com.

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NEW THEME

The Power of Kindness, Resilience & Hope: Silicon Valley Reads, 2022

Virtual Kickoff Event on Thursday, January 27th

Silicon Valley Reads 2022 will move the community forward with the theme, “The Power of Kindness, Resilience & Hope.”

Silicon Valley Reads is a county-wide community engagement program that offers free events and activities centered around books and a different theme every year.

Three memoirs were selected, with each embodying this theme
See SV READS, page 14

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Valley Currents

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

Students return back to normal classrooms; experience has been far from ordinary

By Patrick Quinn
Special to the Times

This year marked student's and teacher's return back to the normal classroom but the experience has been far from ordinary.

Last year delivered new learning opportunities created to cater to the individual rather than a collective hive.

But 2022 is coming at us fast, and it's bringing a haul of exciting education trends along with it. There are more than one or two ways of learning — by not embracing all of the ways to teach, we risk leaving students behind in subjects they may need extra help in. Brainly, the world's largest online learning platform and homework help community, is delivering predictions for the future of EdTech in the new year.

AI-Enabled Adaptive Learning

The growth of technological capabilities means that a variety of media and learning-support tools now exist to help students

receive a high-quality education through the Internet. Teachers can appreciate this benefit for students as they immediately notice the greater flexibility they can offer in their learning schedule. Leveraging the emergence of AI this year, Brainly launched Math Solver, an online feature focused specifically on providing step-by-step solutions to complex math problems with just a simple “Snap to Solve” photo.

Personalized Learning

Personalized learning has been a long awaited dream of teachers and educators in the ed tech space, and the pandemic has brought it closer than ever to becoming reality. An example of this trend would be Brainly Tutor, which offers one-on-one instant access to qualified experts to help solve problems and answer questions in real time. Last year the platform hosted more than 500,000 live tutoring sessions between students and Brainly Tutors, reiterating the
See CLASSROOM, page 6



A shared rock

A young green heron shares a rock with a shy drake at Montgomery Lake located in the Village Golf and County Club on Friday, Jan. 7. *Photo by Stacie Wallace*

San Jose Youth Symphony to hold auditions for 2022-23 season

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) will be holding its annual general auditions for the 2022-2023 Season.

The auditions will be held on Thursday afternoons (March 31 & April 7) and Friday afternoons (April 1 & 8) between the hours of 4-9 p.m. Saturday auditions will be held all day (April 2 & 9).

All student musicians are welcome, ages 8 and up, who play orchestral instruments (woodwinds, brass, percussion & strings) or who are interested in performing jazz.

Marching Band musicians are welcome to apply for an audition now, and then join after marching band season ends.

To submit an audition applica-

tion, visit: www.sjys.org to join one of SJYS's 12 orchestras and instrumental ensembles. Your audition will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The symphony will do its best to accommodate the date preferences listed on your application.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 24, 2022.

Questions? Reach out to: sjys@sjys.org.

About the SJYS

The San Jose Youth Symphony is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the US. Founded 69 years ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and

education.

SJYS member musicians, of ages 8 to 20, are selected from more than 650 applicants through our annual spring General Auditions. SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras; a chamber orchestra; two flute choirs; concert winds, saxophone, percussion, jazz and harp ensembles; and two string ensembles. Each group rehearses weekly from September to May or early June and performs a scheduled series of concerts each season. In addition, member musicians participate in a weeklong summer camp and receive special coaching and participate in masterclasses from professional

and renowned musicians in the Bay Area.

The premier group of SJYS is its Philharmonic Orchestra, led by SJYS Music Director and Conductor, Yair Samet. The orchestra performs its season subscription concerts at the historic and beautiful, California Theatre, in downtown San Jose, as well as in its annual Season of Hope Concerts in December at Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, now an over-25-year-long tradition. The orchestra also travels biannually on its International Concert Tours, and have performed in renowned concert halls in Japan, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ireland, Argentina and Uruguay.

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Times Community

Peters' Bakery in San Jose puts the icing on the cake

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

One San Jose bakery has been making to-die-for burnt almond cake for more than 85 years, bringing customers from hundreds of miles away for this signature dessert and other mouthwatering delights.

Tony Peters founded Peters' Bakery in 1936. He grew up in a poor Portuguese family in San Jose. During the Depression, he worked for automobile maker Studebaker during the week. On Saturdays, he went to San Francisco, where he learned his baking skills from his uncle.

At age 29, Peters opened his first bakery at the corners of Delmas and San Carlos streets. Two years later, he opened a second bakery on Alum Rock Avenue.

Throughout his life, Peters had a close relationship with his employees, retaining them for years. One apprentice, Richard Sota,

bought Peters' downtown store in 1947 and renamed it Dick's Bakery. Sota kept making those famous, fluffy burnt almond cakes, complete with almond pastry cream and a white frosting covered in candied almond slices.

Even after Dick's opened, the reputation of Peters' Bakery never faltered, with more than 100 bakers apprenticing under Peters. Three generations later his two grandchildren, Cap and Cassy Peters, are at the helm. It is the oldest family-owned bakery in Silicon Valley, according to Cap.

For Cap, the sweet aroma of the bakery transports him back to his childhood, remembering how his parents let him pick out his birthday cake. Cassy recalls running around the bakery when she was three or four years old and falling asleep on sacks of flour. Cap and Cassy both love the pumpkin burnt almond cake. Cap said he can gobble up the German pfeffer-nusse (spice cookies) all day long.

Tabitha Alvarez has been coming to the bakery for more than 15 years, and the importance of this family treasure is not lost on her. She picked up baked goods for her mother's birthday.

"When you lose places like this, you lose what makes (a neighborhood) home," she said, referring to mom and pop small businesses.

During the early days of the pandemic, that almost happened. Cassy wasn't sure if the bakery would survive. As sales declined, the bakery decreased its hours and days. Then on Mother's Day 2020, the faithful showed up.

"I'm not a very emotional person," Cassy said, "but I walked out front and the line was down the block. I said hello, walked in the door and broke into tears."

