

Valley Water Youth Commission seeks new members
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Big cities address issue
Mayors call for sustained state funding to address homelessness
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Philharmonic Orchestra to perform youth, family concert
June 3 - **PAGE 14**



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MAY 26 – JUNE 8, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 11



Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League holds annual events; Senior Recognition and Mother/Daughter Tea

NCL helps to encourage an environment of philanthropy and leadership

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League (NCL) recently held their annual Mother/Daughter Tea at Villa Ragusa in Campbell and their Senior Recognition event at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gilroy.

The annual NCL Mother/Daughter Tea highlighting the 6-year NCL experience for the 23 graduating seniors and their mothers was held on April 30. Both daughters and mothers were recognized for their dedication and contributions towards their chapter. The ceremony included a senior class receiving line and memory boards of the graduating seniors. A special teacup or mug was then presented to these young women, coupled with heartfelt speeches by their mothers.

The 6-year commitment that is given by these young ladies and their mothers stress a different dedicated focus that begins in 7th grade and ends with their senior year of high school. Each year the focus changes so a better understanding of the ways to make a difference are explored

See LEAGUE, page 7

District 10 Leadership Coalition conducts important second meeting

By Denelle Fedor
Times Media Writer

The D10 Leadership Coalition met on May 6 for their quarterly public meeting at the Almaden Community Center.

The group is mostly comprised of various representatives of neighborhood associations throughout District 10 – including Almaden and Blossom Valley and the Oakridge Mall area.

Dave Heindel, the Chairman of the D-10 group shared that this year marks the tenth anniversary of Leadership Coalition. The idea of the D10 Coalition started with former Councilmember Johnny Khamis who wanted to create a way for residents to come together and stay abreast of city and neighborhood issues. Former members who created the groundwork for the coalition 10 years ago include former D10 resident Dave



Anita Enander, Los Altos Councilmember, addressed the D10 Leadership Coalition regarding Senate Bills 9 and 10.

Fadness, Raylene Fedor, Rich Crowley, Marilyn Rogers and Craig Ash.

Councilmember Arjun Batra opened the meeting by saying, “Although I am a vegetarian, I have many meaty issues to share with

you today.”

Councilmember Batra shared the District 10 Fireworks show at Almaden Lake will be held this year recognizing Bob Vonderwerth, Vice President of the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Associa-

tion as the person who originally came up with the idea of having a fireworks show at Almaden Lake to celebrate July 4th. Bob created and managed the first show in 2014 surpassing more than 10,000 people in attendance.

The citywide Neighborhood Commission and Clean Energy Commission are being restructured. The new proposed commission plans will be brought to council in the fall.

Councilmember Batra spoke about overall safety for neighborhoods and the city with attention to slowing down cars. He is an advocate for speed cameras. Although red light cameras are legal in CA, speed cameras are not. There is currently statewide legislation that would make the cameras legal. If the legislation passes, the councilmember will work

See COALITION, page 21

Boy Scout gives back to Almaden Little League

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Since he was six years old, two major influences on Austin Le's life have been baseball and Boy Scouts. Now he is uniting them to serve the Almaden community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Austin Le is rebuilding home plate and the pitching area of two neglected bullpens (where pitchers warm up) at Almaden Little League junior's baseball field at Challenger School.

“When I played here a couple of years ago, I noticed they were in bad condition,” Austin Le said. “I took on this project to give back to my league.”

Austin Le, 16, hopes his efforts will inspire others to give back to the community and programs they've been involved with. His Eagle Scout project entails removing weeds, gravel and dirt, adding clay blocks underneath and packing fresh dirt on top. Landscaping and replacing the cement blocks of the retaining

wall are also required.

He estimates the work will take 3-4 working days: June 10, 11 and 17, 18. A fundraiser at Amato Pizzeria and a GoFundMe account raised about \$3,500 needed for materials. Any remaining funds will benefit the baseball league.

“We want to make sure the materials last a long time and don't erode again,” Austin Le said, adding he recruited Boy Scouts and members of Almaden Little League to help.

