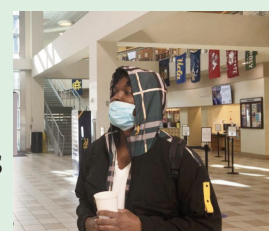


Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Facility begins construction
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Tech industry shaken
Californians fear A.I. tech could take their jobs
SEE PAGE 7

Enrollment is rebounding at San Jose community colleges
SEE PAGE 19



MARCH 10 – MARCH 23, 2023 ■ VOL. 40, NO. 6

EvergreenTimes

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Renderings of the large Buddhist temple being proposed that would serve the local Khmer Krom population. (Courtesy Andrew Mann Architecture)

First-ever large-scale Buddhist temple in Bay Area proposed for Evergreen Valley

Proposed \$25M project would be largest temple in San Jose

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Buddhist temple in San Jose's Sunset Court, a single-family residence, represents a vital gathering place for Khmer Krom ethnic Cambodians who relocated here from southern Vietnam.

Khmer Krom members, now more than 100 families, have outgrown the home's nearly 1,000 square feet and now want to relocate east to an Evergreen Valley neighborhood — a proposed

See TEMPLE, page 10



Slow snow going up Quimby Rd. in Evergreen. 4-wheel drive needed to get up the road. Photo by Ismael Rodriguez

What do you know... snow in Evergreen!

A spectacular sight, especially for the younger set who have never seen snow

By Frank Shortt
Times staff writer

February 23rd dawned drizzly with fog on the eastern horizon. Then to everyone's surprise there was snow on the lower foothills. It hardly lasted until photos could be taken before sunshine melted what remained.

February 24th was another story when on the previous night, thunder rumbled on the hills and intermittent rain fell in the valley. In the morning, there was a spectacular sight to residents of the Evergreen Valley.

Many Evergreen residents began snapping photos at the snow as it drifted nearly down to the valley floor in some areas. Unlike the sprinkling on the 23rd, the snow on the foothills remained as dark clouds rolled in from the Northwest.

Meteorologists had predicted at least a foot of snow on Mt. Hamilton where Lick Observatory looms as a beacon to

the San Jose area. Little did they know that snow would reach the lower elevations for the delight of residents of the Santa Clara Valley!

Rain, and especially snow, is something new to the younger set in Evergreen. Some children 10 years old and younger had never seen snow, and not too much rain!

Unfortunately, rainfall totals in Evergreen for the past few years have been well below normal causing water rationing in some areas.

California has been suffering a severe drought the past few years. Reservoirs have been at their lowest levels while percolation ponds have been coated with powder. It is noticeable that the rainfall this winter has exceeded expectations of most Meteorologists.

But, to see snow at these lower levels is a rare sight indeed! Mt. Hamilton had its share of visitors the weekend of the 24th through the 26th.

Remember that driving in snow conditions, when one is not used to it, can be very hazardous!

See more photos, page 13

12th Annual *Holla Mohalla* Festival of Strength and Courage slated for Sunday, March 19 in Evergreen

American Sikhs invite the community for complimentary tasty food and fun activities at the Gurdwara

All people of all beliefs are invited to join as one in celebrating life and the spirit of strength and courage

By Kevin Larsen
Times Media staff writer

Holla Mohalla, the largest community event in Evergreen, is a festival of strength and courage and is back after a two-year hiatus.

The gathering will take place outside on the beautiful Gurdwara Sikh Temple grounds and Community Center Sunday, March 19th from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m.

In a gesture of friendship and camaraderie, the annual historical festival welcomes everyone, young and old, to the large outside field next to the Gurdwara. Visitors may also walk the grounds for this site, nestled in the Evergreen hills with its beautiful architecture, revered by people from around the world.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors and park below and walk up, or simply take the free shuttle from Evergreen Valley High School or Carolyn Clark Elementary school.



Visitors may also walk the grounds nestled in the Evergreen hills with its beautiful architecture, revered by people from around the world.

History of the event

More than 300 years ago in the country of India, the revered 10th Guru of the Sikh religion, Guru Gobind Singh Ji decided to create a new festival which would promote strength and courage. Also, beautiful words of poetry combined with traditional music were included with the court poet Bhai Nand Lal.

The festival continued year after year worldwide and was welcomed to

Evergreen Valley over a decade ago at the Gurdwara on the Hill, the largest Sikh Gurdwara (Religious Temple and Community Center) in the United States.

Located all the way up Quimby Road in the Evergreen foothills, this is a day where all people of all cultures and religions are invited as guests of the American Sikhs of the San Jose Gurdwara.

The Sikhs do not attempt to convert (proselytize) and instead welcome all
See HOLLA MOHALLA, page 10

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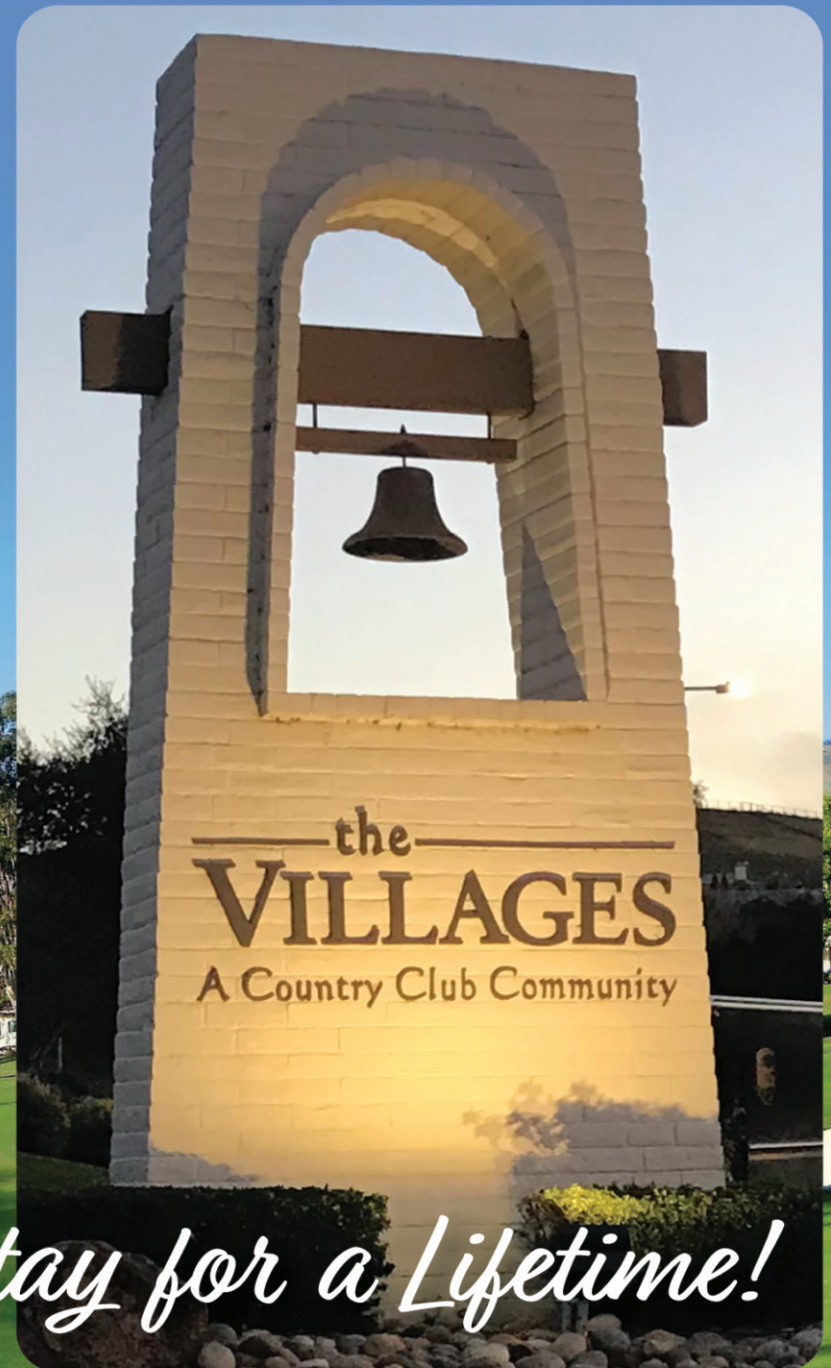
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NOTEBOOK