Today, a line on weekends is common. On holidays, lines often wind around the block. Cap said the support of the tightly knit Alum Rock community is key to the bakery's survival. Although the bakery did close for one week right before Christmas 2020 when a staff member had COVID, customers have returned and sales are up, Cap said.

Staff is family

The staff is another reason for the bakery's success. The employees are like family. Cap said bakers who have been there for decades keep the business going, working nonstop from midnight to at times 7 or 8 a.m. on weekends.

"I don't think people understand the amount of work these guys do," he said. "It's not just decorating cakes and cupcakes. It's laborious work."

The clerks who box up and take orders are the other half of the synchronized team. The lobby is small and people have to wait outside. Employees will often walk out the door to take orders and deliver baked goods to ease the wait.

"People are upset because there's a line and we don't get to them fast enough," Cap said. "The patience and customer service skills our clerks have are amazing. They're our front line."

Jolene Knott, who came to Peters' Bakery from Morgan Hill, appreciates the neighborhood eatery.

"You can't go to a grocery store's bakery and get this service and quality," she said.

Cap beams when people tell him they've gotten their birthday cakes at Peters' for decades, or their parents or grandparents visited the store.

"I'm hoping new people who come to this business are starting a new tradition for their family," he said. "Maybe it's someone's

Classroom

Continued from page 4

volatility of safely meeting students where they are for learning, especially with such high levels of uncertainty of additional COVID variants and school shut-downs.

Soft Skills Training

The classroom can be a defining space for learning, discovery and exploration for kids of all ages - but what students learn outside of the classroom can be just as, or even more crucial, than you think. Some of the most important skills in the workplace include critical thinking, problem-solving, people management, and creativity. Colleges and future employers want to see emerging professionals who understand how to make hard decisions and showcase their leadership abilities.

Gamification

The process of gamification is one of the newest trends in education for 2022. More and more educators are choosing to gamify their lessons. This is handy in getting students engaged and deriving maximum interest and excitement towards learning. An ideal example of this is Moonshot Jr's Moonpreneur - business strategy board game. Moonpreneur is an

educational board game that has helped hundreds of children, young adults, and adults gain financial literacy and stimulate an entrepreneurial mindset in a fun way.

VR & Augmented Reality

Mostly known for its fun and interactive games, VR technology enables students to learn more materials faster, according to a recent study by PwC. A journalist from the University of Maryland writes that this technology can prove wonders with a student's attention span. VR/AR assists students with eliminating distractions and immersing themselves in their work. It's also a very handy tool for students with ADD/ADHD, since VR equipment has the ability to fully immerse the user in its digital landscape.

Leveraging Analytics & Data

Data is valuable, and finally, the educational sector is beginning to notice. Analytics allows educators to be more in command as to how to best teach their students. Educators gain insights via acquiring student feedback from surveys. This also ensures the students that their voice matters and is of importance to someone who they value. Thus, learning analytics helps teachers as well as students to keep the engagement going.



Cap and Cassy Peters, owners of Peters' Bakery, said the business owes its success to the support of the Alum Rock community. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.



An employee at Peters' Bakery in San Jose dusts the top of a cake with powdered sugar. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.



Sylvia Alvarez, a customer since the 1960s, came to Peters' Bakery to pick up a cake for her 75th birthday. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

first time getting their child a birthday cake and that child is go-

ing to come (back) as an adult. That's what I want to see."

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QUESTIONS? Reach out to sjys@sjys.org.

SJYS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN 91-2166427) that has scholarships and financial aid offerings available based on a showing of need.

Reflecting on the first year of service

By Otto Lee

Santa Clara County Supervisor

December 8th marked one year of service as your Santa Clara County Supervisor.

I am thankful for our community and to my District 3 Team for working tirelessly to better Santa Clara County. As your Supervisor, it is very important to me to hear your concerns and address your issues. Since day one, I have participated in hundreds of meetings and events with our neighbors to learn about the issues you care about.

After considering the issues that community members highlighted, I authored 26 referrals to address the most pressing needs in our community. These issues include: increasing housing options for our unhoused neighbors; combatting hate crimes against our AAPI community; forming a sustainability commission to look for greener, more sustainable options for our futures; and expanding mental health resources as we continue to grapple with this pandemic and the emerging variants.

As we enter Year Three of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must do our part to assist

those who were severely impacted. Homelessness was an issue in our community before COVID struck and COVID has only exacerbated our housing challenges. During the year 2020, we had 196 people, including a newborn infant, die on our Santa Clara County streets due to exposure. Horrifically, 2021 saw an increase in deaths as there were 250 unhoused people, including 3 infants, who died on streets. This is unacceptable everywhere, but it is especially intolerable in the richest county in Northern California.

I am proud that my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors recognized this urgency and recently approved multiple supportive housing sites in our County. These supportive housing units will be used to house veterans and families with young children that lost their home due to the pandemic. I am proud to be a part of the solution for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Since March 2020, there has been a horrifying increase in hate crimes against our AAPI community. I am proud to have put forward a referral that was unanimously approved to show that hate has no home in Santa Clara County. This referral created an

anti-hate community outreach and education campaign that included funding for community-based organizations to deliver programming to prevent and respond to hate incidents. Everyone deserves to be safe in the community that they call home.

The pandemic has highlighted our community's critical need for affordable and quality mental healthcare, particularly in our county justice system. By getting those in custody the mental health care that they need, this can help deter criminal activity that might otherwise land individuals in our jails. We know that incarceration is not a sustainable solution for those who are dealing with mental challenges. Nor is it fair to deprive a person of basic mental healthcare services then punish them for a mental health episode. Providing accessible, affordable, and quality mental healthcare will minimize the number of people in our justice system and maximize the number of people positively contributing to our community.

As I step into my second year of service as a Santa Clara County Supervisor, I remain steadfast in my commitment to accessibility, transparency, and to provide updated information to our district. Our community newsletter is the quickest way to learn about all the updates happening in District 3 and Santa Clara County. Visit www.district3.sccgov.org/district-3/newsletter to

read one of our 26 newsletters from 2021. If you are interested in receiving my newsletter, please visit: www.district3.sccgov.org/district-3/newsletter

Over these next few years, I look forward to continuing to listen and work with you to provide solutions that will better our community. I want to say thank you to everyone who was on this journey with me in 2021. I look forward to what's ahead this year in 2022. I hope you had a peaceful and safe time with your family and loved ones during the holiday season.