Austin Le said baseball and Boy Scouts are two of the best things that could happen to a young boy.

He said baseball is a way to connect with lots of different families and players. A sophomore at Valley Christian High School, Le currently plays baseball for the Valley Christian Warriors.



Boy Scout Austin Le is renovating Almaden Little League bullpens for his Eagle Scout project.

“There's an emphasis on teamwork and team dynamics,” Austin Le said. “I've grown as a baseball player and a human. I feel that a lot of people have done their part in making sure of both of those.”

He said three of his coaches, Nick Blozan, Zack Green and Cory Caouette, provided him with support. He said Blozan encouraged him to want to improve and Caouette has been a

See SCOUT, page 19

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NOTEBOOK



Big city mayors call for sustained state funding to address homelessness

'San Jose has 5,000 people sleeping on our streets each night,' states Mayor Mahan

By William Bellou
Publisher

Led by San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, mayors from California's 13 largest cities on Wednesday, May 17, held a press conference at the State Capitol to call for continued state investment to address the state's homelessness crisis.

The big city mayors advocated for permanent, on-going funding to address homelessness across the State.

Since 2018, the state of California has provided direct grants to local governments for homelessness including large cities, counties and continuums of care, such as San Diego's Regional Task Force on Homelessness.



The Big City Mayors shared details on the positive outcomes they have achieved with this funding and outlined what is needed to continue making progress in addressing encampments and ending unsheltered homelessness across the state.

'Housing-now' solutions needed
"San Jose has 5,000 people sleeping on our streets each night," said San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan. "We need to embrace urgent, scalable solutions like interim housing and safe parking sites that move our most vulnerable into safe, dignified shelter now – not 5 years from now. And with the Governor and legislature's help, we can implement these housing-now solutions faster to end the human suffering we see in our communities every single day."

Collectively, the big city mayors represent more than a quarter of California's 40 million residents.

California mayors participating in the news conference included: San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, chair of Big City Mayors; Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson, Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao, Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh, Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan.

Valley Currents

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

Councilmember Arjun Batra holds District 10 Town Hall meeting via Zoom

By Denelle Fedor
Times Media Writer

Councilmember Batra, representing Almaden Valley – District 10, shared various updates regarding citywide and District 10 specific issues during his Town Hall meeting via Zoom on May 4.

Batra has hit the ground running announcing setting up the new District 10 website – which includes a plethora of information including newsletters, budget process and events. Missing from the District 10 website are the land use issues within District 10. Residents are hopeful that land use issues will be added to the site within time in the spirit of transparency.

Street Resurfacing will begin on select streets in District 10 paid for from funds from Measure T. A list of streets that will be resurfaced is on the District 10 website at www.SJD10.com.

The City is moving forward with phase 1 of the Mineta San Jose Airport connector to the Diridon Station. Phase 1 includes gathering information regarding the overall proposal which will include operation and maintenance, build costs/time, and overall response times. The goal of the connector is having an on demand – time effective response time between the airport and the Diridon Station.

Batra noted that Google has paused its Downtown West proposed development from breaking ground in 2023. They are going to reassess their options and then see where they go from here. Losing the Google project would be a severe loss of jobs and housing for San Jose.

Councilmember Batra took questions from the public. Questions and follow up below.

Vasundhara T. shared she is concerned about speeding on Hampton Avenue in the Almaden Valley. Councilmember Batra shared that he is trying to get speeding cameras and adding paint to the street to make the street look narrow.

Samuel P. added to the concerns of speeding cars within the area of Castillero Middle School. Samuel attends Pioneer high school and shared that he feels road medians make drivers go slower.

Phil G. also shared his concerns regarding drivers speeding along Trinidad near the Almaden Country School.



Councilmember **Arjun Batra** meets with former Intel colleague and friend, **Gurme-har Bhatia**, following the town hall meeting.

Jason H. asked why the District 10 website link is not working on the City of San Jose website and about the 3-1-1 App. The City of San Jose relaunched for residents to report code enforcement issues.

