

Santa Clara County doctors ready to quit, survey shows – **PAGE 8**



Making reading easier
Sixteen San Jose Public Libraries are now open 7 days per week – **SEE PAGE 4**

State Assembly candidates debate wide range of issues – **SEE PAGE 14**



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Almaden Times

OCT. 14 – OCT. 27, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 21

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Casino Night Gala to benefit Playgarden at Almaden Lake Park

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Playgarden Task Force is hosting a Casino Night benefit at the Almaden Golf & Country Club, Thursday, October 20, 5:00 p.m.

This event is expected to be a fabulous evening of fun to raise funds for Phase 2 of the Playgarden at Almaden Lake Park, an all-inclusive playground serving people of all ages and all abilities.

The theme for the evening is “Roaring 20’s” Casino Night with hosted wine hour, auction, dinner, and casino games: blackjack, roulette, craps, and poker.

This gala evening will be emceed by Top 100 Women of Influence, Heather Lerner, and will feature a keynote by the Voice of San Jose, and Radio Hall of Famer, Lissa Kreisler.

This is for the kids - to build a more inclusive, just, and healthy future for everyone. Seniors can be included in play with their grandchildren; Children and adults with disabilities can be included in play with family and friends; Parents of special needs children can meet each other and form supportive relationships.

Phase 2 of the project will add new amenities surrounding the
See PLAYGROUND, page 7

San Jose mayoral race breaks campaign cash records

By Jan Kadah
San José Spotlight

The amount of funds flooding into San Jose’s mayoral race is breaking the record books—with almost \$2.4 million spent in special interest money to date.

With a little over a month before San Jose elects its next mayor, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan are locked in a hotly contested—and expensive—race. The two candidates have collectively raised \$1.78 million since June to fuel their campaigns, with Mayor Sam Liccardo terming out at the end of the year.

Six political action committees (PAC) are pouring money into Chavez’s fight to be the mayor of the nation’s 10th largest city. The PACs—including those backed by labor and police unions, the San Francisco 49ers football team and former Bloom Energy executive Carl Guardino—show Chavez outpacing Mahan. Collectively, they have spent more than \$563,000 in the last three months for Chavez—and more than \$1.6 million since December.

“I have a really strong cross section of the community. I have support from the environmental com-



San Jose Councilmember **Matt Mahan** and Santa Clara County Supervisor **Cindy Chavez** at a candidate forum hosted by San José Spotlight on Sept. 15, 2022. *Photo by Jana Kadah.*

munity, the labor community, non-profit leaders from the business sector,” Chavez told San José Spotlight. “The reason that I’m working so hard to have all of that varied support is because the best way that a mayor can lead San Jose is with deep and meaningful relationships across all spectrums.”

Mahan has the backing of two PACs—Common Good Silicon Valley, a PAC formed by outgoing Mayor Sam Liccardo, and the Silicon Val-

ley Biz PAC. Both have spent \$358,000 to boost his campaign in the last three months. In total, Mahan’s campaign has received more than \$718,000 since December.

Despite being outspent by special interests, Mahan, for the first time in this election cycle, has out-fundraised Chavez by almost \$150,000. He has raised \$969,000 and spent more than \$592,000 as of Sept. 30. Chavez has raised close

to \$820,000 and spent more than \$541,000 on her campaign.

Mahan has criticized Chavez for the big dollars supporting her campaign—especially from the 49ers and developer DeBartolo Corporation who have funneled \$420,000 into a PAC. He also sent an email to residents arguing the DeBartolo Corporation is backed by former President Donald Trump because one member of the DeBartolo family,
See CAMPAIGNS, page 19

San Jose’s first mountain bike team founded to get more kids on bikes

2023 season kick-off meeting Nov. 30

By William Bellou
Publisher

San Jose Composite is San Jose’s first mountain bike team for high school and middle school students founded by Eileen Elam and her son James Thelen, a senior at Leland High School.

The team has students from Leland, Bellarmine, Willow Glen, Pioneer, and Santa Teresa, and is open to students that reside in San Jose.

“San Jose Composite was found-



ed to get more kids on bikes in a fun and supportive environment,” said James Thelen. “It’s exciting to

see our team grow in a positive direction with five of our team members qualifying to compete in

the NorCal Championship race.”

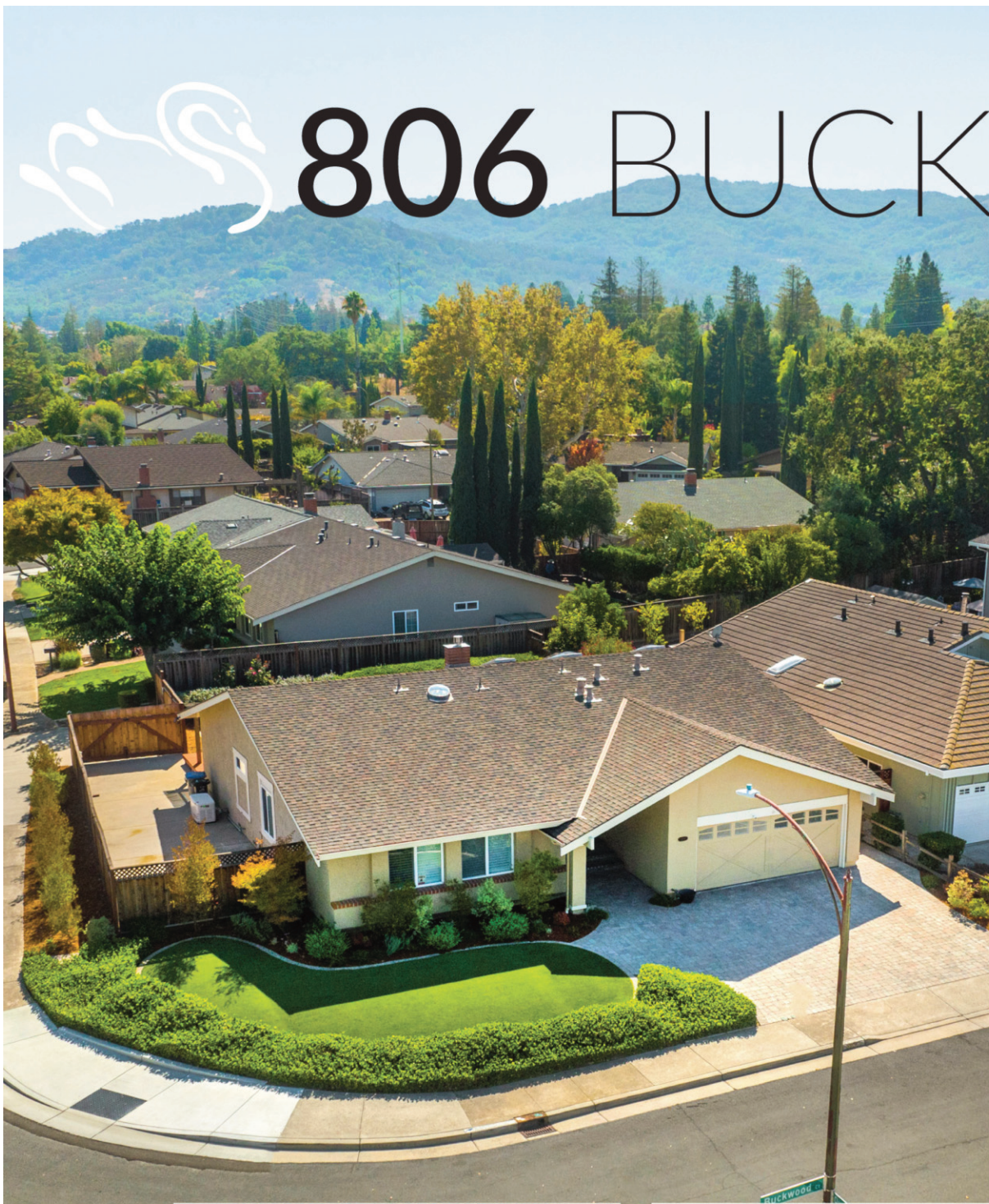
The mountain bike team holds practices for experienced riders on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays January through May. Newer and younger rider practice takes place on Wednesdays.