County Report

Otto Lee, District 3 County Supervisor

\$11 Million SuperLotto Plus jackpot ticket sold at Senter Rd. 7-Eleven

There was a new millionaire in the Evergreen area last week after a SuperLotto Plus ticket sold at a San Jose 7-Eleven on Senter Rd. matched all six numbers.

California Lottery said the ticket is worth \$11 million. The winning numbers were 8-5-39-19-9 with a Mega Ball of 9.

No one hit five numbers while 29 matched four numbers and the mega number for a payment of \$512.

The winner, who has not been identified yet, has the choice to take the \$11 million in annuitized payments or a cash value of \$7.9 million in a lump sum.

The 7-Eleven receives a bonus of \$55,000 for selling that winning ticket.



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Times Local News



San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan announced his mayoral campaign in September.
File photo by Lloyd Alaban.

San Jose mayoral candidate Matt Mahan leads pack on fundraising

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Cash is flooding into San Jose's mayoral race—a sign the election is going to prove costly for all contenders. Councilmember Matt Mahan leads the way, raising \$504,000 from roughly 1,000 donors during the first 23 days of San Jose's fundraising period. Mahan, a tech entrepreneur who announced his mayoral campaign a little over a year after being elected to the City Council, credits his early fundraising success to peer-to-peer organizing.

"The most promising sign of support we've seen has been the dozens of neighbors across the city who have already organized or signed up to organize a house party to introduce our campaign to their neighbors," Mahan told San José Spotlight. "We're meeting hundreds of San Joseans through these grassroots events."

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez trails behind Mahan's fundraising with \$474,000 from 955 donations. In an email to her supporters, Chavez said her campaign has drawn supporters across San Jose, from Berryessa to Willow Glen, and throughout the greater Bay Area.

Chavez, who did not respond to requests for comment, held a virtual fundraiser on Dec. 30 featuring as guests Rep. Zoe Lofgren, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma and former Supervisor Ken Yeager. 49ers legend Ronnie Lott appealed to supporters in a video, while the team's top executives have publicly endorsed Chavez.

Councilmember Raul Perez told San José Spotlight he's raised about \$264,000. Perez, who is competing with Chavez for the support of powerful labor organizations in the South Bay, said he deliberately chose to not hold any in-person events during December due to the rapid spread of the highly contagious omicron variant.

"I think it was a wise decision, personally," Perez said. "We were able to raise

"The most promising sign of support we've seen has been the dozens of neighbors across the city who have already organized or signed up to organize a house party to introduce our campaign to their neighbors," Mahan said.

significant resources in three weeks, and we've got a good start now and we'll keep going."

Councilmember Dev Davis experienced firsthand the risk of holding in-person campaign events. San José Spotlight reported that at least one person contracted COVID-19 after attending a Davis fundraiser held in mid-December at an Almaden mansion. The event, which held about 100 people, did not have a vaccination check and few people wore masks, according to attendees who spoke with San José Spotlight.

Davis, who did not respond to requests for comment, has not announced her fundraising results from December. On Twitter, she's touted her work as a councilmember completing urban village plans and funding a dedicated city attorney for code enforcement issues.

Dec. 9 was the first date candidates in the mayoral and City Council races could start fundraising. Mayoral contributions max out at \$1,400 per person or entity and \$700 for candidates running for City Council. The first semi-annual campaign disclosure statement is due Jan. 31.

Mahan, the top fundraiser, didn't quite break the previous record set by Mayor Sam Liccardo. In 2014, Liccardo raised \$513,000 in the first reporting period.

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

Times **Community News****Manodharmam: Part 3**By **Veena Krishnan***Special to the Times*

After covering the main concepts of manodharmam, we come to 'the final article of the 3 – part manodharmam articles.

Manodharmam can be seen in some lighter forms such as viruttams. Apart from manodharmam being a place for a performer to showcase their talent, it also is an integral part for accompanists. Melodic accompanists stun the audience with their immediate response to the main performer. Percussionists present a multitude of improvised variations. All these aspects are an essential part of Carnatic music.

Viruttams are short shlokas/devotional verses sung without beat to a specific raga or multiple ragams. They are usually in the South Indian language, Tamil, although viruttams in other languages are sung, too. Usually set to tune by the artist, they are a surprise to the rasikas in each concert. Occasionally, the melodic accompanist plays a short raga alapana in the same raga following the viruttam. Viruttams are usually performed before bhajans, light krithis or devarnamas. They usually follow the same raga(s) the proceeding piece will be in.

Manodharmam can be seen during accompaniment. Traditionally, seasoned accompanists play for performers with-



**About
Carnatic
Music**

By **Veena Krishnan**



A lively concert by **Sangita Kalanidhi M S Subbulakshmi** and her accompanists.

out any previous knowledge of what he/she will be playing/singing. This immediate improvisation is brilliant, and a treat to watch from the audience. When listening to great melodic accompanists, it seems as if they have played the composition all their life. Experienced percussionists adapt to the other performers so beautifully. Their multitude of lively variations during the krithis and during their thani adds a great touch to the concert. Additionally, if there is upapakkavadyam (a percussion instrument in addition to the mridangam), the spontaneous exchange of patterns between them creates a playful mood.

The beauty of manodharmam is that no two concerts will be the same. For example, if a singer sings a raga alapana for Kambhoji, a raga, in one concert, in the next concert, his/her alapana will be different, but still be in the same raga. It's amazing to hear the various sangathis, patterns,

and variations performers present. Sangitha Kalanidhi Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavatar was known to be able to perform neraval and swaraprastharam from any point given. The Alathur Brothers were frequently accompanied by Vidwan Lalgudi Jayaraman, who was one of the great violinists able to accompany the complex mathematical Pallavis presented by the brothers.

Manodharmam is a key part of Carnatic music, and many musicians are famed for their expertise in this field. Listening to soulful alapanas, divine viruttams, complex thanams, flowing neravals, crisp swarams, mathematical thanis, and apt accompaniment all adds to the beauty of Carnatic music. Check out this link for a viruttam by Sangitha Kalanidhi Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavatar: https://youtu.be/gbG2_wG6SXM

Stay tuned for the next article, meanwhile, what is your favorite aspect of manodharmam?

