# WARCH 2022 TVOL. 18, NO. 3 WARCH 2022 TVOL. 18, NO. 3 SERVING WILLOW GLEN, SAN JOSE TWWW.WILLOWGLENTIMES.COM

# San Jose Unified School District to pay \$2 million to sexual abuse victim

The San Jose Unified School District has agreed to pay \$2 million to settle a sexual abuse lawsuit Feb. 10.

The woman was sexually abused by her Spanish teacher, **Ricardo Chavarria** (pictured), when she was a 17-year-old student in his classroom at Pioneer High School in Almaden Valley.

Chavarria was arrested three years ago by San Jose police officers and later convicted on six counts of sexually assaulting a minor. He was hired by the San Jose Unified School District in August 2001.

The attorneys who represented the woman, called the settlement a vindication of the harm done to her client and the failure of school officials to protect her.

The former student, who first met Chavarria as a sophomore student in his Spanish class, became Chavarria's teacher's assistant for her junior and senior years. He began grooming the woman and ultimately sexually abusing her inside his classroom both during and after school hours over a span of four months, according to the lawsuit.

Although the district immediately placed Chavarria on unpaid leave following his arrest, the lawsuit claimed that school officials ignored "multiple red flags" that could have prevented the abuse.

# Three are charged in alleged ghost-gun operation run out of Willow Glen home

Weapons seized at Roy Ave. home included assembled rifles and 3D printers

By William Bellou

Publisher

Three people have been charged in connection with an illegal firearms operation conducted out of a Willow Glen home on Roy Avenue.

During the raid, authorities seized several untraceable rifles and assorted gun-making equipment, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

Prosecutors have charged 38-year-old Willow Glen resident Jack Michael Mahon with 28 felony counts and Joseph Clifford Cahoon, 31, of Morgan Hill, with seven felony counts. The pair are charged with multiple crimes including illegally manufacturing assault weapons and illegally having firearms while having felony convictions. A third person arrested, Amanda Mary Bazzani, was not charged with any gun-making crimes but with one felony count each of possessing a



Pictured are weapons seized from a Willow Glen home in connection with an illegal ghost-gun manufacturing operation that led to the arrests of two residents of the home. *Photo courtesy of Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office*.

rifle and possessing ammunition while having a felony conviction.

The investigation was led by DA investigators, San Jose police, sheriff's office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives which led to search warrants being served Feb. 17 at the small home

which had a build area where the gun parts were made and weapons constructed.

Prosecutors assert that the three defendants were involved with producing made-to-order AK and AR-style assault rifles, using kits, custom-made tools, and 3D printing, and that Mahon

modified at least one pistol for fully automatic fire. The gun purchases were reportedly brokered online with customers left to assemble the weapons, which had no serial numbers or required background checks.

The DA's office reported that authorities found at least eight assault rifles, assorted parts of assault rifles, three partially built machine pistols, ammunition, 3D printers and an undisclosed amount of fentanyl that forms the basis of an additional drug crime charge against Mahon.

"Ghost guns are swamping our community, illegal part by illegal part," District Attorney Jeff Rosen said in a statement. "We are working tirelessly to dismantle these criminal networks."

Santa Clara County Supervisors Cindy Chavez and Otto Lee are co-writing a referral for consideration by the Board of Supervisors at the March 8 meeting aimed at cracking down on unserialized firearms that local law enforcement say are turning up on the streets at record numbers.

# **James Hoover of Willow Glen receives 2022 Avvo Clients' Choice Award**

Hoover, a partner at Hoover Krepelka, Northern California's preeminent family law firm, has been awarded the 2022 Avvo Clients' Choice Award for Divorce.

This is the ninth year Hoover has earned the award, something reserved for attorneys who receive five or more 4- or 5-star reviews on Avvo within a period of one year.

An accomplished family law attorney, James Hoover has been a partner at Hoover Krepelka since



2012. He is involved in all aspects of family law litigation, and has been a communicative and empathetic source of aid to his clients.

Hoover is particularly known for his work with victims of domestic abuse, having been named to the board of WomenSV, a 501(c)3 non-profit that empowers women in middle-to-upper income areas who are trapped in a relationship with a powerful, sophisticated abuser who presents a positive public image while privately threatening their spouse with repercussions if they try to leave.