Assistance League San Jose celebrates 40 years of transforming lives and serving our community

As a part of the 40th anniversary celebration, the annual “Lunch with the Authors” is taking place on March 30 at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, 20 Cherry Blossom Lane, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Authors participating this year are Alka Joshi (The Secret Keeper of Jaipur), Lisa Napoli (Susan, Linda, Nina & Cookie) as well as Bradley Owens (How I Met You), Deborah Goodrich Royce (Reef Road) and Nancy Churnin (A Queen to the Rescue). Guests will be able to buy books for signing by the authors.

Literacy has been a consistent focus of the Assistance League of San Jose since its founding in 1983. For nearly twenty years, members have volunteered to read monthly to children in ten San Jose schools. During the pandemic when volunteers were not allowed in the classrooms, the chapter pivoted to giving books to students monthly.

While students and teachers are thrilled to have the volunteers back in person, the new tradition of giving children books of their own continues. The Readers Are Leaders program is possible through



Author Alka Joshi

generous grants from the George and Jeanette Stuart Trust, the Safeway Foundation, Intero Foundation and other donors.

Additional chapter activities include partnering with the CityTeam, Family Supportive Housing, the Parisi House on the Hill shelters, the SEE program that tests preschool children for vision problems, and OSB which provides uniforms for low-income students at 39 San Jose elementary schools.

For reservations, and more information, visit alsj.org; or email Rocki Kramer rockikramer1@gmail.com

Tiffany Vu and Kevin Yang of Evergreen named to Rochester Institute of Tech Dean's List

Evergreen Valley residents **Tiffany Vu**, 3D digital design major, and **Kevin Yang**, computer engineering technology major, have been named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.4.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,700 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S. The cooperative education program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation.

Valley Currents

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



Pictured is the proposed project rendering. The project site is located at 751 South Bascom Avenue in San Jose. The proposed project is comprised of a 77 bed Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Facility/Behavioral Health Services Center (BHSC), an underground pedestrian tunnel connection to an existing tunnel system that goes from the Receiving and Support Center (RSC) to the main hospital, a skybridge connection to the Main Hospital Emergency Department, and a new 714 car Parking Structure. The projected occupancy date is October 2024.

Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Facility/Behavioral Health Services Center (BHSC) begins construction

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

In December of 2014, at a holiday party, Sigrid Pinsky asked County Supervisor Joe Simitian a simple and direct question: “Why aren’t there any inpatient hospital beds for kids and teens in mental health crisis in Santa Clara County?”

Simitian remembers, “I thought, that can’t be right; I went back to the office and discovered it was absolutely right – and undeniably wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong.” Now, more than eight years later, after a lot of hard work and what Simitian calls “painful” delays, construction is about to begin. “Finally,” said Simitian, “It’s really going to happen.”

Santa Clara County’s inpatient psychiatric hospital for children and teenagers – part of a sparkling new center for behavioral health services – began construction late last month with a ceremonial groundbreaking for a state-of-the-art facility. Demolition, excavation and grading of the site began last fall. As Simitian noted, “Before we could put something up, we had to knock something down.”

The three-story Adolescent Psychiatric Facility and Behavioral Health Services Center – linked to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (VMC) – will provide inpatient hospital care as well as emergency and outpatient psychiatric services for children, adolescents, and adults.

This 207,000 square-foot facility will feature divided age-appropriate amenities, including indoor and outdoor therapeutic environments, that allow for a continuum of care in a single setting.

‘They can safely begin to heal close to home’

“This couldn’t be more welcome news,” said Simitian, who serves as Chair of the County’s Health and Hospital Committee, and who proposed the project in June 2015, less than six months after hearing from Pinsky, his District Five constituent. “This is the kind of acute care facility we’ve long needed in Santa Clara County for young people in crisis – a sanctuary where they can safely begin to heal, close to home.”

Pinsky, who now serves on the County’s Behavioral Health Board, observed, “Youth mental health needs were critical and mostly unmet in 2014 when I talked to Joe about the lack of beds in our County. The mental health crisis is worse now. Joe got right to work. Because of the Board’s leadership and steadfast efforts on this deeply important issue, Santa Clara County will have a state-of-the-art facility. It is tremendously satisfying that

our County will soon be able to properly serve the hundreds of youths struggling with mental health challenges, and make the stressful situation more manageable for their families. I am absolutely delighted that we have started construction.”

Filling the behavioral health treatment gap

Simitian says he led the effort to add inpatient care to youth-focused mental health services in the County after “considerable due diligence.” Simitian was alarmed to learn that each year several hundred young people were transferred from emergency rooms in the County to hospitals as far as 100 miles away for acute psychiatric care.

‘Goes to the heart of community health and wellness’

“This is about troubled teens at risk of doing damage to themselves or others. This is about families struggling through the hardest thing they’ll ever face, and being torn apart at precisely the time they need to be together,” said Simitian. “This goes to the heart of community health and wellness.”

In 2018, at Simitian’s request, the Board unanimously approved development of the only County-run acute inpatient psychiatric facility for children and adolescents – one that would also provide a much-needed physical upgrade for adult behavioral health services that were scattered in aging buildings on the medical center campus.