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Rebuilding Days

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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.

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Donate Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at www.rtsv.org today.



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Times Community

Mental health: Stigmatized and discredited for decades

By Tanisha Mehta

Special to the Times

Mental health has been hugely stigmatized and discredited for decades.

Millions of people across the world suffer from mental health challenges every day.

Throw a pandemic into the mix and the potential consequences could be catastrophic. School closures, financial insecurity, and so-



cial isolation resulting from Covid-19 have been found to be associated with increased depression, anxiety, and stress among children.

My blog, written from the perspective of a high school sophomore in the

Bay Area high school, and meant for both parents and children, strives to spread awareness, highlight the value and importance of mental health, and to provide practical ways that parents can offer their support and understanding for their children's mental health.

Website link: www.mentalhealthinyouth.com. For more information, email: mentalhealthinyouth@gmail.com.

OP ED

Covid Challenge: A personal story

By Frank Shorrt

Times staff writer

Yes folks; Covid-19 is a fact, no matter which form it comes in.

Some say it is only a strong flu, but it is much stronger than any flu, except the Spanish Flu that came after the First World War.

I found out on November 27, 2021 that I had been infected with one or the other strains of Covid. I still do not know which

strain did me in; but really it is no matter. What is really important is that, after quite a struggle, by the grace of God, I was able to overcome the nasty plague.

It began with a sore throat, as is usually what happens when I am about to come down with any kind of respiratory problem. I tried to treat the sore throat with lozenges and gargling. Soon, this turned into congestion in the bronchial area which I tried to overcome with a decongestant and cough suppressant. I found out that the only healer for any Covid symptom is time! Man's medicines are only temporary, to say the least, and will at least help a person to get some sleep and rest.

Then came diarrhea, the bane of the one needing rest! One becomes afraid to cough as the results can sometimes be disastrous! If anyone has had a severe problem with this, then you know what I write about.

A few days after I contracted the virus, I woke up with shaking in my whole body. No matter what I tried, it would not go away! I suppose this was another symptom. Soon it got so bad that my wife called 911 and explained the problem.

They came to take me to emergency at Kaiser Hospital and when the men were helping me down the stairs as we entered the patio, I was shaking so hard that the men had a difficult time keeping me on a chair that was on the patio.

After initial treatment in the ambulance, we arrived at the emergency room about 20 or 30 minutes later. They put me in a room as soon as they could because of being so swamped with sick people and it was not too soon for me as I was still shaking to pieces.

While in the emergency room I was given blood tests, chest x-rays, and taking of my vi-

tal signs continually, and after a few hours, I was sent home as somehow the treatment caused the trembling to stop. One male nurse finally had sympathy on me and gave me some food just before releasing me.

Some of the things connected with the virus is an unwillingness to leave the house, loss of appetite, loss of taste and smell, and a sort of depression brought on because a person cannot do the things they once used to do. The virus also weakens the system, so much in fact, that one does not even have energy enough to get out of bed to go to the bathroom or the ability to dress oneself!

I must say that the worst plague to come with the Covid virus is the coughing. I coughed so much that my lungs began to feel

like they were coming up with each cough. I was so sore at the base of my ribcage and at the top of my lungs that it was even difficult to touch the areas. I used Aspercream to stop the hurting along the bottom of the ribcage and a vaporized salve to help relieve the bronchial area and upper chest. Thank God it was only soreness and I had not

torn anything loose. If anyone who reads this gets Covid-19, don't be afraid to take some cough medicine to begin the healing process. When one can get symptoms to subside then healing is imminent.

It will take a little while to regain my sense of smell and taste I am told. Today, I was able to almost taste the waffle and bacon that I had for breakfast. It will also take a while for me to want to be in any crowded situation with people as I am a little "gun shy" from all the turmoil that my body has gone through. I do not wish this off on anyone!

Did the two shots of Moderna that I had taken make my symptoms less than what they would have been had I not taken them? I cannot truthfully say that this is so. I was scheduled to take the booster shot two days from the time I got Covid. I am scheduled again to receive the booster soon. Some folks say that I now have a natural immunity to Covid-19 since I actually had the virus but who knows if this is so?

I was in the USAF a few years ago and when the sergeant said, "shots today" we went and got the shot. I do not believe I have had any lasting effects from all the many shots so I will go ahead and get the booster to add to all the other vaccines that are already in my body. I must have faith to believe that whatever is concocted to help with a certain plague is a gift from God!



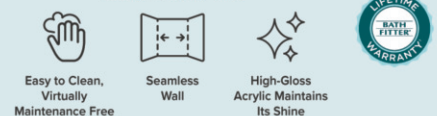
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Times Feature

To be or knot to be

By Apoorva Panidapu

Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As I mentioned in the last paper, this column is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too! This column will always be written to be fairly accessible (with a few advanced details), so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. Now, onto today's topic... knots! First, a disclaimer: the diagrams included are not mine, they are photos taken from the Internet.

What are knots?

When you think of knots, you might think of your double-knotted shoelaces or your hopelessly tangled earbuds. I personally think of garlic knots. However, these sorts of knots are different from mathematical knots. What kind of snob wouldn't consider garlic knots valid knots? Well, the difference is that "knots" like shoelaces have loose ends, meaning we can always untie them. Nothing is locked in. For example, let's take your "knotted" shoelaces. It's two strings tied together in a way that we can technically take apart (though it may seem impossible) and untie and retie another way. For **mathematical knots**, the ends are joined together to create a continuous strand. Here's a picture of a mathematical knot:

Let's look at a more concrete example. Take a hair tie, or a stray rubber band lying around. In their untangled form, these are circles. It might surprise you that these are indeed considered knots! This is known as the unknot, or the trivial knot. Before we get into more complex knots, let's discuss the recent beginning of knot theory.