Since Composite is growing, the team is striving to attain more coaches/ride leaders. In order to hold practice, the league requires a minimum of two coaches for every eight riders.

2023 kick-off

The team’s 2023 season kick-off meeting and jersey fitting party is
See BIKE TEAM, page 7

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Offered at: \$535,000



Home Summary

- ◆ Two bedrooms and one full bathroom
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- ◆ Lovely end-unit condo with nobody above or below
- ◆ Shared two-car garage and one assigned parking space
- ◆ Part of a peaceful Blossom Hill community across the street from a park

Interior Features

- ◆ Light, bright, and airy atmosphere throughout home
- ◆ Great flow between living room, dining area, and kitchen—perfect for accommodating lots of friends and family for events
- ◆ Open kitchen with tiled countertop and backsplash, clean white cabinetry, electric glass top stove, and pass-through to living room
- ◆ Roomy primary bedroom with ceiling fan, spacious walk-in closet, and alcove that can accommodate an additional closet, media cabinet, wardrobe, or work desk
- ◆ Secondary bedroom also has ceiling fan and plenty of closet space

- ◆ Full bathroom features shower over tub and brightly-lit, natural wood vanity
- ◆ Other features include: laminate wood flooring throughout first level, brick accent wall in living room, double-pane windows with plantation shutters, utility area in kitchen with stackable washer/dryer

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- ◆ Spacious front patio with room for BBQ
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- ◆ Spectacular central location close to Westfield, Costco, dining, entertainment, and more
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NOTEBOOK

Supervisors push for 21st century privacy protections

Update: four decades in the making

To fulfill its obligation to protect the public's privacy, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors moved forward with three privacy protection actions at recent meetings:

- In response to an earlier proposal by County Supervisor Joe Simitian, the Board substantially updated the County's privacy ordinance to protect personal information about the County's residents and clients;
- The Board adopted a detailed description of the duties of the County Privacy Office; and,
- The Board also approved a subsequent proposal from Simitian that directs County Administration to begin the process of creating a secure file transfer system that could be used across all County departments to ensure that the files submitted by constituents are secure and confidential.

"We gather a lot of information about our residents, and a lot of it is incredibly sensitive," said Simitian. "While the goal of using these technologies and systems is to better serve the public, we shouldn't be blind to the fact that both new and existing technologies could be used improperly—whether intentionally or unintentionally. We need to recognize that the County has an ongoing obligation to protect the information we collect from our residents."

The updates to the County's Ordinance Code and Board Policies, first proposed in April 2022 by Supervisor Simitian, sought to bring the County's "Information Practices and

Individual Privacy" Ordinance and other County policies up to 21st century standards, amid ever-evolving privacy regulations and technological advancements.

The County is responsible for a number of activities that require the collection and storage of sensitive information about its two million residents. Those activities include running hospitals and jails, administering elections, collecting taxes, maintaining lists of property ownership and providing social services, among many others. At the same time, the County continually acquires new technologies and implements new systems that analyze, parse, or leverage that data in new ways, while hackers and criminals develop new tools to access information they shouldn't.

In light of recent Supreme Court decisions and actions by some states, one of the many pressing privacy concerns today relates to the use of information regarding reproductive health care services. Division A16 of the County Code, which relates to information practices and individual privacy, was one prominent example that had not kept up with the times, as it has not been updated since it was originally introduced in 1979. That ordinance will now be repealed and replaced with language that addresses modern day concerns, including the protection of information as it relates to providing reproductive health care services in the State of California.

Simitian said, "The fact that our existing privacy protection ordinance was more than 40 years old really left me shaking my head. Back in 1979 Jimmy Carter was President, gas was less than a dollar a gallon and disco was a thing. It seemed long past time to update our privacy protections."

With this new ordinance the County has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting our fundamental rights. The County Ordinance Code explicitly prohibits any County department from "provid[ing] information or expend[ing] or use time, money, facilities, property, equipment, personnel, or other resources in furtherance of any investigation...by another governmental entity that seeks to impose civil or criminal liability...for: (1) The provision, securing, receiving of, or any inquiry concerning reproductive health care services that are legal in the State of California; or (2) Any assistance given to any person or entity that relates to the provision, securing, receiving of, or any inquiry concerning reproductive health care services that are legal in the State of California."

Valley Currents

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



16 San Jose Public Libraries now open 7 days per week

More than half of San Jose Public Library branches now open Sundays

Cambrian Library as well as 15 other public libraries in San Jose are now open seven days a week.

Expanding hours of operations means an expansion of essential library services available to San Jose residents every day of the week - including more frequent access to physical materials; programs and events; technology, such as computers and printers; and in-person support for every member of the community.

This historic move comes after City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget on June 21, 2022, which included the library's expansion of hours, and is in direct response to the community's request for Sunday hours at the library.

"Libraries are critical resources and the lifeblood of our communities. For the first time in history, we will expand access to the vital services they provide to include Sundays, something deeply desired by our residents," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "We know that increasing availability to our libraries, especially in our lower-resourced communities, creates a pathway for success among students, job seekers, families, and community members."

In addition to Sunday hours offered at SJPL's main

location the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, located in downtown San Jose; SJPL will pilot Sunday hours from noon-5 p.m. at the following branch libraries:

To kick-off SJPL's new Sunday hours expansion, Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Librarian Jill Bourne welcomed the community with special remarks and a community countdown to open the doors of the Berryessa Branch Library on Sunday Oct. 2. Mister Softee served free ice cream sundaes for the community.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Alviso | 8. Edenvale |
| 2. Dr. Roberto Cruz-Alum Rock | 9. Education Park |
| 3. Bascom | 10. Evergreen |
| 4. Berryessa | 11. Hillview |
| 5. Biblioteca Latinoamericana | 12. Joyce Ellington |
| 6. Cambrian | 13. Seven Trees |
| 7. East San Jose Carnegie | 14. Tully Community |
| | 15. Vineland |
| | 16. West Valley |