Designing an Environment for Healing

The new facility – wrapped in terracotta tiles and glass, with tree-lined terraces for privacy and to bring “the outdoors inside” – will also replace the 50-year-old Don Lowe Pavilion, which has housed adult Emergency Psychiatric Services and Mental Health Urgent Care. Designed by HGA and Cunningham Group architects, and located on the west side of the VMC campus, design features include:

- Adolescent inpatient care (on the third floor) with 21 beds for patients ages 13 to 17 years, and an outdoor terrace. Children 12 years and younger have a separate unit with 14 beds and their own outdoor space.
- Adult inpatient units (on the second level) with 42 beds and two tree-screened outdoor terraces.
- Emergency Psychiatric Services (EPS) on the ground level, with separate secured ambulance entry bays and treatment spaces for minors and adults. This level will also house: a shared pharmacy; divided outpatient urgent care for minors and adults; separate outdoor spaces for

See FACILITY, page 8

EvergreenTimes

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Times **Feature**

Californians fear A.I. could take their jobs

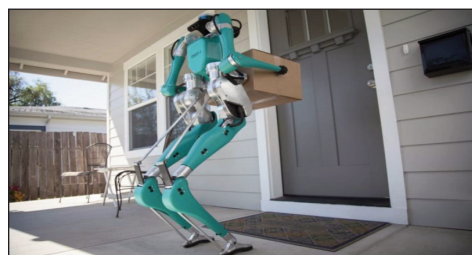
Workers in technology industry are most concerned

A recent survey of 3,000 employees across the United States has shed light on the extent to which California workers are concerned about the growth of artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on their job security.

The research, carried out by FreelanceWritingJobs.com, reveals that nearly half of (45%) Californians are worried about the possibility of A.I. making their professions redundant.

When analyzed by state, the survey found that workers in New Hampshire are the most concerned about AI's impact on their jobs, with 71% of respondents indicating their concern. Conversely, the state with the least concern was Nebraska, where only 17% of respondents expressed worry about AI's impact on their job security. This disparity may be due to the fact that Nebraska is a traditional farming state, and agriculture has yet to be significantly impacted by AI*.

The results of the survey also broke down workers' concerns by industry. Surprisingly, workers in the technology industry were the most concerned, with 64% of respondents indicating their worry. This paradox can be explained by the very nature of the tech industry itself. Workers in tech are often highly knowledgeable about the latest advancements in AI and understand the potential for automation to take over many tasks that were previously performed by humans. This can lead to a heightened sense of



vulnerability and uncertainty about their own job security. Moreover, the pace of technological change in the tech sector is faster than in other industries, and the introduction of AI systems has already resulted in the automation of many jobs in areas such as customer service and data analysis. This has only added to the anxieties of tech workers who see the writing on the wall and fear for their own futures.

In the hospitality industry, 59% of workers expressed concern about AI's impact on their jobs. Healthcare workers were not far behind, with 44% indicating their worry. In the legal industry, 52% of workers expressed concern, while in retail and tourism, 43% of respondents expressed worry.

The finance industry saw 42% of workers expressing concern, while 38% of workers in the real estate industry indicated their worry about AI's impact on their jobs. IT workers were also concerned, with 52% indicating their worry, as were those in education (44%) and engineering (44%). In the media industry, 52% of journalists expressed concern, while 41% of engineers indicated their worry.

Lastly, the results of the survey also showed that 36% of workers admit to using AI technology in their day-to-day jobs to make their work easier.

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Facility

Continued from page 4

minors and adults walled for privacy and security; an outdoor courtyard for staff respite. A light-filled main lobby and atrium entrance facing Middle Drive.

• A rooftop basketball court, part of a walled and mesh-covered outdoor recreation space.

All of the services will share resources such as professional staff, support staff, and storage. A skyway linked to VMC's Emergency Department will allow patients who have co-occurring medical issues to be treated on-site. An underground tunnel connects the facility with VMC's Receiving and Support Center, allowing for easy transport of prepared meals and supplies.

The current schedule calls for the project to be completed and open to patients in late 2025.

Forging a Solution for Santa Clara County Kids in Crisis

When Simitian began the process of bringing inpatient psychiatric care for children and adolescents to the County back in 2015, he did so by reaching out to behavioral health staff, local hospitals and mental health agencies, school districts, and parent advocates to assess needs and obstacles.

When youth are diagnosed as being a danger to themselves or others, they are placed on a "5150" – an involuntary 72-hour hold – and transferred to the nearest inpatient facility.

With hospital beds in San Mateo, Alameda, and San Francisco counties in short supply, some families are referred to facilities in Vallejo, Concord, Santa Rosa, or Sacramento. Because of liability and safety protocols, parents are often not allowed to drive their children, which can mean hours in an ER waiting for an available bed, and potentially paying thousands of dollars for ambulance transport.

"Way too many of our kids are being hospitalized for psychiatric emergencies outside the County. Separating these kids from their families at one of the toughest times in their lives, that's just hell on them," Simitian said. "I'm also worried that the specter of long-distance treatment could deter kids and families from seeking the help they need in the first place."

Currently the County contracts with San Jose Behavioral Health to serve a limited number of teens ages 14 to 17 years. "It's far from what is needed to meet the demand and doesn't offer anything for younger kids" said Simitian, noting also that the psychiatric facility is in South San Jose, "far removed from significant portions of the County."

The VMC site has the added benefit of being part of a larger county-owned health and hospital complex, "with all the medical resources that provides," Simitian added. "It's better therapeutically for these kids to be close to their community when they're in crisis – close to their family, their friends, and their own local mental health providers."

A Shared Responsibility

The facility's psychiatric services for teens and children will have a collaborative foundation, utilizing the breadth of community expertise to provide a comprehensive safety net, including preventive, emergency, acute, transitional, and long-term mental health services for youth.

"I see this as a shared responsibility, an approach that captures the talent and resources of healthcare providers throughout the county," said Simitian. "Whether a family is com-

mercially insured, paying out-of-pocket, relying on Medi-Cal, or wholly uninsured, I want to be sure there's a place for their kids when and where they need it most."

Key health partners include Stanford Medicine Children's Health, Kaiser Permanente, Pacific Clinics, and El Camino Health, which has provided inpatient adult psychiatric services for many years, as well as ASPIRE (After School Program Interventions and Resiliency Education), a highly regarded outpatient education program for youth from middle school to 25 years of age.

It is anticipated that the child/adolescent unit will receive referrals from these local health care providers and others, as appropriate, due to the lack of available community resources and



More than eight years after Simitian was asked about a potential facility, after a lot of hard work and what Simitian calls "painful" delays, construction is about to begin. "Finally," said Simitian, "It's really going to happen."

high need for these services.

"This is an important step forward in providing the full continuum of mental health care, closer to home, for local children and teens," said Sherri Sager, Senior Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer at Stanford Medicine Children's Health.

Centralized Care with a Network of Support

The County plans to work closely with community-based partners on services to ensure full family involvement, rapid stabilization, and transition home with support, as well as on expanding and developing programs for kids to prevent additional hospital stays.