Start of Knot Theory

Knots first became a subject of interest in the 1860s. At this time, scientists were trying to understand matter, and a man named William "Lord Kelvin" Thomson developed a theory claiming that atoms were made up of knots. He proposed that every element was a different kind of knot. While trying to sort this out, inevitable questions arose, like: What are knots? What sorts of properties do they have? What makes two

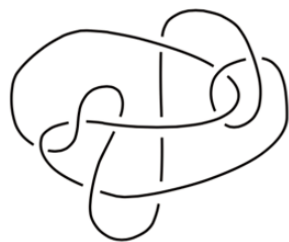
knots the same? Let's try to answer some of these questions!

What sorts of properties can knots have?

We'll think about knots in terms of simple knot diagrams. First, recall our nice simple knot from before: the **unknot**. Its diagram is pretty straightforward:



Let's talk about a related type of knot. Take a simple hair tie. Suppose you're fiddling with it because you're bored in your Zoom meeting, and you're just twisting and turning it and end up with a tough knot. Can you return it to its original circle form? Well, yes! It might take some effort, but if you can theoretically just undo each of your actions and return it to a circle. But while it's all tangled up, it may not appear to be the unknot — it's disguised! Knots that can deform through some set of moves into the unknot are called **culprit knots**. (Yes, mathematicians do have a sense of humor!) Here is an example of a culprit knot:



Now, let's take it up a (k)notch. The next standard knot is called the trefoil knot, and its knot notation is: 3₁. What is this nonsense? Let's unpack it. First, here is a picture of the standard, simplest form of the **trefoil knot**:

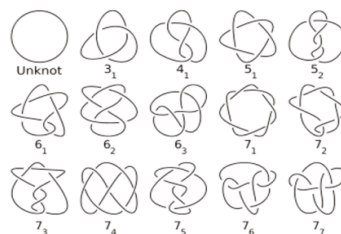
Can you guess what the three stands for?



Try to think about it from the perspective of a mathematician for a second, and see if you can find a nice reason... If you guessed that the 3 represents the number of intersections, or crossings, the knot has with itself, you would be right! Now, look carefully at the knot and guess what the 1 stands for... Okay sorry, that was a trick question. The subscripts are just an index to keep track of all the different knots that have the same

number of crossings. For the standard knot notation of a knot diagram: the number is something called the crossing number, which is the minimum possible number of crossings in the knot diagram (meaning there is no way to unknot it or deform it into something with fewer crossings), and the subscript is just a label counting how many we have of that type.

Here are the first several standard knots. In the diagram, 3₁ is our trefoil knot and 4₁ is known as the "figure 8" knot.

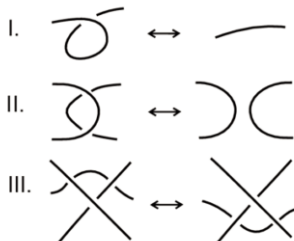


What makes knots the same?

How can we be sure that some of these knots are not secretly the same? Maybe we just didn't untangle them the right way. Could these all be devious culprits? Well, we say that two knots are the same if one can be deformed into the other without letting it pass through itself. This process of deforming a knot without it passing through itself is called ambient isotopy. So, the next time someone calls you out for tangling and detangling your hair-tie (if that ever happens), tell them you're practicing ambient isotopy!

Okay, so now we know how to tell if knots are the same-- you just have to see if you can deform one into another. So do we just have to keep trying to untangle until we get lucky? Is there some sort of method? There is indeed!

Reidemeister Moves



In the 1930s, Kurt Reidemeister proved that all deformations could be reduced to three moves: a twist (I), a poke (II), and a slide (III). This is a fantastic result because it means that we have a finite number of moves we can make, which really simplifies things. So, we can now say that two knots that are equivalent can be related by a sequence of these three moves. In other words, if you can transform a knot into another knot via these moves, they are equivalent (up to ambient isotopy). This is an amazing tool to prove that two knots are the same. But, can we use it to show that two knots are different?

This is where something called invariants comes into play. Invari-

ants are characteristics of knots that remain unchanged, and are unaffected by Reidemeister moves. We're not really going to get into them, because they can be pretty complex, but you're welcome to search them up!

Where can I find mathematical knots?

Knots can actually be found in nature, structure in DNA, and in the sun's corona! People are also considering using knots to make money more secure. When quantum computers are more preva-

lent, quantum money can be encoded with knots, and algorithms will check knots. Because of their complexity, this could be a pretty secure system.

And that's where we'll end it for today! Final question: can you knot? I don't know about you, but I can knot. Now I'm going to go eat some garlic knots. Until next time!

If you found this interesting, make sure to check out this column in the next Evergreen Times! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.

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Times News

Bet on yourself this New Year

By Angela Copeland

Recently, I heard a famous comedian talking about their career and how she got to where she is today. She said something that really caught my attention. She said that when it comes to her work, she's always tried to bet on herself, and that other people should bet on themselves too. What a novel idea!

As you can imagine, this caught my attention because it's such a great way to think about our careers. So often, we give other people a chance in situations where we might not give ourselves the same opportunity.

Think of it this way. We can be our harshest critics. We know every weakness that we possess. We know every worry. We know all of the reasons that things might not work out for us. We remember every time we have made a mistake, and just how much it hurt. We may feel like taking a risk just isn't worth the effort, given the high possibility that we may fail.

But, with the person sitting next to us at work, we don't know those things. We aren't aware of every weakness and every worry they have. Very often, we can see their potential without clouding the picture with these details.



However, if we reflect back on ourselves, we also have many good qualities. Perhaps we have a significant amount of industry knowledge and experience. Maybe we have great resources, in the form of mentors. We may have a ton of transferrable skills that we bring to work every day. Or, maybe we're great at leading others. We may even be more qualified than the person sitting next to us.

If we saw our strengths in another person, we'd likely give that person a real shot. We'd give them the benefit of the doubt. We'd bet our money on their ability to do the work. We would assume they would be successful.

So, rather than get caught up in self-doubt, what if we tried to turn this tide around in 2022? What if we gave ourselves the same benefit of the doubt that we'd give to someone else? What if we let go of our fears? What if we focused in on our strengths rather than our weaknesses?