**Times Community News** 

# Denelle Fedor enters the Santa Clara County Supervisorial District 1 race

Refuses endorsements or financial contributions from Political Action Committees

By William Bellou

Publisher

enelle Fedor, who has deep roots in the Evergreen community, has entered the race for Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors District 1.

Incumbent Supervisor Mike Wasserman terms out at the end of this year.

Fedor, who intends to campaign for the seat during the June primary, is supported by numerous small businesses owners, community leaders, renters, and homeowners; many of whom have been encouraging Fedor to step into the race for over a year.

Fedor's priorities are homelessness, housing, property rights, helping small businesses, improving jail standards and healthcare

A San Jose native and grandchild of Hungarian immigrants, Fedor was baptized at Most Holy Trinity Church located on the eastside of San Jose; the same church where her parents were married. She and her partner, Jim Zito, serve as parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church, and have been involved with the Evergreen community for many years.

Fedor served as a volunteer with Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olym-piad, Archbishop Mitty High School Robotics Team, PTSA President for Quimby Oak Middle School and former President of the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association.

Fedor is a Case Manager for the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program ran by LifeSTEPS, a federal non-profit. The FSS program is for section 8 voucher holders who commit to achieving specific goals and learn to save their earned income. Fedor obtained her Real Estate license in 2021.

Fedor has served in various political roles in San Jose over the last two decades, including as chief of staff for then Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, and as an aide to former Councilmembers Pat Dando, Ken



**Denelle Fedor**, a former Chief of Staff and current Case Manager with ties to the Evergreen Valley community is running for the District 1 Santa Clara County supervisor seat.

Yeager and Johnny Khamis.

In 2014, four years prior to the "me-too" movement, Fedor filed a lawsuit against the city and Oliverio, accusing him of sexual harassment. Fedor's case was not dismissed by a court of law. After nondisclosure agreements were signed in 2015, Fedor dropped Oliverio from the suit and the City settled the case.

### 'Budget hawk'

Fedor has been described as a "budget hawk" due to her commitment to ensure accountability in government spending. In 2010, she co-wrote Measure W which proposed various cost saving pension changes for the city. Voters overwhelmingly approved it. She also crafted a memo that proposed outsourcing park maintenance for the Rose Garden Park. Fedor's cost saving proposal was adopted and

applied to pocket parks city-wide.

Fedor is the only candidate not accepting endorsements or financial contributions from Political Action Committees (PAC'S), unions, or any other organized group that receives funding from the County.

Fedor is supportive of the Benson, Foster and Lester families who own property in Coyote Valley. These families have filed a lawsuit against Mayor Sam Liccardo and the City of San Jose alleging unlawful taking of their land by the city after the city rezoned their lands against the families will. The City paid \$96 million to property owners across the street from the three family properties, but has refused to compensate Benson, Foster and Lester.

"This is an example of why I am not requesting or accepting endorsements or contributions from prominent individuals or Political Action Committees," Fedor said. "I support keeping Coyote Valley open space and compensating every property owner for their land. "I agree with the allegations listed in the lawsuit regarding "taking" which I am against- I hope Mayor Liccardo and the city change their minds and agree to compensate these families instead of continuing with a lawsuit."

## 'We cannot manage what we do not measure'

Fedor is concerned about the plight of unhoused residents in the county and said she wants to find ways to shelter people currently living near freeways and in parks. She is calling for a complete audit of all agencies that receive County, State and Federal funds that work with the homeless, because she says, "we cannot manage what we do not measure."

"All of her opponents for this race have held elective office during the past 10 years – the time where our homeless problem has exploded out of control," said Mark Biala. "Fedor is the only candidate confident and courageous enough to take a bold step to address this issue by following the money."

Fedor explained she does not support the ongoing lawsuit between the County Counsel and Calvary Church considering the Supreme Court decision that churches cannot be treated differently than other organizations and businesses. "I believe County Counsel is overreaching and wasting our tax dollars. It's time to move on," stated Fedor

Fedor, formerly registered as No Party Preference for more than 20 years, changed her political affiliation to Republican. "I am a fiscal conservative who remains committed in supporting LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights for every woman."