"That's one of the clear advantages of the County operating a centralized facility designed purposefully to support behavioral health," said Paul Lorenz, Chief Executive Officer at VMC. "We're particularly gratified to be offering a spectrum of much-needed care for children and adolescents."

"A collaborative approach will enable us to address acute mental health needs for youths by delivering inpatient care, and to reduce the number of patients who reach the point of requiring hospitalization by strengthening early intervention and outpatient services," Lorenz added. "When a child is ready for discharge, we will be able to work in tandem with Behavioral Health Services on case management and transition to a community-based setting, involving a patient's family every step of the way."

Simitian noted that a 35-bed inpatient facility for children and adolescents has the potential to serve "hundreds and hundreds of families" annually, given that the typical patient stay in such a facility is just over six days.

"The need was clear. The partnerships were there. This was a solvable problem. But somebody had to take the lead. I'm proud that our County stepped up in this way. I'm delighted that construction is finally under way," Simitian said. "But truly, given the need, we can't get it done too soon."

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Holla Mohalla

Continued from page 1

people of all beliefs to join as one in celebrating life and the spirit of strength and courage in living it! They believe everyone is very special and that we are all equal; men and women. The Sikhs work with all churches and all people in the community and world-wide.

This festival is a time of jubilation. It highlights the joy of celebrating one's physical strength and too honors the mind with presentation of beautiful music combined with important and meaningful poetry as well as many other facets which help all people to reflect upon the importance of developing strength in one's inner self.

Some residents like to arrive early to the festival, around 10 a.m., when the parking is light and easy to navigate. In the morning one can sample the food first and be one first in line to purchase some items of interest from many vendor booths. These booths offer interesting items from all over the world. As one visitor remarked at the last event, "Rather than traveling to India, we are blessed that we can experience the culture in our own backyard!"

Complimentary food

The complementary items are bestowed with hearty smiles too and include fresh squeezed mouthwatering cane juice, husked ready to serve flame roasted corn on the cob, secret family recipes of tasty Indian foods, numerous side dishes, smooth delicious thick ice cream and much more; and you are welcome to come back for seconds if you wish.

In times of history as well as today, the Sikhs are looked upon as protectors of society. For example, there's a story of a man who wished to ensure his daughter would be provided safe passage on a long train ride. The tale is told that the father got on the train a bit early to ask a turbaned Sikh to share the same seating compartment of his daughter in order to ensure her safety along the way. The long-held tradition and honor of protecting others is paramount in the Sikh religious beliefs. This is the spirit of the Sikhs and it is deeply tied into their religious belief of their holy book (known as the Sri Guru Granth Sahib).

Free pony rides

Why not saddle up your child or grandchild to ride a clippity-clop pony so the cowgirl or cowboy can experience the old fashioned way of horse transport travel (Shetland ponies). You will be making many good wholesome memories for the little ones!

Your sports team is encouraged to sign up for a challenge

If you have a sports team and wish to challenge in sports such as basketball, volleyball or other sports, sign up a week in advance by going to the Gurdwara website. Also, remember, your children and elders too are encouraged to run races the day of the festival, so get in shape!

You'll see children's races (so be sure to have your kids dress and wear tennis shoes if they want to participate in runs) and adult challenges too. The philosophy is for everyone to find ways to develop and be proud of each person's individual strength of mind and body. There will also be volleyball tournaments, basketball, gatka martial arts demonstrations, races, and much more. Children are known to revel in the running races and it's a joy for everyone to watch! Prizes are awarded, but the best prize of all is for one to feel good about themselves with healthy mind, body and spirit.

Message from the President of the Sikh Gurdwara

"With great dedication, devotion and planning, we are hosting one of the largest family festivals in all of California. Shuttle services will be offered free of charge if you wish to park your car at Evergreen High School or Carolyn Clark Elementary School. Another option, which is great fun, is for you to get some exercise by parking away from the Gurdwara on the hill and walk up to enjoy the festivities. So, why not put the Sunday, March 19 event on your calendar and enjoy the activities and refreshments for you will be our guest. Come celebrate the Holla Mohalla Festival of Strength and Courage and enjoy the beautiful day with us!" — Bob Dhillon.

"Our hope is one day this could be thought of as the Evergreen Festival where people will truly feel like that this field day of events truly belongs to them," said Kirpal Atwal, a member of the Gurdwara leadership group. "It is truly a special day where all the children play with each other, and all people can come together to be proud of 'their' festival. There is a popular children's playground on the Gurdwara land by the Langar (kitchen) which has a fun spin wheel kids love to try. It is open year-round for the entire community to enjoy with their little ones."

Editor's note: The best way to enjoy the festival is to park at Evergreen Valley High School or Carolyn Clark Elementary School which will have shuttles going and coming all day starting at 10 a.m. The event is free and food is complimentary. All age groups are encouraged to watch the sporting events and participate. Also, if one wishes to donate or volunteer to help with all the things the Sikhs do in the community during the year, information is available on their website.

For more information visit: www.sanjosegurdwara.org or contact Kirpal Atwal at (408) 835-7712. Stay connected and download the San Jose Gurdwara App.

Temple

Continued from page 1

development that would offer the first-ever large-scale Buddhist temple in the Bay Area.

The architecture of the new landmark temple would be similar in design to holy sites located in Southeast Asia and be constructed at 2740 Ruby Avenue with two buildings totaling nearly 14,000 square feet.

The proposed Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom temple on 2740 Ruby Ave. would greatly expand the community's footprint at a cost of nearly \$25 million. The project, if approved, would be financed through a nonprofit set up by Lyna Lam, wife of local tech billionaire Chris Larsen.

The temple project hit some roadblocks in 2018 when neighbors spoke out in opposition due to concerns about the size of the temple and its potential traffic impacts.

"The project doesn't fit in with the character of the neighborhood," said a nearby neighbor. "I'm worried about noise and traffic which could impact our peaceful surroundings with a site that could host up to 300 people in one day."

Structures include a 65-foot spire

Proposed structures for the property include a temple sanctuary and an adjoining community center with a 65-foot spire and a golden conical-shaped monument, known as a caet-di in the Khmer language. The buildings' interior would include a community hall, library and living space for eight monks.

On February 22, San Jose's Planning Commission approved the new temple in an 8-1 vote, with member Jorge A. Garcia voting against the project.

The temple project will go before the City Council on March 28 starting at 6 p.m.

If approved, groundbreaking ceremonies are slated sometime this summer.

Times **Feature**

Dirtiest, cleanest cities in U.S. revealed with new survey

Rats, mold, pollution, and trash plague many U.S. cities big and small — but the problem is worse in some than in others.

LawnStarter ranked 2023's Dirtiest Cities in America following one of the trashiest times of the year, the winter holiday season.

The website compared over 150 of the biggest U.S. cities across four categories, including pollution, living conditions, infrastructure, and consumer satisfaction.