I bet that if we did these things, work would become a lot easier. We would take risks that today we avoid. We might volunteer more, and step outside of our comfort zone. We might try to increase our knowledge and skillset. And honestly, all of these things might impress our boss and benefit our company overall.

What's the worst thing that could happen? Sure, we might fail. But, we might succeed. Think about all the great things that could happen if we let go of our fears and bet on ourselves. Keep this in mind as you start 2022, and bet on yourself! You've earned it more than that person sitting next to you.

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

SV Reads

Continued from page 4

from a different perspective. They include:

- *See No Stranger** by Valarie Kaur: A synthesis of wisdom and a chronicle of personal and communal history, *See No Stranger* is part memoir, part practical guide to changing the world. Author Valarie Kaur, renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer, ignited the hearts of millions around the globe by sharing her compelling story and declaring Revolutionary Love as the call of our times: a radical, joyful practice that extends to others, to ourselves, and to our opponents. A #1 Los Angeles Times best seller. *adult content

- *Enough About Me* by Richard Lui: Richard Lui made the difficult decision to leave his dream job as an NBC News/MSNBC anchor to help care for his ailing father in San Francisco. It was a difficult time, and through the challenge he realized that doing this selfless act had a positive overall impact on his well-being. He decided to dig deep into exploring acts of compassion from the lens of a reporter. Part scientific, part emotional, his journey is one that many will relate to.

- *A Dream Called Home* by Reyna Grande: A beautifully written immigrant's story that quickly engages the reader. Reyna crosses the border at 9 years old and perseveres through many difficulties to find her way to UC Santa Cruz. With a passion for writing and the resilience to push forward, her story enlightens us to the challenges so many confront in making a home in America.

All three award-winning authors will participate in a virtual panel discussion hosted by the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley and moderated by Sal Pizarro of the San Jose Mercury News on Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m. The authors will share their compelling stories which give hope to the future. Pre-registration is required for this event. The public can register for this free event and hundreds more at www.siliconvalleyreads.org/events.

For young readers, four books were selected to accompany the main selections. The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates (pre-K-K), The Girl in the Gold Dress by Christine Paik (1st-3rd grade), SHINE! by JJ and Chris Grabenstein (4th-8th grade), and Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorrum (High School). Schools and libraries will be hosting virtual visits from three of these authors.

This year, events will be a combination of both virtual and in-person, as guidelines allow. Partnering with libraries, schools, and community organizations, over 130 free events are scheduled and accessible to the public throughout the months of February and March. Events for all ages include author visits, book discussions, meditation, yoga, tai chi and compassion classes, teen conversations, arts and crafts for children, explorations

of faith including a tour of the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara, story walks, art exhibits, museum tours, read alouds in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Mandarin, celebrity readings by County Supervisors, an in-person movie screening of Sky Blossom followed by a discussion with director/author Richard Lui, and many more programs around kindness, resilience, hope, and the 2022 book selections.

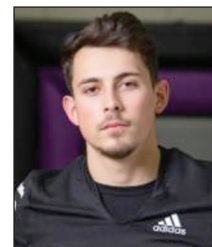
To view the full schedule of events and register, visit www.siliconvalleyreads.org/events

Silicon Valley Reads is presented by the Santa Clara County Library District, the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and the San José Public Library.

Carbajal and Guel of Evergreen named to Dean's List at Iowa Wesleyan University

Jerry Carbajal and Philip Guel of Evergreen Valley are both named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Iowa Wesleyan University.

Carbajal (right) is Majoring in Criminal Justice and entering his third year with the Wesleyan University Tigers Football Team. Carbajal has made the Dean's List in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.



He is a graduate of Evergreen Valley High School where he earned 2nd-Team All-Conference honors as a wide receiver in 2018.

Guel (right) is graduating this month with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wellness with a minor in Sports Management. He played for the Wesleyan Tiger Football Team for three years as a linebacker.



Guel also earned Dean's List honors for the fall of 2020. He is a 2018 graduate of Evergreen Valley High School where he was a four-year member of the football team. He enjoys playing the ukulele in his spare time.

Students exemplifying academic excellence represent the United States and countries abroad. Criteria to be a part of IW's Dean's List include degree-seeking students taking 12 or more hours per semester with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

As Southeast Iowa's regional comprehensive university, Iowa Wesleyan University is a transformational learning community whose passion is to educate, empower and inspire students to lead meaningful lives and careers.

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Times **Feature**

Symphony San Jose presents 'Amadeus LIVE' FILM with live orchestra and chorale Feb 12-13

Symphony San Jose presents "Amadeus LIVE" FILM with Live Orchestra and Chorale and the Saul Zaentz Company on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd., San Jose.

Amadeus (1984) stars F. Murray Abraham as Antonio Salieri, court composer in Vienna, who confesses, in old age, to his sins against the young genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (played by Tom Hulce).

Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) believes that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's music is divine and miraculous... "damn it!" Mozart (1756-1791) comes alive in all his mischief and glory in Milos Forman's fanciful film-biography. It's prize-winning score, including portions of *The Magic Flute*, the *Requiem in D minor*, *Don Giovanni*, *Symphony No. 25 in G minor* and much more, is 'one of the most popular classical music recordings of all time.' Hear it performed live by Symphony San Jose and the Symphony San Jose Chorale, as you watch the Academy Award-winning film unfold on the big screen above the stage.

The film begins in 1823 during the waning years of failed court composer Antonio Salieri's life. He has been committed to an insane asylum after attempting suicide.

Salieri tells the story of his relationship

with Mozart to a local priest and claims that he was responsible for Mozart's death. For forty years, Salieri has held a deep grudge against God for making Mozart a musical genius although he considers Mozart an unprincipled, spoiled, lustful, conceited, man-child. Salieri pictures himself as a devout, God-fearing man who pledged his celibacy to God in return for a life as a composer. However, his heart is cold and cruel with jealousy. He plots against Mozart at every turn, and when Salieri's father dies, he disguises himself and hires Mozart to compose a requiem for him. He intends to murder the brilliant young man and take credit for the piece.

Considered one of the greatest films of all time, *Amadeus* was nominated for 53 awards and received 40, including eight Academy Awards, four British Academy Film Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, and a Directors Guild of America award.