"While I have registered with the Republican Party, I continue to believe my core beliefs resonate strongly with moderate Democrats," Fedor said. "We need to solve our problems of homelessness and housing without continuously taxing our small businesses, residents, and the middle class. The County needs to be easier to work with to revitalize our economy for our small and minority owned businesses."

Sonia Marchana, an Evergreen Resident and an occupational therapist at Kaiser Permanente, says Fedor is objective, levelheaded and not afraid to look at issues differently to find reasonable solutions.

"I was in awe of Denelle's leadership and managerial skills when she was the event manager for the annual Fourth of July event at Almaden Lake Park for five years," Marchana said. "She organized every part of the event—including fundraising to cover costs and the security plan for over 40 security officers—for a public event that attracted over 20,000 people."

# San José Police Department and San José Police Foundation launch *Etch* and *Protect Program* for catalytic converters

The San José Police Department in partnership with the San José Police Foundation has launched the *Etch and Protect Program* for catalytic converters. Police believe using this tool will deter and prevent the theft of catalytic converters, which has affected many of our community members.



Police believe new *Etch and Protect Program* for catalytic converters will deter and prevent the theft of catalytic converters. Photo courtesy of Facebook

The program was established in memory of San José resident The Nguyen, who was shot and killed on March 5, 2021, when he confronted two people who were attempting to steal the catalytic converter with his car.

Beginning this month, several auto repair shops will be See ETCH, page 4











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# Happy Winter Break, San Jose Unified!





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# **Etch**

Continued from page 2

able to etch or paint identifying information on a vehicle's catalytic converter while the vehicle is getting routine maintenance. The equipment used to do the etching was paid for and provided by the San José Police Foundation. We want to thank the Foundation for their continued support and partnership with this historic project.

Chief of Police Anthony Mata said, "We are grateful to the participating auto repair shops for stepping up to support this important program. We hope this effort deters catalytic converter thefts, which are having a serious impact on our local community."

"This program is a great example of a public-private partnership that will make a difference in the lives of San José residents," said Rob Fisher, president of the San José Police Foundation. "By etching identifying information into catalytic converters, we will give officers another tool for investigating these thefts and holding thieves accountable, and we will protect our neighbors from the burden of an unexpected and costly car repair."

Catalytic converters are stolen and then often resold illegally to repair shops and recycling locations. The precious metals contained within the converters are worth more than gold ounce for ounce.

The San Jose Police Department said in a statement: "This collaboration is a great example of the community partnering with police to combat and deter crime. We also would like to thank the Nguyen family for allowing this program to be named after their family member, whose life was tragically taken during a converter theft. Although gone, his name will live through this program."

# Willow Glen Times

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# Valley Currents

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

# No end in sight: California drought on course to break another record

By Rachel Becker CalMatters

A fter record-breaking snowfall at the start of the rainy season, January and February will likely be the driest on record, prolonging California's drought.

The first two months of 2022 are shaping up to be the driest January and February in California history, prompting state officials to warn of dire water conditions ahead.

"There's no precipitation forecast through the remainder of February. And there's very little precipitation in the long-range forecast for March," Erik Ekdahl, a deputy director with the State Water Resources Control Board, said at a board meeting Tuesday. "All of this is pointing to, again, some pretty dire conditions statewide for drought."

After record-setting storms in October and then December, the past six weeks — usually among the wettest months in California — have seen precipitation totals plateau at roughly half the yearly average in the state's major watersheds.

The dry spell follows the driest year in California since 1924, as aridity continues to dominate the West.

The prolonged drought, which began in early 2020, leaves many water suppliers leaning more on their stored water supplies or shifting to other sources, such as groundwater.



The drought has collided with earthquake retrofits that required almost completely draining the area's largest reservoir, knocking out more than half of the storage capacity serving 2 million people in and around San Jose.

Jennifer Pierre, general manager of the State Water Contractors , an association of water agencies in Southern and Northern California and the San Joaquin Valley that receive supplies from the State Water Project, called the storms late last year "a blip" that meant little to California's water supplies.

The agencies are getting 15% of their requested supplies from the state aqueduct, which carries water from Northern California rivers south. Initially, the allocations were set at zero , which meant deliveries would only cover enough for public health and safety.

For residents of the Silicon Valley, the conditions could mean tightening restrictions and increasing rebates to reduce water use. In San Jose, customers who exceed limits — based on a 15% cut in amounts of water they used in 2019 — already have to pay extra fees.