See which cities are due for a deep clean — and which cities sparkle — below, followed by some highlights and lowlights from our report. (Check out where your city ranks and some surprising findings.)

The Good, the Bad, and the Dirty:

Houston, We Have a Problem: Space City lands at the top of our ranking's trash heap as America's Dirtiest City and the third most polluted. In fact, a recent study found that the city's petrochemical facilities severely violate EPA safety guidelines.

The data supports those findings: Houston ranks third worst in greenhouse gas emissions from large industrial facilities. The city has the biggest cockroach problem, too, according to Census.

Salt Life = the Good Life? "Coastal" doesn't necessarily equate with "clean," but cities close to water, particularly in California, Virginia, and North Carolina, dominate the 10 cleanest spots in the ranking.

For the second consecutive year, Virginia Beach, Virginia, outshines all other cities in our ranking. Farther inland cities like Fremont, California (No. 148), and Winston-Salem, North Carolina (No. 146) also sparkled. These cities all boast low pollution levels and good living conditions.

All Choked Up: Los Angeles (15th dirtiest) is often characterized as the poster child of pollution. However, the Inland Empire region east of LA has consistently ranked worst for air quality in the nation.

This trend bears out in our own study. The biggest cities making up Inland Empire, such as San Bernardino, Riverside, and Ontario, all tied for the poorest median air quality.

The full ranking and analysis are available here: <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/dirtiest-cities-in-united-states>

Dirtiest Cities in America

Rank/City

- 1 Houston, TX
- 2 Newark, NJ
- 3 San Bernardino, CA
- 4 Detroit, MI
- 5 Jersey City, NJ
- 6 Bakersfield, CA
- 7 San Antonio, TX
- 8 Fresno, CA
- 9 Oklahoma City, OK
- 10 Yonkers, NY

Cleanest Cities in America

Rank/City

- 1 Virginia Beach, VA
- 2 Sunnyvale, CA
- 3 Norfolk, VA
- 4 Des Moines, IA
- 5 Fremont, CA
- 6 Buffalo, NY
- 7 Winston-Salem, NC
- 8 Huntsville, AL
- 9 Greensboro, NC
- 10 Roseville, CA



PHOTO OP Here we go down the Bunny Trail!

The Easter Bunny is back at Eastridge Center from March 25 – April 8. Hop on over to Center Court to take your picture with the bunny! Hate the wait? Reserve online at EastridgeCenter.com.



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QUESTIONS? Reach out to sjys@sjys.org.

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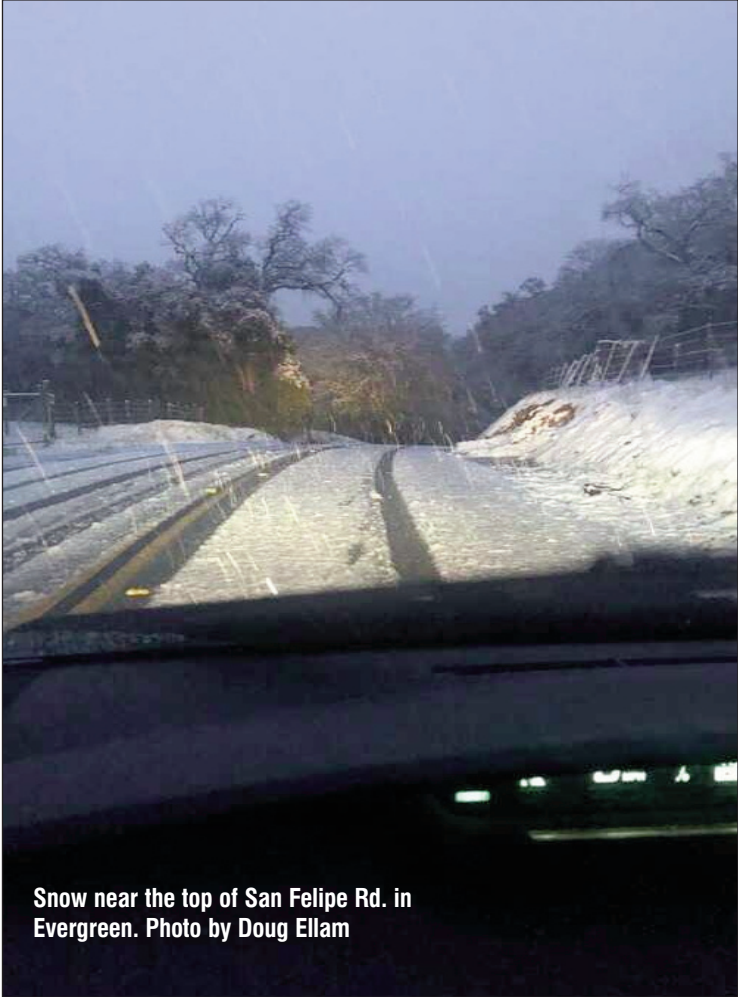
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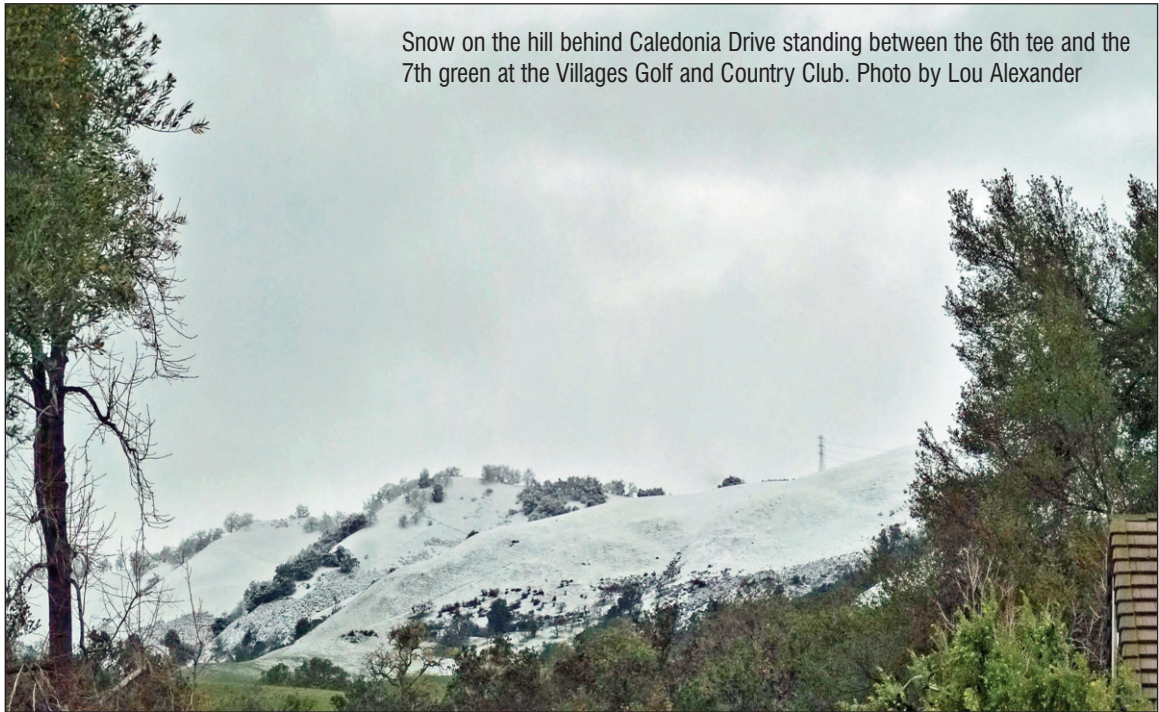