In 1998, the American Film Institute ranked *Amadeus* 53rd on its "100 Years...100 Movies" list. In 2019, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

Photo: Courtesy Avex Classics International.

Conductor: Jeffrey Schindler

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Times **Letters to the Editor**

.....

An attack on our country

Dear Editor,

One year ago, we witnessed an attack on our country: an insurrection by political extremists at the U.S. Capitol.

A mob of violent rioters defaced the Capitol Building and threatened the lives of the elected officials and staff working there—the core of American democracy. This was a pivotal moment for America and our fundamental promise of free and fair elections.

One year out from that horrible

day, Congress has yet to secure the right to vote and the integrity of our elections—while state and county governments are passing laws to make it harder to vote. Hours-long lines and oppressive ID requirements are only the beginning, unless Congress acts.

The Senate must pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act; both bills are essential to the survival of the American experiment. The House of Representatives has already passed them. We can't let made-up Senate rules stand in the way of protecting our democracy.

Fighting for our democracy by passing voting rights legislation is one of the most important actions we can take as we commemorate this attack on our country.

Husne Jahan
Evergreen Valley

Tired of hearing the word ‘insurrection’

Editor,

As a resident of San Jose, I am sick and tired of people calling the January 6, 2021 protest and riot of the U.S. Capitol building an “insurrection.”

It was not an insurrection according to the F.B.I at a recent Senate hearing, as no one is being charged for insurrection.

The protest was most likely fueled by some outsiders (two are heard in a video as instigators but the F.B.I. refuses to bring those persons to trial and also took them off the F.B.I most-wanted-list, leading some to believe they must be some kind of informants), so the event is considered a protest.

The protest was hyped by individuals in the crowd that harmed police and then there were many peaceful protestors where it is stated they

were invited into the Capitol Building by some police. So the protest turned into a riot, and yes there were some people who deserve to serve in jail for their bad actions.

One of the unfortunate turn of events is that the Speaker of the House had oversight of bringing backup police and also the National Guard, and took no action. Now she is refusing to provide her files and emails regarding the Jan. 6 incident.

The entire event is jaded by a lack of proper investigation. The public is wondering why so many Capitol Police resigned or committed suicide.

See LETTERS, next page

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Times **Op Ed**

It's time to talk about crime

By **Johnny Khamis**

Are you tired of hearing about another freeway shooting, coordinated mass burglaries of retailers, and increases in homicides every time you turn on the news?

Are you frightened by the rise in car break-ins and in-home burglaries? I am! In response to this growing fear for their safety, more of our residents are purchasing cameras and guns to try and protect themselves.

Like many in our community, I question why there is such a drastic increase in crimes.

Are some of the new laws to blame? Have all the recently passed state laws and ballot measures which reduced criminal penalties, responsible for the increased criminal behavior? Is increasing the number of police officers the answer? What are we doing to avoid recidivism?

For many years, we have heard our prisons are overcrowded. The U.S. Supreme Court insisted something be done about the overcrowding in our prison system. In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 109 (and AB 117) commonly referred to as the "prison realignment bill" which reclassified crimes and their prison sentences. Since 2012, voters have passed Propositions 36, 47, and 57. In fact, in April 2021, our governor released 76,000 third strike offenders (abcnews.go.com). These changes have led to many vacancies in our once overcrowded jails. As a result, this left the Santa Clara County jails relatively empty. The Santa Clara County "South Hall Jail" with over 400 rooms, was demolished in 2019. To be built in its place, but is currently on hold, is a long-awaited state-of-the-art facility with onsite mental health services.

Are these laws we enacted endangering our communities? While I support many alternatives to incarceration, I, like our former San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia, think that the pendulum of justice has swung too far to the side of the criminal. How many crimes are being committed by offenders who were released early from the system under these new laws? Yet no local study has been done on recidivism. With the continuing increase in crimes, now is the time to talk about crime and recidivism.

Is increasing our police forces truly the answer? Are criminal punishments adequate to deter crime and encourage accountability? Many people are crying out for more law enforcement officers in our community. While there is a definite need for more law enforcement in our understaffed agencies, more police should not be the only answer. We should also look to see if punishments are adequate to deter crime and encourage accountability. We need to look at the need for modifications to criminal laws. We need to demand our state leaders pass laws like the 2020 Prop 20 ballot measure which could have fixed many problems in the criminal justice system, had it passed.

We need to look at all reintegration programs for people leaving the jails to make sure they are working and have measurable outcomes. We need to fix the no-bail bond releasing system that puts non-violent criminals back on the streets as soon as they are apprehended, even for these rampant smash and grab crimes. We need to consider facilities for the violent mentally ill, like the one planned

for Santa Clara County, which is currently on hold due to bureaucratic procedures.

If we remain silent about rising crime and fixing our criminal justice system, we will end up with more guns in our homes, more lawlessness on our streets, and more distrust of our public servants and government. I ask our state and local elected officials to focus on solutions to the rising crime.

Letters

Continued from previous page

And why so many Americans who did not do much harm are in jail for hundreds of days on misdemeanor charges while looters around the country are released in less than 24 hours.

Our Vice President states this event was just as bad as the Pearl Harbor attack and the 911 attack. Many veterans and first responders feel this is an insult to compare it to those American History events. No wonder so many are leaving the Demo party and becoming Independent Party voters due to the way the F.B.I. is handling the Jan. 6 investigation and the way our current government is being led.

Kevin Larsen
Evergreen Valley

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Times Cover Story



West Valley Collection and Recycling, which services the Santa Clara West Valley, delivered a small container to residents for throwing out their food scraps as of Jan. 1. *Photo by Moryt Milo.*

Recycling

Continued from page 1

"This is a huge statewide initiative for us to achieve a 75% reduction in organic waste sent to landfills by 2025," she told San José Spotlight. "When we achieve that... it will be the equivalent of taking nearly a million cars off the road for a year."

San Francisco pioneered collecting curbside food scraps for composting 25 years ago, partnering with Recology. Its program has kept 2.5 million tons of food scraps and yard trimmings from ending up in landfills.