In June, Valley Water's board mandated a 15% cut to water use from 2019 levels, to be implemented by the local water agencies it supplies. Board chair Gary Kremen said he wouldn't be surprised to see an update to the restrictions and rebate programs come up for another vote.

# **Cortese's bill would help more Californians save for retirement**

enator Cortese, (D-Silicon Valley), Chair of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, has teamed up with California State Treasurer Fiona Ma to provide more Californians the opportunity to save for their retirement by expanding eligibility of the CalSavers program.

The CalSavers Retirement Savings Program (formerly "Secure Choice") was created by Senate Bill 1234 (de León, 2016) for private sector workers whose employers do not offer a retirement savings program. CalSavers is an automatic enrollment individual retirement account (IRA) available to employees, with no employer fees or fiduciary liability.

Employers with one to four employees have regularly expressed their desire to have full access to CalSavers. This program is currently only available to employees with five employees or more.

SB 1126 would reduce complexity for employers and expand access to CalSavers to those small businesses with one to four employees that are currently not covered; in doing so, this bill would improve employee recruitment and retention across California.



"SB 1126 will help more California workers prepare for their future and find financial security in retirement, at no cost to our tax-payers" says Senator Cortese.

It is estimated that SB 1126 would expand access to CalSavers to approximately three quarters of a million California workers.

"CalSavers was created to provide a retirement savings program for the millions of employees who are not offered one by their employer," explained Treasurer Fiona Ma. "I can attest that this program is working, and we want to expand this same opportunity to our smaller business owners to help them recruit and retain talent, and help their employees retire with dignity".

CalSavers is required by statute to be selfsustaining based on participant fees and, to this end, SB 1126 would result in no costs to the state or taxpayers. The Program currently operates with a small start-up loan that will be repaid with interest.

SB 1126 is sponsored by the California State Treasurer's Office.

For more information, contact Tara Sreekrishnan, Office of Senator Dave Cortese at 408 480 7833 or tara.sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov.

**Times Feature** 

# **Opera San José returns with Irene Dalis Vocal Competition May 18 – 21**

pera San José announces the return of the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition, named for the internationally-acclaimed mezzosoprano (inset) who founded Opera San José.

Dazzlingly talented singers from around the country join the Opera San José Orchestra — for the first

time in the event's history — to perform soaring arias in a heart-stopping contest of unbridled operatic passion and vocal prowess.

"Throughout the years, these riveting competitions have showcased incredible talent," says General Director Shawna Lucey. "I'm honored to welcome back the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition and know that our local audiences, as well as viewers around the world, will be looking forward to seeing the industry's most exciting rising stars perform some of opera's greatest arias."

The public is invited to view, and vote on an audience favorite, at the competition's Semifinals on May 18, which will be live-streamed FREE from Opera San José's Heiman Digital Media Studio. Tickets can be purchased to the finals of the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition, to be held 3:00pm, May 21, 2022 at the California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street, San Jose.

General Director Lucey noted the free livestream of the Semifinals marks another first for the company, adding "We are thrilled to share these beautiful voices with audiences around the world, offering national and international opera lovers, as well as leaders and directors from other opera companies, a chance to view these stars of tomorrow performing at their highest levels."

Since its inception in 2006, the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition, named for the San Jose native who became a Metropolitan opera star and then founder of Opera San José, has recognized emerging opera singers who flocked from across the country to participate. The last competition was held in 2014, drawing nearly 100 artists from throughout the United States. General Director Irene Dalis retired from Opera San José shortly after, concluding the three-decade leadership role that she played in the cultural life of the Bay Area. She passed away in December 2014. After an eight-year hiatus, Opera San José welcomes back this event, honoring the legacy of the company's founder as it looks forward to an exciting new future. The Irene Dalis Vocal Competition has been generously underwritten by Dr. H. Andreas Neves.

Opera San José is a flagship arts organization located in the heart of Silicon Valley. Maintaining a resident company of artists, OSJ presents four mainstage productions annually in San Jose's historic California Theatre, while regularly broadcasting fully-produced productions from its state-of-the-art Heiman Digital Media



Studio. Now in its 38th season, OSJ specializes in role debuts, serving as an artistic incubator for established and emerging artists alike, producing world-class operatic performances for diverse audiences throughout the Bay Area and around the globe.