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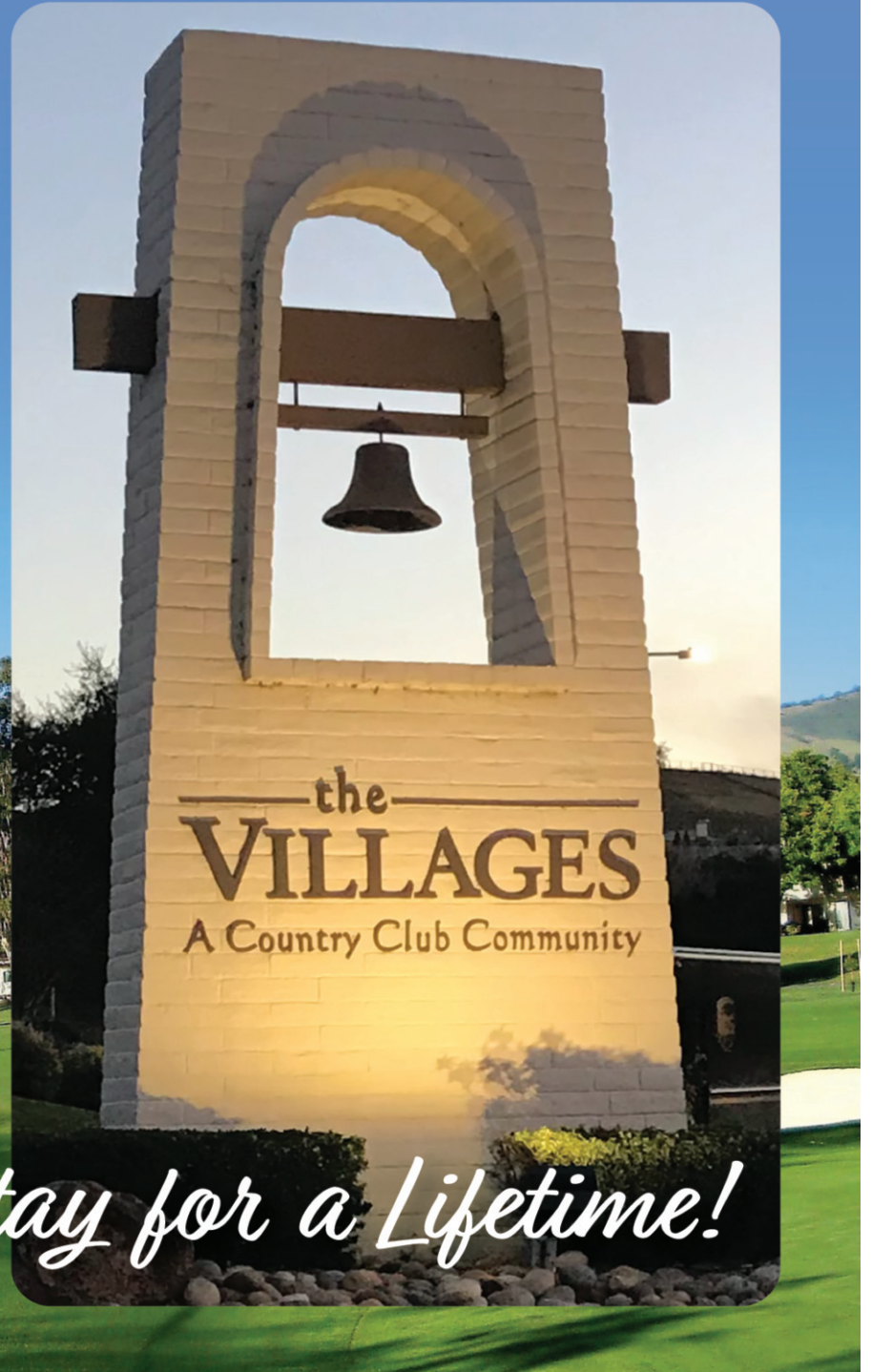
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Times **Community Notebook**



Mountain Bike Team

Students that want to ride with the team and race with NorCal and the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) can sign up for the 2023 season today. For more information on San Jose Composite, visit www.sanjosemtb.org/contact



James Thelen, a senior at Leland High School, co-founded Composite with a vision of creating a team that would be fun and supportive.

Bike team

Continued from page 1

taking place on November 30 at 6 p.m. For those who would like to attend, visit <https://www.sanjosemtb.org/contact>

The team is seeking corporate sponsors, used mountain bikes, and financial donations in order to grow and to get more impoverished youths on bikes. To donate, visit <https://www.sanjosemtb.org/sponsors-donations>

Students that want to ride with the team and race with NorCal and the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) can sign up for the 2023 season today.

For more information on San Jose Composite, visit www.sanjosemtb.org/contact

Playground

Continued from page 1

original playground footprint and will transform weed-filled, unused space into an exciting and memorable experience zone, with a hillside slide, nature play area, and zip lines. With your generous support of this fundraising event, you can help the community reach their goal of \$3.5M.

Ante up and go all in for a night of fun and games for a great cause!

Editor's note: The Playgarden Task Force is comprised of representatives from the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley-Willow Glen, the Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley, and the Almaden Senior Association.

For more information, visit the Playgarden website with details, including sponsorship, tickets, and project information: www.playgardenalp.org; or email Clay Marr at claymarr@comcast.net



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Public Hearing Notice

VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC FACILITIES FINANCING CORPORATION

Who: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

The mission of Valley Water is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy. Led by a seven-member board of directors, Valley Water is a public agency committed to providing a reliable supply of safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship to the residents and business of Santa Clara County.

What: The Board of Directors of Valley Water intends to fill a vacant director position on the Public Facilities Financing Corporation (PFFC).

The PFFC is a nonprofit public benefit corporation whose primary purpose is to provide assistance to Valley Water in financing the acquisition, construction and improvement of public facilities for Valley Water. Directors on the PFFC Board of Directors serve as volunteers.

Responsibilities of the PFFC director are to perform any and all duties imposed by law, by the PFFC's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, or by resolution of the Valley Water Board. The PFFC Board of Directors meets at such times and places as required to conduct PFFC business, usually from one to three times annually.

To be eligible for appointment consideration, an interested party must reside within Santa Clara County and must continue to reside therein while serving on the PFFC. The Valley Water Board is seeking interested candidates with experience in and understanding of the financial market, the issuance of bonds, areas of finance, accounting, public administration, and/or local/state/federal governmental work experience.

When: Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest with the following information:

- Name, phone number, residential address, and email address
- Summary of educational background, professional work experience, and any relevant knowledge of or training in areas listed above
- Any contribution or participation on a Valley Water commission, committee and/or volunteer opportunity, etc.
- A commitment to attend scheduled PFFC meetings as required

Where: Letters of interest should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31, 2022, to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attn: Clerk of the Board
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

Or by email to clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org

Information packets can be obtained online at www.valleywater.org or in person at District Headquarters, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.



Steve Harris, chairman of Valley Physician Group, stands with health care workers outside of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center to call attention to workplace issues in July 2022. *Photo by Tran Nguyen.*

Santa Clara County doctors ready to quit, survey shows

By **Tran Nguyen**

San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County's health care system could face a mass exodus of doctors due to poor working conditions and lack of respect from management.

More than 200 out of 288 county-employed doctors don't plan to stay at Santa Clara Valley Medical Care (VMC)—nearly 69% of whom plan to exit the system in the next three years, a survey conducted by Valley Physician Group shows. The group is a union representing more than 450 county-employed physicians.

Among those planning to leave, three out of five physicians cited not being respected by county management as the reason. More than 70% of doctors said they feel worse about their jobs compared to last year.

The doctors have been working without a contract for more than a year, and the union has been in negotiations with the county for more than two years.

Dr. Steve Harris, president of Valley Physician Group, said the issues are the direct result of county leaders failing to listen and address doctors' concerns. The county already lost 65 primary care doctors in the last five years, and it has not been able to retain people from its residency program over the same period, he said.

"These (survey) numbers are shocking and they should be a wake up call to the county," Harris told San José Spotlight. "This used to be a place people would come to spend their careers, and it's no longer the case."

County officials, including Executive Jeff Smith, have repeatedly said the health care system has no

The doctors have been working without a contract for more than a year, and the union has been in negotiations with the county for more than two years.

issues, downplaying physicians' concerns as a tactic to win a favorable contract.

"We are in negotiations with the physician union right now and have no comment regarding the union's attempts to bring attention to the negotiations in the press," Smith told San José Spotlight, referring to the survey.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez told San José Spotlight she can't comment on ongoing negotiations. The other supervisors did not respond in time for publication.