Michele Dexter, Chief of Staff to District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra shared that the website sjd10.com needs to be approved through a new citywide process. The website can be reached directly but not through the City of San Jose site.

The 3-1-1 App was supposed to help residents report code enforcement issues directly. However, like when the App was introduced in 2018, it continues to not provide productive outcomes for residents. One of the complaints is that the App will send an email to the constituent that sent the complaint that the issue is closed when the issue has not been resolved. Residents would prefer to have updates while the issue is being worked on and a final email when the issue is completed.

Roland L. shared that the Measure A Bond from year 2000 included funding for the Airport connector to the Diridon Station. Roland would like to know why the City of San Jose has not used these funds for Phase I of the connector. Councilmember Batra shared that he will look into this and get back to Roland

and all residents.

The councilmember introduced his D10 staff (listed below). To contact the District 10 Office email at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910

Michele Dexter: Chief of Staff
Julia Asada: Executive Assistant
Shirley Cannon: Events Coordination & Neighborhood Relations

Tiffany Dang: Communications Director

Nooran Bayzaie: Council Policy Aide

Ammal Elhaddad: Policy Advisor

Gema Escorcia: Council Policy/Legislative Aide

The 2023-2024 City of San Jose Budget is underway. Councilmember Batra will bring forward his budget recommendations within the next month. The Council Budget Study Sessions were held May 10-15 which addressed Community and Economic Development, Public Safety, Neighborhood Services, Transportation & Aviation Services, Environmental & Utility Services, Strategic Support/Appointees, Capital Program Review, Focus Area Governance and Management Approach.

To contact the District 10 Office email at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.

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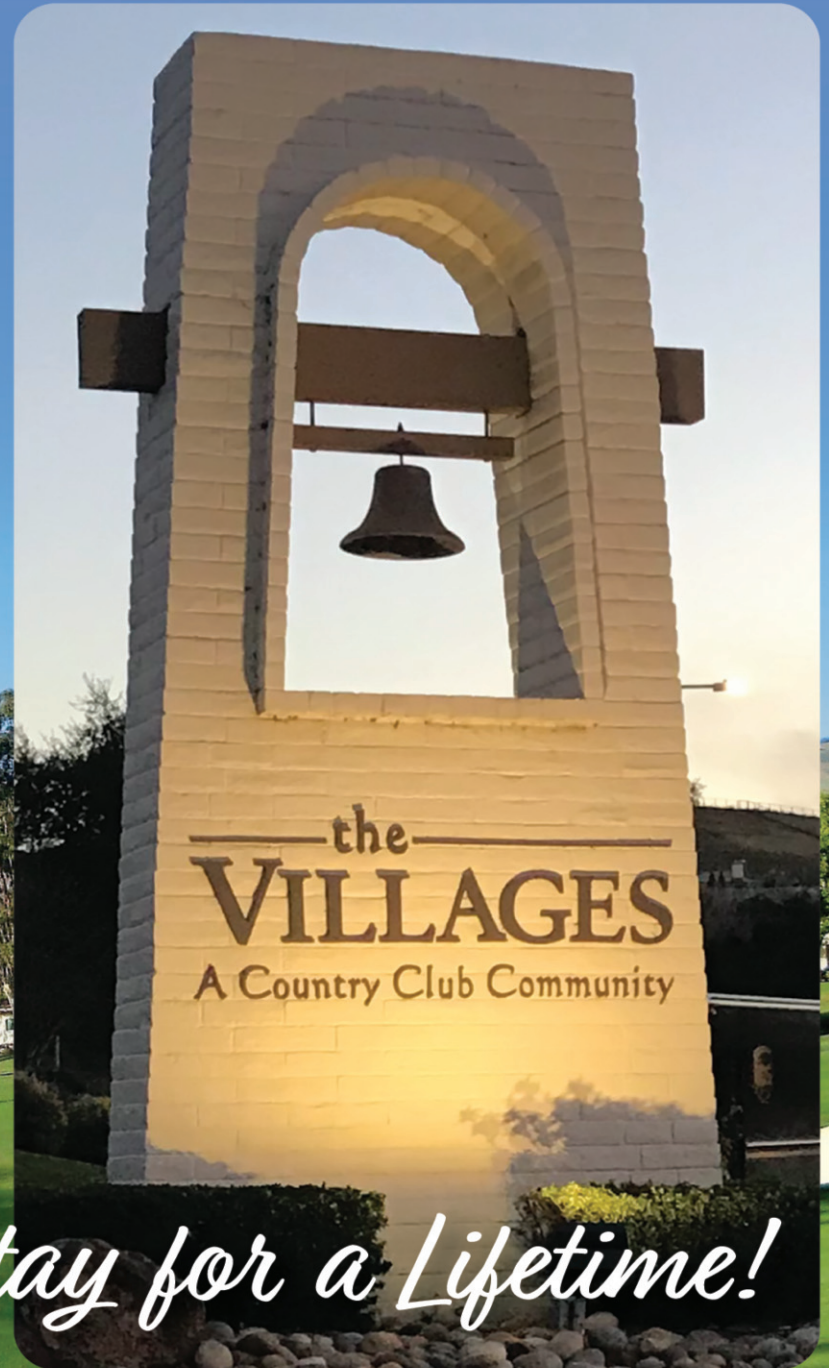
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Times **Community News**