Semifinals will be live streamed for FREE from the Heiman Digi-

tal Media Studio.

### **Tickets**

Tickets (\$50-\$200 subscribers; \$75-\$225 public) to this thrilling, high-voltage event will be available exclusively to Opera San José subscribers beginning February 15, and to the general public starting March 1.

For more information, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Dazzlingly talented singers from around the country join the Opera San José Orchestra to perform soaring arias in a heart-stopping contest of unbridled operatic passion and vocal prowess.



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Thursday, March 24, 2022

# 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.

### Times **News**

# Cortese's bill would tackle student mental health through school-linked services

enator Dave Cortese (inset, D-Silicon Valley) has introduced SB 1184 to ensure California students get the behavioral support they need.

Cortese envisioned and pioneered the "School-Linked Services" program in Santa Clara County. School-Linked Services connects students and families

to county mental health counseling, case management, and public health services on district and school site campuses and has grown to a \$40 million-a-year program serving about 200 schools across 15 school districts in Santa Clara County.

"The successful School-Linked Services program should guide the framework of school-based mental health services statewide, to increase the number of credentialed pupil support services personnel like counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists etc. at our school sites," Cortese said.

The School-Linked Services FY 20 end-of the year survey reported the following:

• Most of the 321 families that completed an end-of-year Family Survey reported that the SLS services they received helped them learn more about the services and supports available in their community (75.4%), as well as their health and wellbeing (73.2%).

• Most families that completed the Family Survey reported that the SLS services they received improved their ability to find resources for their child (67.0%), helped them advocate for their child (65.4%), and

increased their child's academic success (76.3%).

• The majority (83.3%) of the 12 staff responding to the SLS Superintendent and Supervisor Survey "agree" or "strongly agree" that the SLS model has improved school-family-community partnership. SLS Administrators feel the program's most significant benefits involve con-

necting diverse community partners in lasting relationships. They also report value in the program's ability to streamline referral processes, which in turn saves families and staff time and resources.

"We must expand our statewide strategy to provide school-based mental health services to students and ensure that services provided among various entities are sustainable, equitable, and better coordinated to fill gaps in services that exist for students and support the overall health and wellbeing of all children," Cortese said. "I think all parties can agree that coordination of these services can be better aligned to serve our students and families, and SB 1184 will do that through the School-Linked Services framework we championed here in Santa Clara County."

# **ASK THE DMV**

# Renew your car registration and more through the CA DMV's online services

Id you know that car sales commonly peak between the months of February and April? That means there is an increase in registration renewals during those months. To avoid crowds in the DMV offices,DMV online services are a convenient option. From renewing vehicle registration to changing your address, or driver's license renewal (and much more), skip the line and conduct your business online or at a DMV kiosk.

# How can I renew my expiring vehicle registration?

In an effort to keep customers safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Department of Motor Vehicles is encouraging Californians to use online services for all vehicle registration renewals. Online registration is convenient and easy, just visit: https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/vehicle-registration/vehicle-registration-renewal/

# I saw a DMV kiosk at my local grocery store. What is that, and can I use it to renew my vehicle registration?

There are hundreds of DMV kiosks located throughout the state to help customers with transactions such as vehicle registration renewal, submitting proof of insurance, receiving a driver or vehicle record, and more. DMV kiosks are convenient and



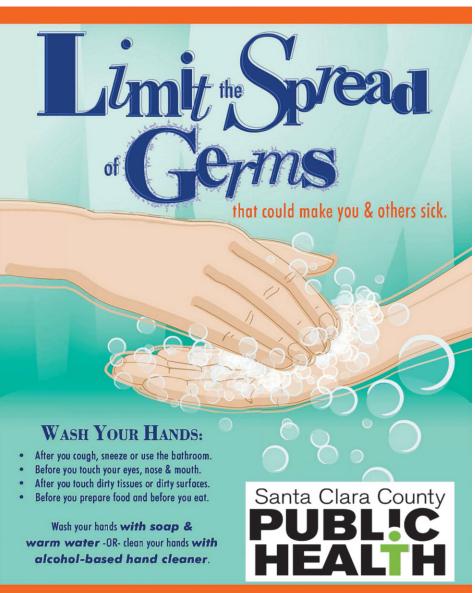
allow customers to conduct transactions quickly and efficiently. Customers simply scan their document, pay the fees using a card or cash (where available) and then print their registration card and sticker, planned non-operation acknowledgment, and more, right on the spot.