The survey came after the union sounded the alarm on yearslong problems at VMC, where doctors said they're being asked to prioritize quantity over quality health care. Doctors said they're pushed to a breaking point, with some of the most vulnerable patients in the region having to wait months for appointments, crucial scanning and diagnoses.

Harris said the issue is not solely about pay increases, and the union is considering a strike if Santa Clara County doesn't agree on a contract soon.

"This is about working conditions and how working conditions are so

tightly linked to patient care, but the county has no sense of urgency to address these problems," Harris said.

County-employed physicians in a number of departments have told San José Spotlight they're at their wits' end after years of seeing feedback and concerns ignored and minimized.

The issues at VMC, such as ongoing worker shortages, are not unique—but physicians said they're frustrated with tone-deaf leadership. Health care workers said the yearslong issue is made worse by COVID-19, resulting in an average wait between eight and 14 hours for emergency services, a backlog of hundreds of patients and months of waiting for basic, non-invasive screenings. Many health care workers, including doctors, are doing the job of two or three people, they said.

More than 76% of surveyed doctors said VMC is not providing adequate care to patients and 90% said the county isn't providing enough resources and workers to support them.

A doctor with about five years of experience at VMC said they are contemplating leaving, along with four other physicians in the same department. They said they have to spend their days off catching up on administrative tasks because of the large workload. San José Spotlight is not naming the doctors due to their fear of retaliation.

"I thought that I had found my forever job (at VMC), but the more I think about it, I just feel hopeless," the physician told San José Spotlight. "What's crazy to me is the fact we're one of the richest counties in the United States, and this is how we're choosing to treat our patients."



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Times Arts

San Jose Chamber Orchestra presents 'Ourland: A Dystopian State'

San José Chamber Orchestra (SJCO) will present *Ourland: A Dystopian State* on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 pm.

"I'm thrilled to announce our 2022-2023 season of musical renewal", said San José Chamber Orchestra Founder and Music Director Barbara Day Turner. "These past two years have re-confirmed my long-held belief that live music, with its sense of involvement and exchange of energy between performers and audience, is a completely different art form than any other. We hope to see many new faces at our concerts and make many new friends during this upcoming season of creative programming of known repertoire and world premieres."

Ourland: A Dystopian State

Saturday, October 22 | 7:30 pm and Sunday, October 23 | 7:30 pm

3Below Theaters & Café, 288 South Second Street, San José 95113

World Premiere Opera

Winter's Gifts: Peace

- Friday December 16, 2022 | 8 pm
- Mission Santa Clara at Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 95053
- Saturday December 17, 2022 | 8 pm
- First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamil-

ton Avenue, Palo Alto, 94301

Conductors Barbara Day Turner and Daniel Hughes

SJCO's annual winter holiday celebration with The Choral Project.

The Program

Selections reflecting the winter season holidays and the yearning for peace. Includes Rene Clausen's *In Pace, Across the Calm Waters* by Ahmed Alabaca, *Pacem: Find Love* from Ben Allaway's *Heaven & Earth: A Celtic Mass*, and the premiere of "Molytva Pro Protovitannya" ("A prayer for prosperity") written by the Choral Project's director Daniel Hughes.

Celebration

Saturday December 31, 2022 | 7 pm

St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José
Conductor Barbara Day Turner/ Guest artists pianist Jon Nakamatsu and clarinetists Jon and Alec Manasse.

Glorious works to welcome the changing of the year.

The Program

- Serge Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes
- Jessie Montgomery: Strum for string orchestra
- W. A. Mozart: Larghetto from Clarinet Quintet
- Frederic Chopin: Romanze from Piano Concerto in e minor
- Franz Krommer: Allegro from Concerto for two Clarinets, opus 35
- George Gershwin: I Got Rhythm (arr. Michael Touchi)
- Michael Touchi: Fantasia on Klezmer



SJCO CHAMBER MUSIC

Sunday February 12, 2023 | 7 pm

St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José
SJCO string quartet and the Dallas-based Julius string quartet featuring the famed Octet by Felix Mendelssohn.

The Program

- Fanny Mendelssohn: String Quartet in Eb Major
- Viktor Ullman: String Quartet String Quartet No. 3
- Felix Mendelssohn: String Octet in Eb Major

NEW SOUNDS

Sunday April 2, 2023 | 7 pm

St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José
Trumpet Soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden
The Program

Three fabulous new works by American

Composers

- Timothy Adams, Jr: *Harriet: Journey to Freedom*
- Vivian Fung: *Trumpet Concerto* (co-commissioned by SJCO),
- Durwynne Hsieh: *Symphony #1 for Chamber Orchestra*
World Premiere, climate change inspired work (commissioned by SJCO)

CONCERTO NIGHT

Sunday May 14, 2023 | 7 pm

St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José
Soloists ZOFO piano duo Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi and violinist Jaewon Wee (Klein competition laureate 2022)

The Program

- J.S. Bach: Concerto in a minor for violin
- Pablo Ortiz: *ZOFO ENCAJONADO* (A concertino in three movements for piano four hands, cajon, and strings (World Premiere))
- Elizabeth Jonasson: *Wind Through the Poplar Trees* (World Premiere)
- Franz Schubert: *Fantasie in f minor* (arranged for string orchestra by Dobrinka Tabakova)

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Community Organization: Pi & World

By Khedaar Kashyap
Special to the Times

The famous saying by Eric Hoffer goes, "In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

The discoveries of a decade ago have lost their novelty and headlines are quickly moving onto the next breakthrough in all walks of life. From the wheel to cars to planes and rocket ships, the world has brought endless possibilities.

The number pi, or π is an irrational number, one that follows no pattern and is endless. While there are patterns inside of pi, the number as a whole is just as unpredictable as our world.

Pi & World is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to teaching the youth and educating the world about technology, science, and current events. The organization aims to spread knowledge to those who are curious for knowledge, especially in an ever-changing world. The organization holds monthly, free classes which are dedicated to teaching the youth about computer science, machine learning, robotics, and imaging, already hosted several workshops and received over 75 signups.

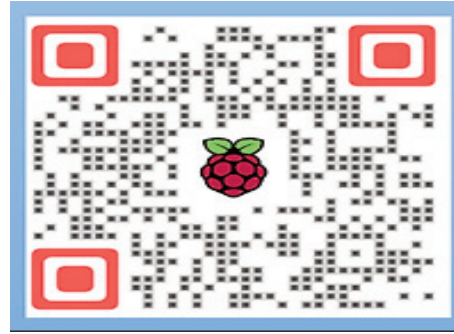
Pi & World inspires students to take action and continue their journey to learning new techniques. The transformation to a digital world demands the skills to handle technology, a key that Pi & World provides.

Pi & World also publishes monthly newspapers which write about current news, focusing on breakthroughs in law, tech-

nology, and science. As California gears up for its general election this November, many propositions have been displayed on ads and campaigned for in the general public.

Pi & World uncovered a recent proposal, Proposition 26, and did an in-depth analysis looking at both sides of the argument. Over time, mainstream media has gone away from long, content-filled articles to shorter, straight-to-the-point content.

In the future, Pi & World looks to expand



their newsletters and workshops to a larger audience, recruiting instructors from across the state and more outlets to teach the fruits of technology.

About Pi & World

Pi & World is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded by Sucheer Maddury, a junior at Leland High School.

For more information about Pi & World, a 501(c)(3), visit www.piandworld.org

Anjali Govindaraj of Almaden Valley named to Linfield University's Summer 2022 Dean's List

Anjali Govindaraj of Almaden Valley has been named to Linfield University's Dean's List during the spring 2022 semester.

Govindaraj is a nursing major at the Linfield University Portland Campus.