Times **Community**

Snow in Evergreen



Snow near the top of San Felipe Rd. in Evergreen. Photo by Doug Ellam



Snow on the hill behind Caledonia Drive standing between the 6th tee and the 7th green at the Villages Golf and Country Club. Photo by Lou Alexander



Snow on Evergreen Foothills by Frank Shortt



The Evergreen foothills: Photo by Frank Langben

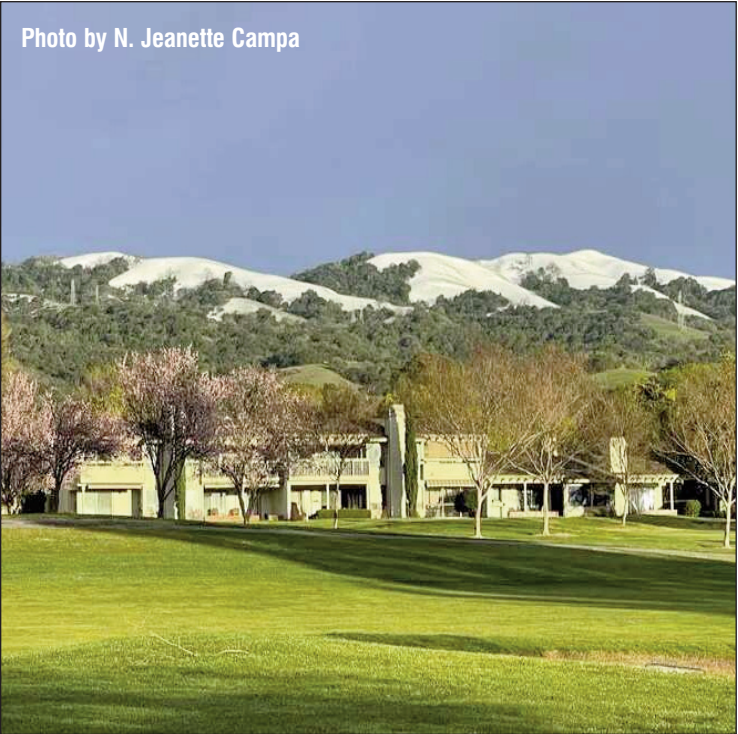


Photo by N. Jeanette Campa



Yodel-Ay-EE-Ooo - Snow in the Evergreen Alps. Photo by Wesley Lee

I N F O C U S

Evergreen residents Curtis and Ly earn Dean's List for Fall 2022 Semester from Emerson College

William Curtis and Lia Ly of Evergreen Valley have been named to Emerson College Dean's List for the Fall 2022 Semester.

Curtis is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2025 and received the Eagle Scout award in 2020.

Lia Ly is majoring in Writing, Lit & Publishing and is a member of the Class of 2024.

The requirement to make Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries.

Shea Cooke of Evergreen named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

Shea Cooke of Evergreen Valley was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC).

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

UMGC offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs, as well as certificates in more than 125 fully online, hybrid and face-to-face programs and specializations. UMGC offers classes to military service personnel and their families at more than 180 locations in more than 20 countries. More than half of the university's students are active-duty military personnel, their families, members of the National Guard and veterans.

Times Autos

2023 Kia EV6 challenges strong rivals

By Sean Eastwood

The 2023 Kia EV6 GT is challenging its rivals with its impressive design.

The EV6 GT's front and rear electric motors and adaptive suspension defines performance with impressive acceleration of 0-to-60 miles per hour in 3.4 seconds and is the lineup's most expensive offering.

For the EV tech junkies, the EV6 GT utilizes 60-kW front AC synchronous permanent-magnet electric motor and a 270-kW rear AC synchronous permanent-magnet electric motor for a combined 576 horsepower and 545 pound-feet of torque. Top speed is 161 miles per hour but more important is its quiet motors, without the common EV trait of an annoying whine noise.

The EV6 GT is stylish, sharp-angled, yet contoured exterior is matched with a spacious, well-designed interior. There are no optional packages available, as the car's generous equipment list is standard, such as a 12.3-inch dual panoramic display w/navigation, Kia Connect and SiriusXM Satellite Radio, augmented-reality head-up display, flush door handles and smart key w/push button start and remote start, front and rear parking sensors, blind-spot detection, rear parking collision avoidance and lane-keeping and following assistance technology.



The EV6 GT is equipped with Z-rated Good-year Eagle F1 tires on 21-inch alloy wheels to enhance grip. A limited-slip rear differential controls the EV6 GT's electric motors and drivetrain.

Competition in the EV hatchback segment includes: The Hyundai Ioniq 5, Mustang Mach E, Nissan Ariya, Volkswagen ID.4 and Tesla Model Y.



The 2023 Kia EV6 GT is definitely worth checking out the next time you pass a Kia dealership.

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Friday 4:00pm-4:50pm

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8 sessions: \$140
12 sessions: \$180

BEST Balance

(6155 Almaden Expressway)
Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs
11:30am-12:15pm

\$25 per session

8 sessions 2x week: \$170
12 sessions 3x week: \$220

Strength & Conditioning for Tennis & Pickleball

1 session: \$40
8 sessions (2x/week): \$300
12 sessions (2x/week): \$420

Strength Training for Runners

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8 sessions (2x/week): \$300
12 sessions (2x/week): \$420



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Times Feature

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Machine Learning Bias

By Shubhi Asthana

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:

Machine Learning Bias

Machine learning bias, also known as AI bias, is a phenomenon that occurs when an algo-

rithm produces results that are systematically prejudiced due to erroneous assumptions in the machine learning process. Algorithms can have built-in biases because they are created by individuals who have conscious or unconscious preferences that may go undiscovered until the algorithms are used, and potentially amplified, publicly.