To locate the DMV kiosk nearest you, please visit: https://cadmvnowkiosk.com/kiosks/. Customers can also find DMV business partners to complete selected transactions by visiting https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/locations/business-partners/ and https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driverlicenses-identification-cards/real-id/

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# We believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home.

Now more than ever, we have come to appreciate the importance of a safe place to call home. At RTSV, as a nonprofit we are proud to provide critical and safety repairs at no cost to our local neighbors in need across Santa Clara County. But we can't do it without you.

Together, we've completed 50,000 repairs for our most vulnerable community members in the last 30 years

## We have three programs to help our neighbors in need

### Critical Repairs

Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.

### Rebuilding Day

Our Rebuilding Day program provides majo and minor repairs and renovations resulting in life-changing improvements for the

### Safe At Hom

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.

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



Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley 408-578-9519

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# **Times Community News**



# The cost of remote work

By Angela Copeland

ver the course of
my career, I've
had the privilege
of being both a full-time
salaried employee, and
a self-employed business owner. There are



pros and cons that come with each. For example, when you're an employee, you typically have perks such as health insurance and vacation. When you're self-employed, you can select your hours of operation and make decisions about which clients you will or won't take on.

There's also another big difference between these two types of employment. When you're self-employed, you pay for your own business expenses. If you have an office, that's a business expense. If you purchase office furniture, that's a business expense. Pens and paper are a business expense.

As a full-time employee, anything related to doing your job is typically paid for by your company. This could include anything from the office chair you sit in to electricity to the internet connection. It could include the paper you're writing on and the pens you're writing with.

But, has anyone noticed this trend shifting a bit? Part of the reason people are now working remotely is because there's a big cost savings to companies. After all, companies were paying so much in rent for big office buildings, and all the related expenses that come along with them.

However, it seems unclear whether or not employees are benefitting financially in the same way as remote employees. I've heard of people who have moved to a larger living space in order to now accommodate a home office. They've invested in home office furniture. They've upgraded their home internet package.

In this virtual world, it's become very important that employees are self-sufficient. On top of having a great workspace, employees are now expected to use their personal phones for business. The lines between work and home have blurred more than ever before.

Most people aren't talking about this issue, because who wants to go back to working in person? But, who is paying for all these home office upgrades? In many cases, it's the employee. Occasionally, I have seen businesses that will mail out both office supplies ad office furniture to employees, but it's not the norm.

Most companies are sending employees a monthly stipend to cover their home expenses. Typically, the stipend is between \$50 and \$150 per month. For some people, this amount might cover the cost of their cell phone and internet. But rarely will it cover any of the other expenses employees are sinking into being a productive worker.

So, what is the real solution? This work from home revolution certainly wasn't planned. It's tough to blame employers for not being more prepared for it. That said, two years into work from home feels like a good time to reevaluate. We need to have conversations about the real cost of remote work. Otherwise, it begins to feel as if we're all self-employed small business owners.

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

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### Times **News**



A hummingbird currently in the care of the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley.

# Hummingbird sightings an indicator of the start of spring

**By Emanuel Henriquez** 

Special to the Times

roundhog Day is a great indicator of the start of spring, but even better are baby hummingbird sightings!

Some of the first birds to begin constructing their nests for the year, hummingbirds begin mating in November in the Bay Area, with hatchlings appearing as early as January.

Early flowering plants are a signal to the hummingbirds that food is abundant, that they can begin the task of finding food for their young.

Whether through harsh winds, cat attacks, or mites in the nest, you may find a hummingbird on the ground. What then?

Ashley Kinney, the hospital manager at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, says, "Re-nesting the hatchlings will give them the best chance of survival. The mother knows best - they provide care that's difficult to replicate at the center."

Mothers collect nectar and insects to feed their young. They come back to the nest and quickly regurgitate the food into the hatchlings' mouths, before flying off again.