The Dean's List identifies undergraduate students who have earned a term GPA at least equivalent to a cum laude (at least 3.650 GPA) for a given semester. It is computed following the posting of grades at the end of each semester.

Linfield University is an independent, non-profit university with two physical campuses in McMinnville and Portland, Oregon, and an eCampus. Since 1858, Linfield has connected a traditional liberal arts experience with practical education through 57 majors, including wine studies, sport management and nursing.

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Times **Feature**

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Turing Test

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

Turing Test

A Turing Test is a method of inquiry in artificial intelligence for determining whether a computer is capable of thinking like a human being. The test is named after Alan Turing, the founder of the Turing Test and an English com-

puter scientist, cryptanalyst, mathematician, and theoretical biologist.

Turing proposed that a computer can be said to possess artificial intelligence if it can mimic human responses under specific conditions. The original Turing Test requires three terminals, each of which is physically separated from the other two. One terminal is operated by a computer, while the other two are operated by humans.

During the test, one of the human functions as the questioner, while the second human and the computer function as respondents. The questioner interrogates the respondents within a specific subject area, using a specified format and context. After a preset length of time or number of questions, the questioner is then asked to decide which respondent was human

and which was a computer.

The test is repeated many times. If the questioner makes the correct determination in half of the test runs or less, the computer is considered to have artificial intelligence because the questioner regards it as “just as human” as the human respondent.

The Turing Test has been criticized over the years, because historically, the nature of the questioning had to be limited in order for a computer to exhibit human-like intelligence. For many years, a computer might only score high if the questioner formulated the queries, so they had “Yes” or “No” answers or pertained to a narrow field of knowledge. When questions were open-ended and required conversational answers, it was less likely that the computer program could successfully fool the ques-

tioner.

In addition, a program such as ELIZA could pass the Turing Test by manipulating symbols it does not understand fully. In the year 1980, John Searle argued that this does not determine intelligence comparable to humans.

To many researchers, the question of whether a computer can pass a Turing Test has become irrelevant. Instead of focusing on how to convince someone they are conversing with a human and not a computer program, the real focus should be on how to make a human-machine interaction more intuitive and efficient.

Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.

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Times **Community**

Thaniya Shankar of Evergreen receives Strauss Foundation Award

\$15,000 public service scholarship to carry out project in her senior year

Thaniya Shankar of Evergreen Valley has recently been awarded the Donald A. Strauss Scholarship.

Shankar was one of 12 selected scholars among more than 300 applicants from across 22 California schools encouraged to apply to receive this public service scholarship.

The Strauss scholarships fund public-service projects that the students have proposed and will carry out during their junior or senior year.

The Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation, established as a memorial to the late Don Strauss of Newport Beach, is designed to award \$15,000 scholarships to as many as 15 California college sophomores and juniors annually.

Shankar plans to recruit volunteers from University of California Riverside to mentor and support elementary students on the autism spectrum at underserved schools in San Bernardino City Unified School District.

To address the educational barriers that exist in the Kindergarten to 6th grade public school educational system for students with autism spectrum disorder, Thaniya Shankar proposed the mentor-

ship program Project LEAD (Learn, Encourage, Advocate, and Develop) to allow college students from University of California, Riverside to mentor elementary students on the spectrum in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, an under-resourced community.



Students with autism display their own unique challenges that can benefit from individualized support. This program will not only promote a sense of community and belonging to autistic students, but also establish and strengthen academic and social skills that most autistic students lack.

By fostering peer mentor relationships for students with autism at the elementary school age level, there will be an increase in academic and social success in their educational journey and beyond, empowering the neurodivergent community to pursue postsecondary education and employment opportunities.

Project LEAD volunteers will curate lesson plans that not only allow autistic students to catch up to the mainstream academic curriculum, but also help with personal development and interpersonal skills, such as organization, abstract thinking, and communication.

This program will not only promote a sense of community and belonging to autistic students, but also establish and strengthen academic and social skills that most autistic students lack.

MONEY TIPS FOR STUDENTS

College students living off campus need renters insurance

By Erin Klaer

College students who rent an apartment or house, should consider purchasing renters insurance, according to Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).



The KHEAA insurance provides coverage if their belongings get stolen, burned in a fire or destroyed by a natural disaster.

Their parents' homeowners insurance may cover any losses experienced by students who live in a dorm, but this won't be the case for students renting a house or apartment. Students

should check with their insurance agent to make sure they know what's covered and what the deductible is if they file a claim.

Some colleges offer dorm insurance as part of their enrollment package. Such policies often have a low monthly cost and a small deductible, unlike many homeowners policies.

When buying renters insurance, students should consider replacement versus actual cash value. Replacement means they'll get a new version of the same item; actual cash value will give them an amount based on the item's used value.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency and was established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. The non-profit also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit kheaa.com.

For more information, visit advantageeducationloan.com.

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OSC has opened a new program for women based upon equine interaction and equine-assisted-learning, designed to develop self-awareness and self-acceptance, confidence and resilience, and safe boundaries.

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Almaden's 15th Annual Harvest Festival is Oct. 15

The Almaden 15th Annual Harvest Festival will be held on Oct. 15, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in-person at Almaden Community Center. The Center is located at 6445 Camden Ave, San Jose.

Join the community in celebrating local vendors, tasty treats, and lots of fun for all ages!

Swing by the pumpkin patch; get spooked in the haunted house and more! Children are encouraged to come in costume! General admission and parking are free!

The annual event is sponsored by the San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services.

For more information on the Almaden Harvest Festival, call (408) 268-1133 or check out the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Almadenccsj



Gail Pellerin and Liz Lawler, who are vying for a seat in the 28th Assembly District, debated issues at an Almaden Valley Community Association forum. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

State Assembly candidates debate wide range of issues

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

State Assembly candidates recently sparred over policies ranging from abortion to education ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

Liz Lawler (R) and Gail Pellerin (D) who are vying for a seat in the 28th Assembly District, debated issues on Oct. 10, during an Almaden Valley Community Association forum.

Lawler, who served on the Monte Sereno City Council for four years, said she has a proven track record of working collaboratively to find common sense solutions, constituent responsiveness and budget transparency. Lawler said she has addressed difficult land use decisions amicably and has a plan to resurface all the roads in the state.

"It was clear to me that we needed common sense legislators in Sacramento to effectively address the issues facing our state," she said.

In a statement, Lawler said leaders are needed who are fiscally responsible and dedicated to representing constituents. She said a lack of transparency and accountability in Sacramento and divisive rhetoric has eroded faith in government.

"Our K-12 public schools are failing our children, especially our most vulnerable," she said in a statement. "We have a housing crisis that continues to grow...Our residents need to feel safe in our communities, but recent reforms have led to sharp rises in crime."

At the forum, Lawler said she seeks to restore needed balance, accountability and cooperation in the State Assembly. She said state schools have plummeted to 44th in the nation and California is ranked last in business climate and 47th in taxpayer returns on investment.

"Yet, Sacramento continues business as usual, ramming through policies that do not benefit from robust debate, success measures or accountability," she said, adding she would ensure policies are vetted, measured and delivered on what was promised.

Pellerin said she stands for equity, digni-

ty and integrity. She worked for 27 years in the State Assembly as chief elections official before serving as Santa Cruz County Clerk.

In a statement, Pellerin said democracy can only thrive if elected officials involve the community in solving problems regarding affordable housing, affordable and equitable health care and mental health care services. She said California must remain a safe state for reproductive services and a world leader in addressing climate change.

At the debate, Pellerin said she's ready to return to Sacramento to help to solve the challenges facing Assembly District 28.