Machine Learning bias reflects problems related to the gathering or usage of data, where systems draw improper conclusions about data sets. This is often due to human intervention or the researchers’ lack of cognitive assessment. Types of cognitive bias that can be inadvertently applied to algorithms are stereotyping, bandwagon effects, confirmation bias, priming and selective per-

ception. Machine learning depends on the quality, objectivity, and size of learning data sets. Eliminating harmful biases is essential because machine learning is often applied to decisions with business implications, such as which individuals to approve for a loan and which applicants to offer a job interview, and personal implications, such as diagnostics in medical environments. One example of machine learning bias was observed in the initial rollout of Google’s facial recognition feature as users of varying race were often incorrectly tagged as inhuman or ignored completely. So how can we avoid machine learning bias? Organizations should check the data being

used to train machine-learning models for comprehensiveness and bias. The data should be representative of different races, genders, backgrounds, and cultures who could be adversely affected. Data scientists developing the algorithms should shape data samples in a way that minimizes bias and decision-makers should evaluate when it is appropriate, or inappropriate, to apply machine learning technology. About the Author 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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PHOTO OP

Foster youth gets 5 more years of support

FIVE MORE YEARS - Foster youth could get an additional five years of county support under a newly-introduced state bill.

Senate Bill 9, introduced by state Sen. Dave Cortese in December, would raise the age limit of young adults who are terming out of the foster care system from age 21 to 26. While the proposed five-year extension is helpful, advocates said foster youth also need long-term housing and career support to succeed.

The bill encourages counties to opt into expanding services to age 26. Cortese said

counties can opt-out if they have sufficient resources for foster adults between the ages of 22 and 26, or their foster adult population is small. Funding would come from the state to support the expansion of services through age 26, such as staffing for social services.

The current system supports this demographic until age 21 providing funds that cover basic needs such as food and health care. These young adults are also required to be working toward an educational degree or employment to remain in the system until age 21.



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Times **Community News**

San Jose City College student **Elton Bangu** is pictured in this file photo.

Rodríguez: Enrollment is rebounding at San Jose community colleges

By Roul Rodríguez

It is no secret that California Community Colleges experienced a significant decline in enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are numerous reasons for this and just as many different ways the state's 116 community colleges are working to address the decline.

Community colleges play a vital role in our local and regional economies, and it's important that we rebuild the pipeline of highly qualified and well-trained workers coming from community colleges and entering our workforce.

At San Jose City College (SJCC) and Evergreen Valley College (EVC) we also saw significant declines in enrollment during the pandemic, but this spring our enrollment has rebounded. Our preliminary data indicate a large increase over last spring—the first semester to show a year-over-year increase since the start of the pandemic.

With leadership beginning with our Board of Trustees, regaining lost enrollment has been a point of emphasis throughout San Jose – Evergreen Community College District this academic year. We have invested significant time and energy into innovative recruitment and retention strategies that have clearly had an impact.

Among the successful strategies was a free tuition program that provided free tuition and zero fees to qualifying students enrolled in at least six units at EVC or SJCC. At EVC, students taking 15 or more units also received up to \$1,500 toward textbooks and course materials.

A statewide survey of students conducted last fall found that nearly one-third of prospective new students and previously enrolled students said they could not afford college. The free tuition program addresses the issue of affordability for many local students.

Enrollments in our district have increased across fields of study and among all racial and ethnic groups. About one-third of courses remain online in response to student feedback. We know from surveys that our students want options, so we have built our schedule with intention to make sure we are meeting the needs of our entire community.

While the sizeable enrollment increases we are seeing locally this spring may be outliers, many community colleges across the state and nation are also seeing their

enrollment go up—or at least begin to flatten out—this spring.

Despite these increases, however, there are some who feel that colleges have not done enough to regain lost enrollments. In fact, during a recent state budget briefing call with the California Department of Finance (DOF), a DOF staff member indicated that they had heard anecdotally that some college presidents had not been focused on improving enrollment.

This claim is blatantly false and patently absurd in a state where colleges are largely funded based on enrollment. I have had conversations with many community college executives from around the state and every one of them has indicated that increasing enrollment is one of their priorities. It is concerning that DOF staff would make such claims without providing any evidence to support them.

Understanding the importance of increasing community college enrollment, Gov. Gavin Newsom in January included \$200 million in one-time funding for enrollment and recruitment in his budget proposal. Unfortunately, the governor called for that money to be repurposed from a fund for deferred maintenance and the purchase of instructional equipment.

Although well-intentioned, using deferred maintenance and instructional equipment funds to support enrollment strategies could have unintended consequences, particularly for the many districts that have already invested in planning for deferred maintenance projects or instructional equipment purchases.

In order to keep the statewide enrollment improvements on track while ensuring that students are learning in safe and modern facilities with state-of-the-art equipment, I urge the governor and legislature to work together to create a solution where enrollment growth can be prioritized, but not at the cost of jeopardizing deferred maintenance, instructional equipment, and other necessary items.

San José Spotlight columnist Raúl Rodríguez is Interim Chancellor of San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, which operates San Jose City College, Evergreen Valley College, the Milpitas College Extension and the Community College Center for Economic Mobility. He can be reached at chancellorsoffice@sjeccd.edu.

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Times Feature

The Philharmonic Orchestra performs Khachaturian, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Prokofiev March 18

Ticket purchases now available online

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its Spring Concert to be held on Saturday, March 18 at 2 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose.

The orchestra will open with Khachaturian's Masquerade Suite, with its beautiful, haunting, and suspenseful theme, and end with Prokofiev's enduringly popular Romeo and Juliet Suites. This concert will also feature two winners from the 2022 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony* Foundation. Outstanding young soloists, Ekaterina Kabenina, violinist, will perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto; and Kerry Xu, pianist, will perform Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Ekaterina (Kate) Kabenina is a junior at Campolindo High School. She has been playing the violin since she was 6 years old. This is her fifth season with the San Jose Youth Symphony, having been with the Concert Orchestra and then the Chamber Orchestra



Above: Ekaterina (Kate) Kabenina. Below: Kerry Xu



during her first two years before joining the Philharmonic Orchestra two seasons ago.

Kerry Xu is a junior at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont. He started playing the piano when he was 4 years old. He first joined the San Jose Youth Symphony 5 years ago and is currently in his 3rd season as a violinist with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the U.S. Founded over seven decades ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

The musicians of SJYS, all school-age youth, are chosen from more than 650 applicants through our annual auditions. The SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras, a Chamber orchestra, two flute choirs, two string ensembles, as well as winds, harp, saxophone, percussion, and jazz ensembles.

Note: "San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation and its use in all its variations is by license.



A strip of parcels on West San Carlos Street, known as "Antiques Row," may be demolished to make way for new apartments and an elderly care facility. *Photo by Sonya Herrera.*

End of an era: San Jose antique shops could disappear

By Sonya Herrera
San José Spotlight

Walking past the palm trees that line San Carlos Street, it's hard to miss the string of antique shops that have survived in an area once known as "Antiques Row."

These nostalgic shops may become a distant memory after the San Jose City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to annex a portion of West San Carlos Street. The decision could pave the way for new housing and the demolition of these and other long-time storefronts.