So how do you re-nest a hummingbird? WCSV recommends the following: Firstly, check to see if it's a hatchling or an adult hatchlings are naked or only partially

feathered, while adults are fully feathered. If you find an adult hummingbird on the ground, take it to your local wildlife rehabilitation center immediately. Unlike other birds, healthy hummingbirds never spend time on the ground.

If you find a hatchling, check for injuries and also check to see if it is warm or cold to the touch. If the bird is warm and uninjured, attempt to re-nest the bird. Don't be afraid to touch them! Contrary to popular belief, parents will not abandon their young after human contact. If you find the bird is cold, contact WCSV or your local wildlife

rescue for assistance.

The nest is very small and will likely be very nearby in a tree or bush. Make sure the nest is secure so that the hatchling doesn't fall back out. Baby hummingbirds usually come in pairs so if there is not a nest mate, look for a second one that may have fallen out.

Once the hatchling is returned to the nest, keep a close watch from a window for signs of the parent bird returning to the nest. Because young hummingbirds need so much food, adults will only return for a brief moment to feed them before leaving again.

With hummingbird baby season in full swing, many more wildlife will soon follow. "In 2021 alone, WCSV had over 7,000 animal intakes", says Laura Hawkins, WCSV's Executive Director, "almost 3,000 were orphaned animals."

Established in 1993, the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (WCSV) is a wildlife rehabilitation hospital that accepts all local, native wildlife in Santa Clara County. Each year WCSV takes in thousands of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife with the goal of rehabilitating and releasing them back into the wild.

For more information on WCSV go to www.wcsv.org.





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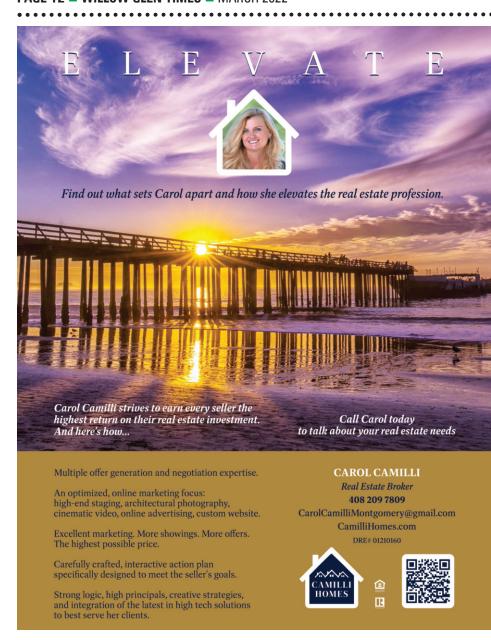
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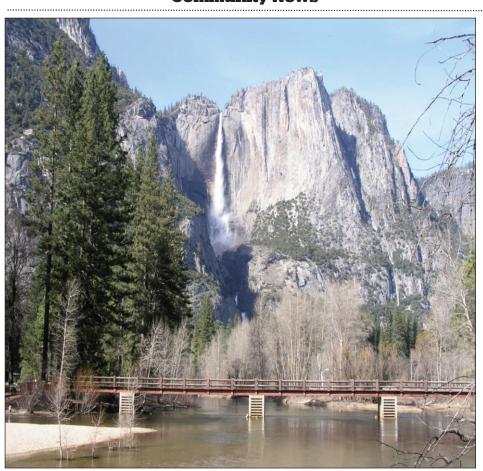
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# **Community News**



# Reservations required while visiting Yosemite

By Times staff writers

assive construction projects in Yosemite National Park, which could lead to unprecedented traffic jams, has prompted park officials to return to its park entry online reservation system for three-day passes from May 20 to Sept. 30.

"Everybody deserves a great park experience," said Yosemite Superintendent Cicely Muldoon. "If we did nothing, there would be gridlocked traffic all summer long, every day."

Under the new rules, starting at 8 a.m. March 23, reservations for day use visits, good for one vehicle per reservation, will become available at recreation.gov. Park visitors will need a reservation to enter from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week.

Motorists who arrive without a reservation during those hours will not be admitted to the park, except for visitors entering Yosemite before 6 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

At least seven major construction projects are planned in the coming months at Yosemite, totaling more than \$100 million. Among the projects, closure all year of Glacier Point Road, trail head parking and retaining walls, overhaul of the trails and other facilities around Bridalveil Falls, the closure of campgrounds — Tuolumne Meadows, Crane Flat and Bridalveil Creek — to replace aging water systems, restrooms and other facilities, and a \$10 million project to build a new welcome center with an outdoor plaza, new restrooms, paths and signs.