"After 35 years in public service at both the local and state levels," she said, "I am ready to make a bigger impact driven by my passion for connection with the community and my desire to shape policy around mental health, affordable housing, health care, education, climate change and public safety."

Pellerin said she is running for State Assembly to create a more sustainable, equitable and healthier community and improve government access, especially for those most in need of vital services. She said she has been a fighter for democracy, protecting voting rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights and the right to live in safe, affordable communities.

"I believe that democracy can only thrive if elected officials involve the community in solving the problems we face," she said.

Pellerin said she is a dedicated, tenacious and creative problem solver and her experience in Sacramento means she can lead on day one.

"Make no mistake," she said, "democracy is on the ballot in November."

Rising gas prices

Pellerin said working families shouldn't have to pay more at the pump while oil companies make record profits. She said there is a mystery surcharge beyond what other states pay. We need to look at the rebates and why the oil industry charges more in California than any other state, she said, adding sound policy is needed to protect

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Times **Community**

consumers.

Rather than gas rebates, Lawler said she is in favor of tax relief. She agreed Californians pay more at the pump but said if gas companies are charged more, the consumer will end up paying for it. She said extending the gas tax would have given relief to state residents, especially those struggling economically. Lawler said better accountability measures are needed to understand where tax dollars are going.

Balancing state finances

Lawler said budget hawks like her are needed to remove wasteful spending.

“We need to tighten our belts and that will also address inflation,” she said. “We have to stop spending so much money.”

Lawler said the state government needs to ensure funding isn’t put into programs requiring long-term funding that can’t be supported. She would conduct widespread audits in the state.

Pellerin said the state was fiscally prudent in using its \$100 billion surplus by establishing rainy day and reserve funds and investing in per-pupil spending and infrastructure. She said California per-pupil spending raised it from ranking 48th to the top ten in the nation. About \$14.8 billion was invested in infrastructure for railroads, highways, walking and bicycle paths, she added.

Pellerin believes the state is financially prepared for dark days, including an emergency due to having sound fiscal policies in place.

Energy policy

Both candidates favor investment in public transportation, but Lawler does not support High Speed Rail to the Central Valley.

Pellerin said climate change is impacting everything, and energy policies need to look at a sustainable, clean energy future for California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She said work is needed to address the drought, capture and store rainwater and improve the state’s energy grid to meet demand. She said investment is needed in clean energy solutions such as solar and wind energy.

Lawler acknowledged climate change and suggested using additional options such as natural gas and nuclear energy.

“Natural gas is clean,” she said. “...We cannot just stop the use of oil and gas and expect everybody to be okay. We have to have a thoughtful transition plan.”

She said the United States imports “dirty” oil from Venezuela but has much cleaner oil and gas production in the United States.

“Let’s use what we have until we can get to the point where our electric grid is fully reliable,” she said.

Abortion

Lawler said she believes in a woman’s right to choose. She favors 15 weeks for fetal viability. She said Prop 1 is so poorly written it opens the door for late term partial birth abortion. She said a Berkeley study said the proposition could endanger a woman’s right to choose in California.

Pellerin said abortion should be a personal, rather a government decision. She denounces the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, revoking the constitutional right to abortion.

“This decision of our highest court is an assault on individuals to control their own bodies,” she said.

She said Proposition 1 ensures all individuals have reproductive freedom. She said Gov. Gavin Newsom also signed bills ensuring California will be a sanctuary state for those seeking reproductive services.

Education

Lawler said school choice is essential to provide the best education for all students. Also, charter schools raise test scores.

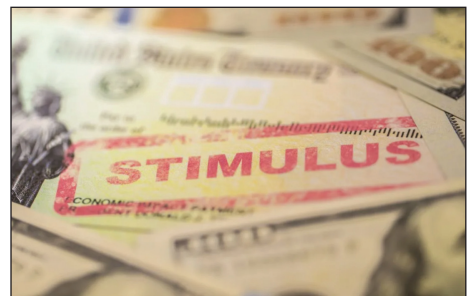
Pellerin said new per-pupil spending will elevate education in public schools. She said investments in early childhood education, childcare, English as a second language and after-school programs improve outcomes in students.

In closing, Pellerin said public service is in her blood.

“I will never lose sight that I work for you,” she said, adding she will be a caretaker for resident’s rights for representation in Sacramento.

Lawler said leaders are needed who consider the long-term impacts of policies on residents and businesses.

“Do you want more of the same,” she said, “or do you want a commonsense leader who will bring a fresh perspective and rational problem solving?”



California ready to distribute new stimulus checks

The first round of one-time payment stimulus checks for Californians are in process of being distributed, mostly by direct deposit.

The checks are designed to assist millions of Californians to balance increasing inflation especially to offset gas prices at the pump.

Eligible individuals earning up to \$250,000 and couples earning up to \$500,000 in 2020 adjusted gross income will receive payments ranging from \$200 to \$1,050, depending on their income, tax filing status, and the number of dependents.

The one-time payment is referred to as a “Middle-Class Tax Refund.” Governor Newsom had in the spring suggested distributing \$400 debit cards to automobile owners, but that idea did not catch on as inflation for food and other items have been on the increase.

The payments will be made from California’s \$97.5 billion surplus, which makes this year’s budget a record \$300 billion.

In order to be eligible for a payment, you must have submitted your 2020 California tax return before the due date. Depending on how they paid their taxes in 2020, the Franchise Tax Board will distribute the payments to qualified Californians either via direct deposit or a postal debit card.



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Times **Career Corner****Do less, not more**By **Angela Copeland**

How do you react when you're behind at work, or at home? So often, when this happens, it feels like the answer is to do more. Roll your sleeves up, work harder, and push through it. Stay up late, and get up early.



This can be an effective strategy if you're doing something mindless, such as unpacking boxes after a move. But, if you're doing work that requires thought and concentration, doing more may not actually work. In fact, it could have the opposite effect.

Over-working yourself will wear you out. It will zap your creativity and your mental energy. Your work will take longer, and it is more likely that you'll make mistakes. Pushing yourself too much is one of the behaviors that can ultimately lead to burnout. And, burnout can take quite a lot of time and energy to recover from.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that we all begin checking out. It's also not an effective strategy to do nothing.

But, when you're tight on time, or you're on a do list seems to be way too long, take the time to reprioritize. Rather than try to accomplish everything, decide which of your long list of things is the most important. A great exercise is to try cutting your to do list in half. If you could only accomplish half of the things on your list, which tasks would you

begin with? Which tasks must be completed now versus later? Which tasks are quick, and which are long?

Focusing in on fewer things allows us to do those things better. It allows us to clear our minds of the worry of having to complete too many tasks. For the items you do complete, you'll have the time to do the best possible job on each task. Of the tasks you focus on, you'll actually complete them. And, you'll do a better job.

If you're squeezed at work, you'll probably find this advice is the opposite of the way many leaders think of getting things done. So often, prioritizing what is important seems like an impossible task. In fact, everything is important. How can we possibly pick specific tasks over others?

But again, trying to accomplish too much is not a good long term strategy. It can work once in a while, but not normally. There's a saying that if everything is important, nothing is important. And, this is true. When you try to do too much, you may find yourself completing very little of your list.

Both at work and at home, make your goal to do fewer things better. You'll find that this strategy will improve your mood. You will ultimately accomplish more. And, your quality of work will improve overall. At work, this strategy will force you to have tough conversations about which projects take priority. But over time, the process of reprioritizing your work will become easier. And, you'll get more done.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

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Times Feature

GEMS IN STEM Much like life, distribution ain't fair (Part 2)

By Apoorva Panidapu

Last time, we talked about how we have these things called apportionment methods to divide things fairly, like distributing the 435 delegates in the House of Representatives to all the states. Turns out that it's not the easiest thing to do! We learned what the harmonic mean is and how it plays into Dean's Apportionment Method...but we never actually saw how it works. Well, the wait is finally over...let the apportioning begin!