Since 2008, San Jose has also been at the forefront of reclaiming organic waste and is working toward a zero-waste plan, Machi Wagoner said. San Jose residents won't experience any changes with the new law in putting out their garbage, recycling and yard trimmings. Garbage is sorted at the Green-Waste materials recovery facility, which removes the food and compostable paper from the trash and sends it to be composted.

Jennie Loft, a spokesperson with the city's Environmental Services Department, said it's critical to keep organics out of the landfill. She said methane is one of the more potent greenhouse gases and climate change contributors. Landfills emit about 20% of the state's methane.

San Jose residents and businesses are already in compliance with SB 1383, she said, through the existing collection system. The city will be sending postcards to residents in February or March explaining this.

Loft said food scraps and food soiled materials should be put in the garbage and not added to the recycling bin or yard trimmings in the street. As part of SB 1383, residents are being asked to empty

and scrape organics from recyclable materials.

West Valley Collection and Recycling, which serves residents in Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga, has already made changes in response to SB 1383, said Outreach Manager Weslie McConkey. Residents can put food scraps into their existing yard trimmings cart, which is now considered the organics cart.

McConkey said the only downside of the new system is that it takes people a while to get used to change. A 2.5 gallon pail with a lid is being provided for residents to use in the kitchen for food scraps. She suggests people put yard trimmings in their carts first before dumping food in so it's less likely to stick to the bottom.

"It used to be, when in doubt, put it in the recycling," she said. "Now, it's when in doubt, throw it out. We don't want the recycling contaminated."

Separating out food scraps is nothing new to residents of Los Altos, said Mission Trail Waste Systems President Louie Pellegrini. They've been doing it since 2010. Residents put food scraps in their yard waste carts for composting.

"We embraced this early on," Pellegrini said. "The legislation took five years to be employed, but we knew it was coming and we're in pretty good shape with the programs."

The city of Santa Clara, which Mission Trail Waste Systems also serves, has taken a different approach, he said. Residents are instructed to keep food waste in the trash cart like they were previously doing. The trash is brought to a processing plant to be sorted to separate food waste which is sent to a composting facility.

The greatest challenge, Pellegrini said, is that material from each household, *See RECYCLING, page 21*

"It used to be, when in doubt, put it in the recycling," she said. "Now, it's when in doubt, throw it out. We don't want the recycling contaminated."

**Outreach Manager
Weslie McConkey,
West Valley Collection
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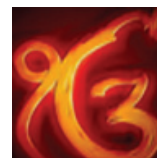
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Evergreen Times

Times **Cover Story**Food scraps and yard trimmings are turned into nutrient-rich compost. *Photo courtesy of Recology.***Recycling***Continued from page 18*

some sorted properly and some not, gets mixed up in the truck and the processors have to deal with it.

“Not everybody does it correctly and the few that don’t could contaminate all the effort of everyone else,” Pellegrini said. “People will participate, but it’s not going to be perfect.”

Recology South Valley provides compost, recycling and disposal services to Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Tanya Carothers, Morgan Hill’s environmental services administrator, said SB 1383 won’t have a great impact on homeowners in Morgan Hill or Gilroy as it’s been

included in their organic waste recycling for more than 10 years. But businesses are now required to have three collection bins inside their facilities: trash, recycling and organic waste. They’ll have to find space to place the bins and ensure people sort materials correctly.

Jocelyn Baird, waste zero manager for Recology Mountain View, said the city has had compost service for single-family households with carts for yard waste since 2017. They’ve now expanded this to food scraps and food soiled paper.

“The goal is to have all food scraps and food soiled paper like greasy pizza boxes and yard trimmings go into compost,” she said, “so they don’t have to go into the trash and end up in landfills.”

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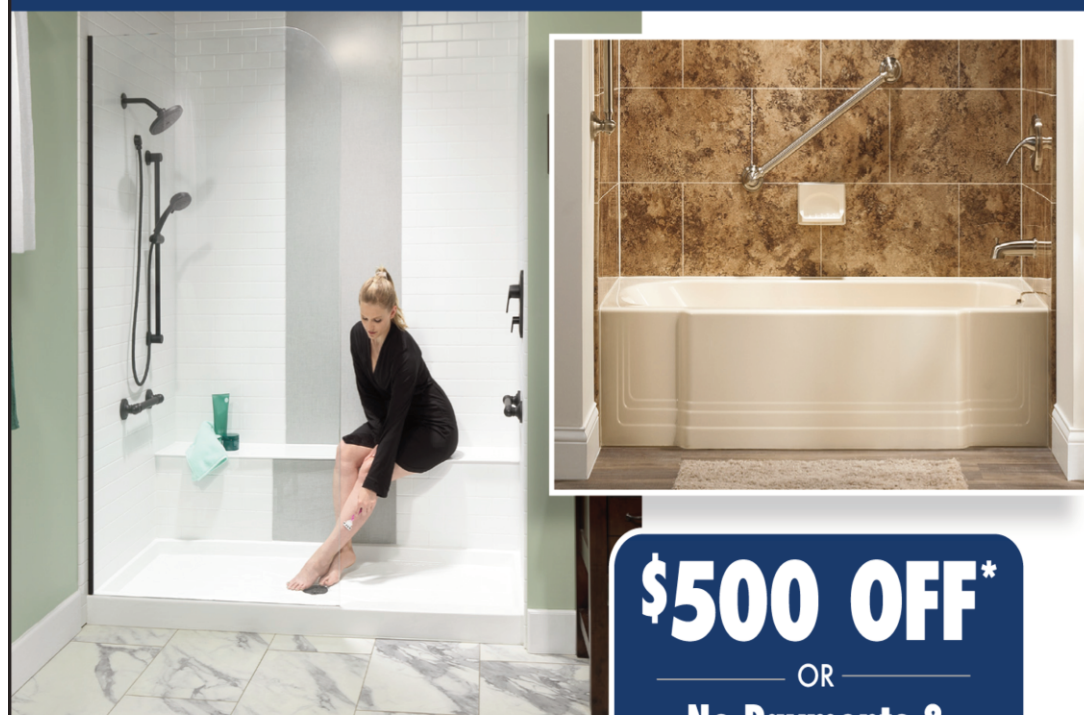
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