Times Feature

# Youth leadership month encourages meaningful expression in youth

**School** 

News

### Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.

County Superintendent of Schools ebruary is recognized as Youth Leader-→ ship Month. This celebration encourages youth to be their own leaders,

speak their minds through meaningful expression, and make positive change locally and globally.

There are many avenues for youth to gain leadership skills and experiences in our county. At school, students can lead by being role models to their peers, taking on leadership roles in various clubs and activities, or joining their school's associated student body.

Students can apply for various peer leadership positions in their communities, such as the Santa Clara County Office of Edu-

cation's Peer Advocate Advisory Council, Santa Clara County Youth Task Force, Valley Water Youth Commission, and local city commissions. Santa Clara County youth can continue to demonstrate their leadership with COVID vaccinations. More than 70% of county youth ages 5-17 have received their COVID vaccinations, and 66% of youth 12 and older have received their booster shots. Our county youth are agents of change for the present and future generations. Together, we can support and uplift youth to be impactful leaders.

The county public health officer announced that Santa Clara County has not met all the criteria to lift indoor masking requirements. Universal masking, vaccinations and boosters, testing, and staying

> home when feeling ill have made a great impact in our ability to keep schools open for in-person instruction.

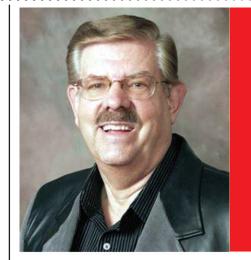
> Healthcare providers in Santa Clara County are required to provide testing, PCR or antigen, to those who have symptoms or exposure to COVID. Providers are required to provide testing for those recommended or required to get tested within 24 hours of a request. Contact your health care pro-vider to access the testing. For testing appointments in Santa Clara County, vis-

it www.sccfreetest.org. All individuals ages 5 and older are eligible to be vaccinated. To schedule a vaccination or booster, please visit www.sccfreevax.org.

Youth in grades K-8 are invited to learn about careers in the community that show the Power of Kindness, Resilience, and Hope at the Silicon Valley Reads Career Fair on February 26.

To register for the Silicon Valley Reads Career Fair, please visit tinyurl.com/Career-Fair. Learn more about Silicon Valley Reads, by visiting siliconvalleyreads.org.





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# Santa Clara County increases funding for countywide Homelessness Prevention Program

he Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved increasing funding for a countywide homelessness prevention program in collaboration with Destination Home Dec. 15.

This action will immediately add funding to support households at risk of becoming home-

"How exciting it is that we are continuing to invest in preventing homelessness. I believe the solution to the homelessness issue and affordable housing is making sure our residents don't become homeless in the first place,"



Houselessness continues to be a large area of concern in San Jose.

said Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy

Since 2017, the Homeless Prevention System Pilot (HP System Pilot) has assisted 2,726 households and 93% of those households have been able to retain their permanent housing.

The high cost of living along with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the expiration of the eviction moratorium make it necessary to continue providing financial assistance to households at risk of homelessness.

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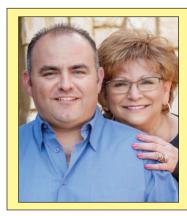


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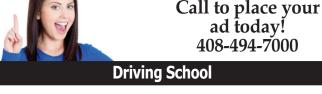
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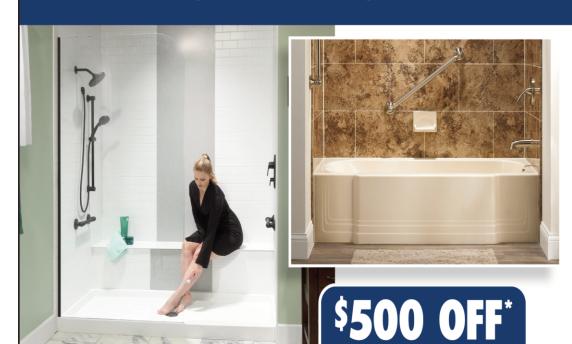
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