"I'm a supporter of building more housing, a supporter especially for senior housing," District 5 Councilmember Peter Ortiz said prior to the vote. "My only concern is the historical significance of these businesses and storefronts."

The council decided to annex a strip of parcels—1183, 1891, 1899 West San Carlos St. and 13 Boston Ave.—into city boundaries. Currently, these parcels are part of Santa Clara County, in the historic neighborhood known as Burbank.

"Not much has happened in this particular West San Carlos piece of area probably in the last 70 or 80 years," said Sal Caruso, an architect working on behalf of Oak Glen Ventures LLC, which has proposed the new development. "So it needs some help, needs some freshening up."

As part of the annexation, the council unanimously approved "pre-zoning" the property to allow for both commercial and residential uses. Oak Glen Ventures is proposing a new seven-story building with retail space on the

Continued, next page



New West

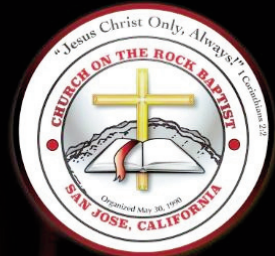
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Times **Arts***Continued from previous page*

first floor, an elderly care facility and 61 units of both affordable and market-rate housing, Caruso told San José Spotlight.

Many small businesses that occupy these parcels, including a number of antique stores, would be razed. Eduardo Massa, owner of Burbank Antiques at 1893 West San Carlos St., says the proposed development will effectively put him out of work. He can't afford to move his business to a new location.

"I don't have anything against the seniors; it's against the companies who unfortunately (are) running us out of our commercial street," Massa told San José Spotlight. "I will be forced to move out of here, and I won't have any place to go, because it's impossible to afford rents in the San Jose area anymore ... This is going to be the end of my business."

Craig Trimble, who owns Antiques Colony at 1881 West San Carlos St., agreed that while there is a great need for housing, he is disappointed that it seems to require the displacement of his and other small businesses.

There used to be more than a dozen antique stores along West San Carlos Street, Massa and Trimble said, but rising rents and a dwindling number of retail spaces have pushed many business owners out. And while new developments often do feature retail space on the first floor, it's unlikely to be affordable to mom-and-pop store owners, Trimble said.

"I just know that when a new developer brings in these big new buildings, they're going to need to make some money off of it," Trimble told San José Spotlight. "They're not going to rent out to mom and pops like us; they're going to get a tenant in there that's going to pay really good retail rents."

Ortiz described himself as "an antiquer" who's collected political memorabilia since he was a child. He said he supports new housing but wants to ensure the small businesses facing displacement have somewhere to go.

"I'm supportive of development... if the city could help these antique shops all relocate to another area," Ortiz said.

Mike Sodergren, a board member of the Preservation Action Council, said during Tuesday's meeting that new developments should avoid demolishing older buildings.

"Unfortunately, this is a missed opportunity to pursue the goals of an urban village ... It's part of a pattern of missed opportunities," Sodergren said. "There are existing businesses that are part of those buildings that will no longer have a place to work and provide unique services that are distinctive to San Jose."

San Jose Councilmember Dev Davis—whose district will include the parcels once annexed—said she's happy with the proposed development.

"I'm pleased that a developer is willing to invest in improvement along the West San Carlos Urban Village," Davis told San José Spotlight. "Luckily, there are many open commercial spaces available for relocation of the



Burbank Antiques owner **Eduardo Massa** features Asian china. Photo: Lorraine Gabbert.

antique shops."

Not a big-chain neighborhood

The developers of the proposed

apartment building are open to leasing a retail space to some of the small businesses there now, Caruso said.

"This is not a neighborhood for big-chain stuff. The better solution is the small owner businesses," Caruso said. "I don't represent the owners (of Oak Glen Ventures), but I can certainly say that I know that they've said that they'd love for the businesses to come into the new building. So, there is an open door to have that occur."

Following the annexation vote Tuesday, the council will need to approve the demolition of existing buildings and new construction. And before the demolition and construction are approved by council, the developer

must go before the city's planning commission for a recommendation. Ultimately, the final decision is in the hands of the councilmembers.

Though there's still time before the proposed development is fully approved, Massa is emotionally preparing himself for the loss of his business and his livelihood.

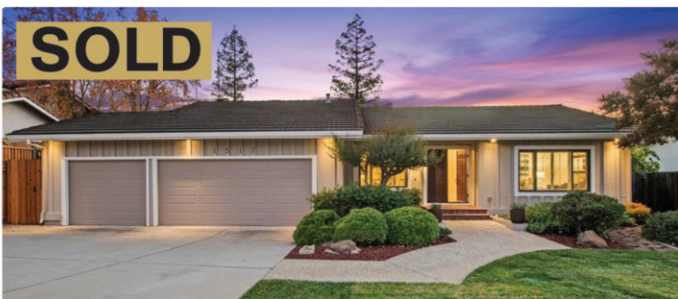
"Unfortunately, it's not a win-win situation for us," Massa said. "We are going to be eradicated from this area, and we do not have any place to go ... Unfortunately, I'm kind of bitter about it."

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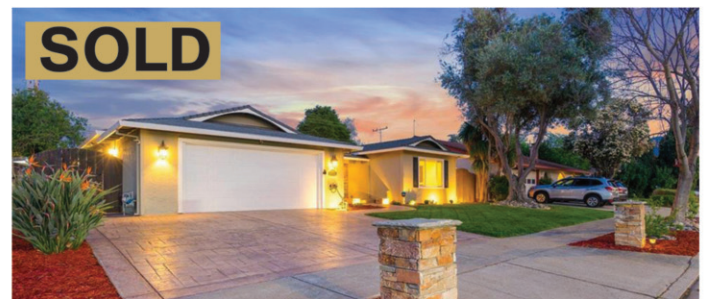
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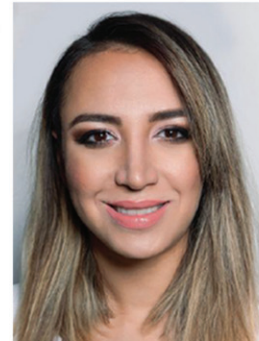
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tures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment. Our activities flow from our core values:

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 - Intentional Growth
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- Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

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Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion
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Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

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



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A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilataku" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

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



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11:00 AM
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11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade):
Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

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We invite you to become a part of our hospitable,

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

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www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star-Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
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St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
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For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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1199

NIKULINA COURT

This distinctive multi-level home is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac with spectacular panoramic views including the Mt. Hamilton range. Five covered porches/balconies, recessed lights throughout, 96 oversized double pane Low E coated windows. Remodeled kitchen has white Quartz slab counters and soft-close European style cabinets. Enormous primary bedroom oasis with access to a balcony with fabulous views. Atrium and bonus room. Massive but private backyard utilizes the natural landscape, mature oak trees and boulders of the land around the home. San Jose Unified School District: Williams Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.



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