To run Dean's Apportionment Method, we first need a few definitions. (Heads up, things might get a little more detailed/technical, so hang in there!)

We say that the standard divisor of a population is the fraction of the total population divided by the number of representatives, which gives the number of people represented by the average representative. Then, a state's standard quota is the population of the state divided by the stan-

dard divisor.

The first step of Dean's method is to calculate the standard quota for each state. This number is almost definitely not going to be an integer (AKA whole number). So, we calculate the harmonic mean of the two closest integers to the standard quote and round it according to this mean. If the standard quota is above the harmonic mean, round up by one, and if the standard quota is below the harmonic mean, round down by one. To make this more clear, let's do a quick example! Say the standard quota is 5.37. Then, the two closest integers are 5 and 6 and the harmonic mean of 5 and 6 is $1/((1/5 + 1/6)/2) = 60/11 = 5.45$. Since 5.37 is less than 5.45, we round down to 5, and that is the number of delegates for the state!

Cool, so let's just do this for every state. Easy, right? Nope. When has politics ever been easy? In this case, when we sum up the delegates for each state, it should come out to a total of 435, but it doesn't always. If it sums up to

less than 435, that means there are surplus delegates, i.e., extra delegates that aren't assigned to any state. To fix this, we need to decrease the standard divisor to modify all the quotas until it totals up to 435. On the flip side, if the total number of

See GEMS, page 21



Gems in STEM
 By Apoorva Panidapu



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Times Cover Story

Campaigns

Continued from page 1

Eddie DeBartolo Jr., the former owner of the 49ers, was pardoned by Trump for a bribery scandal.

“What concerns me is the last minute flood of special interest money going to my opponent. I think it distorts the democratic process,” Mahan told San José Spotlight. “I don’t think that billion dollar companies write \$400,000 checks just because they feel like it. I think they think they’re getting something in return. That’s the kind of pay-to-play politics that erodes public trust in our system.”

Chavez responded that Mahan is making this claim to distract voters from the right-wing support his campaign has received, noting his endorsement from the Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women. Mahan said he never sought out the endorsement, so it’s not a fair comparison.

Chavez supported by 49ers, labor and mystery PACs

There is no denying Chavez’s campaign has received the lion’s share of PAC spending. In the primary season alone, \$1.1 million went toward supporting Chavez. That has only gone up since June.

The heavy hitter is the PAC backed by the 49ers football team and developer DeBartolo Corporation, which hashed out \$420,000 in TV ads to support Chavez—and spent it all on Thursday.

“We’re proud to continue our support of Supervisor Chavez, and are confident in her unwavering leadership on pressing issues like housing affordability and public safety that will put San Jose, and the greater South Bay, in a position to succeed for years to come,” Rahul Chandhok, spokesman for the team, told San José Spotlight.

The South Bay Labor Council also doled out a notable amount to support Chavez’s campaign. It has spent more than \$48,000 on mailers, phone banking and field expenses since December.

“A Better Way San Jose, sponsored by San Jose Police Officers’ Association” PAC has spent more than \$24,500 on mailers and polling to support Chavez. The PAC, formed in May, is funded by San Jose’s police union, the Santa Clara County Government Attorneys’ Association and the Association of Retired San Jose Police Officers and Firefighters PAC.

In the last three months, a new PAC has formed to support her campaign called “Neighbors for a Diverse Community Supporting Cindy Chavez for San Jose Mayor 2022.” It’s unclear who is behind the PAC which has only one contribution—a \$50,000 donation from Assemblymember Evan Low. He told San José Spotlight he is not involved with the PAC, nor does he know who formed it. He was simply asked to donate and so he did.

“(I supported because) it’s been 24 years since we’ve had a female mayor in the city of San Jose,” Low told San José Spotlight. “Cindy has always been a champion in ensuring that the city has an opportunity to uplift voices for all people from Asia Pacific Islanders, Latinos and the Chinese community, the Black community, every single community.”

Low also donated \$25,000 to another PAC, called “San Jose Together, Supporting Cindy

Chavez for Mayor 2022,” which doled out a little more than \$38,000 in total.

It’s also unclear who runs the PAC called “Neighbors Together Supporting Cindy Chavez for Mayor 2022,” though it lists the same officer as the South Bay Labor Council PAC. It spent \$32,000 in support of Chavez’s campaign.

Mahan backed by developers, tech execs and investors

The two PACs supporting Mahan’s campaign have taken a different approach than the ones behind Chavez. They have spent more than \$358,000 collectively to conduct opposition research and polls against Chavez.

The Silicon Valley Biz PAC, which did not spend money in the primary election, dished out \$108,000 this year. About \$2,000 was spent to create a website filled with information about Chavez’s campaign filings, voting record, personal history and more. The PAC also spent \$20,000 on digital ads to oppose Chavez.

“We’re gonna continue that,” Silicon Valley Biz PAC’s Victor Gomez told San José Spotlight. “This is a critical race for the city of San Jose. You have a choice between someone new with fresh new ideas, and then you have somebody that essentially you’re living her

“Matt Mahan had a fantastic showing in June despite an avalanche of special interest money against him,” Reed said. “We expect the same efforts from the status quo in November as well.”

results right now.”

The Silicon Valley Biz PAC also received a \$70,000 in-kind donation from Common Good with polling and opposition information.

“Our policy is to generally share resources with partners who have common goals, and that’s what we shared—polling and research (not cash) that we were going to pay for ourselves anyway,” said Jim Reed, Liccardo’s chief of staff who manages the Common Good PAC. “With this approach, they don’t have to reinvent the wheel.”

Common Good Silicon Valley, formed last year, has also been racing to spend the money Liccardo helped raise. The PAC, which is entangled in legal questions after a formal complaint questioned the impropriety of the funds, has spent \$550,000 as of Sept. 30.

“Matt Mahan had a fantastic showing in June despite an avalanche of special interest money against him,” Reed told San José Spotlight. “We expect the same efforts from the status quo in November as well, and will be doing our best to ensure a level playing field.”

Contributors to the PAC include real estate billionaire George Marcus, venture capitalist Ron Conway’s family trust, former tech executive turned investor Michael Stoppelman, entrepreneur Joseph Green, Meta executives Monika Bickert and David Wehner and Lyft executive Tali Rapaport. Each has donated at least \$20,000, campaign filings show.



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Times **Community News****Gems***Continued from page 18*

delegates is over 435, we increase the divisor to modify the quotas until the total goes down to 435.

Weird. Why are we doing this? Does it actually fix things?

Well, the reason this works is because if we go back to our definitions at the beginning, we can see that the standard divisor is the denominator of the standard quota. This means that as its value increases, the fraction decreases, and vice versa. (For example, $2/5 < 2/4 < 2/3$.) So, using trial and error, we adjust the standard divisor until we reach the correct total of 435 delegates, then use those delegate numbers as the apportionment. Ta-da!

To see Dean's Method in action, let's look at an example! Boy, do we love examples around here.

Suppose we have 20 new students to apportion to four houses Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, and Ravenclaw. (I'm going to pretend I'm one of these students to fulfill my childhood dream of going to Hogwarts.) Now, Gryffindor has a population of 2,964 people, Slytherin has a population of 3,220 people, Hufflepuff has a population of 829 people, and Ravenclaw has a population of 4,987 people. So, the total number of students in the 4 houses is 12,000, and the standard divisor is $12000/20 = 600$.