League

Continued from page 1

and the importance of giving back is emphasized. Different philanthropic experiences include working to clean up the environment, helping families and children in need, feeding the hungry and homeless, and working with the elderly.

Unique opportunity

Being a part of NCL gives mothers and daughters a unique opportunity to strengthen their bond while growing together and improving their communities. It's the only national organization committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropy, leadership development, and cultural experiences.

By volunteering at organizations such as CityTeam's House of Grace, Second Harvest Food Bank, Lincoln Glen Manor, Almaden Community Center, Children's Discovery Museum, Sunday Friends, Billy DeFrank LGBTQ+ Community Center, and Animal Assisted Happiness, daughters and mothers of the class of 2023 have given a total of 7,190 hours in service to the local

community during their six years with NCL. Through their volunteering efforts, they have a better understanding of our local community and appreciate the importance of giving back to those in need.

Senior Recognition Night

A special tradition that graduating seniors are encouraged to participate in is Senior Recognition Night. On the evening of March 26 at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gilroy, family and friends joined together for a fun-filled evening to honor these talented and dedicated graduates. The program included presentations by the daughters describing their experiences with the different charity organizations throughout the years, coupled with video montages of each of their journeys. A dedicated dance between the graduates and their selected special person topped off the evening's celebration. The theme of this year's event was Adventure Awaits – a nod to the seniors' next chapter in their lives.

The senior class of 2023 has grown so much over these last six years. NCL has helped to encourage an environment of philanthropy, leadership, working together as community, and fostering the forever bond of a mother and daughter.

Enjoy a fun-filled day promoting literacy

Kristi Yamaguchi's Family Literacy Festival will be presented on Saturday, June 10 at the Children's Discovery Museum, 180 Woz Way, San Jose.

Two literacy sessions are available: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Museum.

Families will enjoy all the Museum has to offer, along with celebrity and author story readings, hands-on activities and art projects, and family friendly entertainment. All included with your special event day admission ticket!

A collaboration between Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream, Children's Discovery Museum and the San José Public Library Foundation, to promote the importance of reading.

Star power, award-winning family entertainment, hands-on art activities, storytimes, and more – all to support literacy!