Recall that the house's standard quota is the population of the house divided by the standard divisor. So, we calculate that the standard quota is $2,964/600 = 4.94$ for Gryffindor, $3,220/600 = 5.37$ for Slytherin, $829/600 = 1.38$ for Hufflepuff, and $4,987/600 = 8.31$ for Ravenclaw.

Now, using Dean's Apportionment Method, the harmonic mean cutoffs are 4.44 (the harmonic mean of 4 and 5) for Gryffindor, 5.45 (the harmonic mean of 5 and 6) for Slytherin, 1.33 (the harmonic mean of 1 and 2) for Hufflepuff, and 8.47 (the harmonic mean of 8 and 9) for Ravenclaw. This means the final apportionment of the twenty students is 5 students for Gryffindor (because $4.94 > 4.44$), 5 students for Slytherine (since $5.37 < 5.45$), 2 students for Hufflepuff (since $1.38 > 1.33$), and 8 students for Ravenclaw (because $8.31 < 8.47$). Since $5+5+2+8 = 20$ students, we don't have to make any adjustments to the divisor—hallelujah! Our twenty students have found a house (and I hope I'm one of the Slytherin five).

The rounding step is where the divisor apportionment methods vary, depending on which kind of rounding they use. In Dean's Method, we're using the harmonic mean to round, whereas Webster's Method uses conventional rounding, i.e., rounding using the arithmetic mean and Hill's Method uses geometric mean as the rounding cutoff. So, since harmonic mean is always less than or equal to arithmetic mean (as we talked about in last week's article), Dean's Method favors smaller states with harmonic mean while Webster's method is neutral to state size.

Dean's Apportionment Method, like other divisor methods, has the advantage of avoiding typical paradoxes that apportionment methods run into, but it's not perfect. Dean's Method violates something called the quota

rule. The quota rule states that each state should get the number of representatives that is a rounding up or down of their quota. But, when using a divisor method like Dean's Method, some states can get more delegates than their quota while others get less as the standard divisor is modified. In fact, Dean's Method often violates this rule in favor of smaller states since the harmonic mean cutoff is lower when the standard quota is smaller, which explains why it is not used in real life.

In fact, it is proven that no apportionment method is without its problems. The Balinsky-Young Theorem says that no apportionment method can satisfy the quota rule and avoid paradoxes. That's kind of interestingly disheartening, isn't it? There

is no perfect method. So, all we can do is weigh the consequences of each method and choose one with the least drawbacks.

Turns out the consensus is that avoiding paradoxes is more important than violating the quota rule. So, the United States government uses a divisor method, the Huntington-Hill Method, to officially apportion the House of Representatives, using geometric mean as the rounding convention. This method, along with Webster's Method, are neutral, while Dean's Method is not.

Though Dean's Method has its flaws like any other apportionment method, it's an interesting example of how divisor methods can be created simply by finding a new measure for rounding. This idea of trying to find a fair distribution when no objec-

tively perfect one exists is a crucial question to ask, for government, politics, and life now and in the future.

Before you go, I have one last question for you: Are you Dean's Apportionment Method? Because it isn't fair how amazing you are.

Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.

As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. It will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end.

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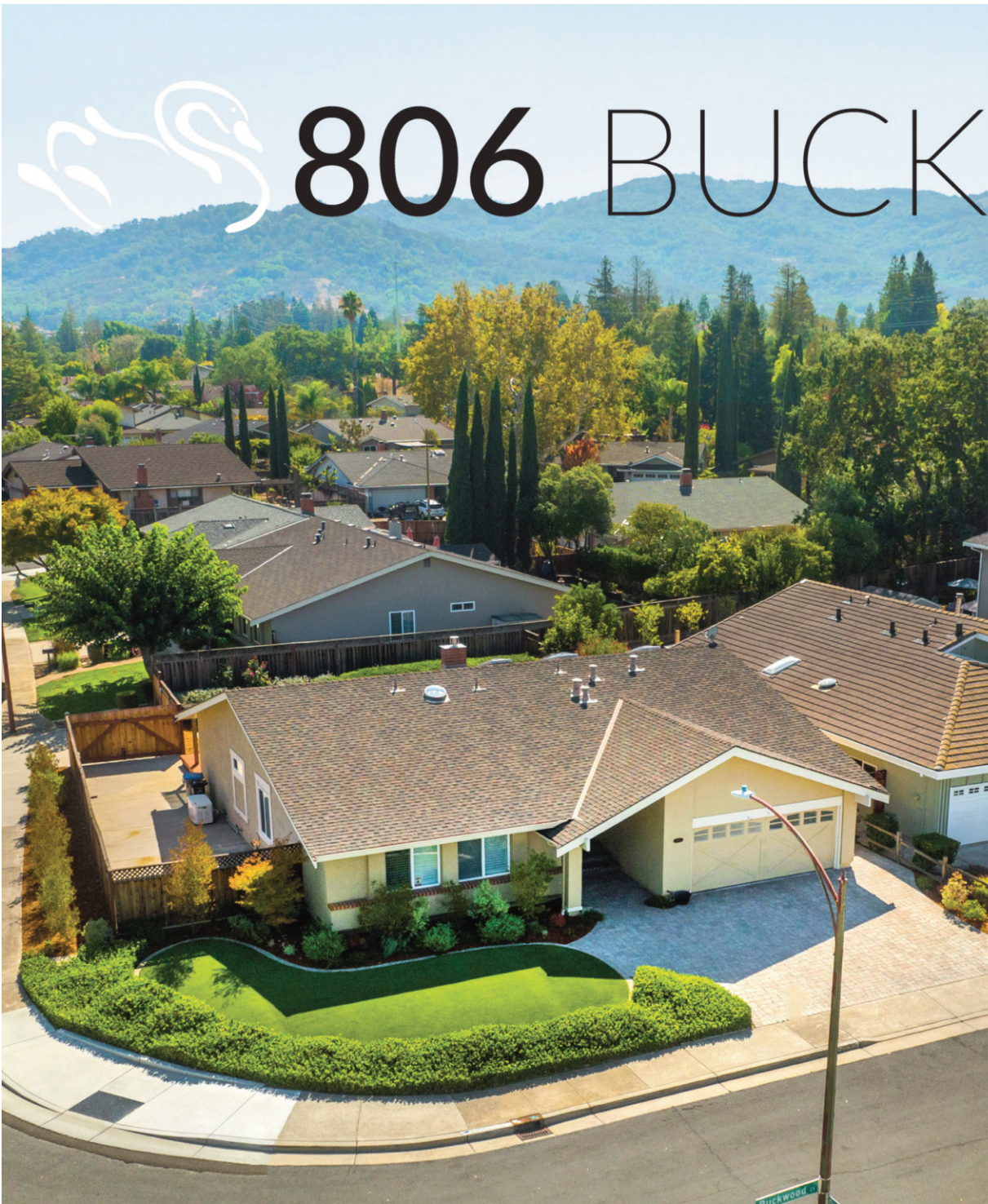
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4 Bed | 2 Bath

1797 Sq Ft | 7601 Sq Ft Lot

Totally remodeled single story home in the Almaden Woodside neighborhood. Recessed lighting, fresh interior paint, soaring ceiling, skylights, tile flooring. High peak ceiling, transom windows, plantation shutters, new carpet, fireplace with brick hearth, sliders that provide access to the backyard. Kitchen has granite slab counters and plenty of maple cabinetry. A dual height counter has room for extra seating. NEST thermostat, Tesla Motors cable wall connector EV charger, SolarEdge HD-wave, Generac backup generator. Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High School.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

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