• **Kristi Yamaguchi** (pictured, inset) – Olympic Gold Medalist and children's book author

• **Polina Edmunds** – U.S. Silver Figure Skating Champion

• **Tim McCanna** – Children's author and



illustrator

• **Jennifer Fosberry** – New York Times bestselling children's book author

• **Alphabet Rockers** – Grammy-winning and change-making music creators

• **Andy Z** – Award-winning children's performer

• **Maggie Tokuda Hall** – Children's author

• **Maia and Alex Shibutani** – Olympic Figure Skating Bronze Medalists and Children's Authors

• **Audrey Asistio** – NBC Bay Area TV personality

• **Sandra Cervantes** – Telemundo TV personality

See *LITERACY*, next page

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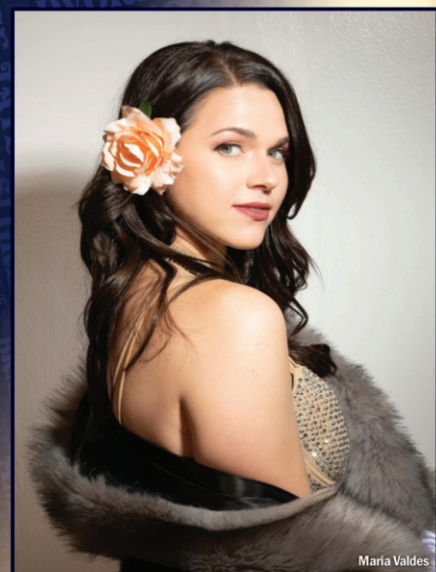
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Times **Community News**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley expands Future Grads program to Morgan Hill

Offering student support for hardship or for first-generation college attendance thru graduation

By William Bellou
Publisher

With many students dreaming of going to college, but not knowing where to begin, the Future Grads program is designed to help students in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley (BGCSV) realize their dreams by building a college-going mindset and defining their college journey.



Future Grads, now available for the first time in Morgan Hill, equips students and families with socio-emotional skills, college knowledge, financial literacy and academic support from 10th grade through college graduation. The program will serve students in Morgan Hill and is intended to double the volume of students in the next academic year.

"While capability and potential are equally distributed in Silicon Valley, opportunity and access are decidedly not. This innovative program changes lives and we could not be more excited to empower talented and determined young people in pursuit of their dreams," said BGCSV President & CEO Steve Wymer. "First-generation college students will change the face of our region in the years to come and the Future Grads program is a proven and exciting pathway for the youth we serve. We could not be more grateful to the donors and partners who have come alongside BGCSV to help make this opportunity a reality for kids who need it most."

The Future Grads program is modeled after the Bright Prospects college access program. Students receive counseling for applications, financial aid forms, and college selection, as well as assistance with developing social emotional skills, gaining access to resources, and building support networks.

Currently serving over 650 students in the Peninsula, the program will now also serve nearly 100 students in Morgan Hill.

About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley has been at the forefront of youth development in Santa Clara County for over 75 years, providing innovative and effective afterschool and summer enrichment programs primarily for low income, at-risk Santa Clara County youth ages 5-18 years. Our mission is to inspire and empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring adults.

To learn more about our programs and opportunities, visit www.bgclub.org or join our online community on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook @BGClubSV.

Alexandra White of Almaden Valley achieves Spring 2023 Dean's List at Belmont University

Alexandra White of Almaden Valley qualified for Belmont University's Spring 2023 Dean's List.

Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "For Belmont's vision of becoming the leading Christ-centered university in the world to be realized, having a student body that is keenly committed to academic excellence, among other things is required. Dean's List achievements are consistently earned by a high percentage of the student body, giving evidence of an ever-increasing regard for scholarship across all programs excellence."

Located two miles from downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Belmont University comprises nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 countries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for innovation in higher education.

Literacy

Continued from previous page

Make a book buddy at one of our many art activity tables, create your own chalk art with a talented chalk artist in Bill's Backyard, enjoy PNC Bank's Mobile Learning Adventure, which will take over the West Wing Exhibit Hall, listen to storytimes from the children's book authors and local heroes, and dance and sing along with some of the best children's performers in the biz!

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San Jose urges drivers to 'slow down' in face of record traffic fatalities

New safe driving campaign, 'Slow Down, San José,' officially unveiled

By William Bellou
Publisher

"Slow Down, San José" is the urgent request of a new driving campaign unveiled by City officials May 9.

Mayor Matt Mahan, joined by councilmembers Pam Foley and Bien Doan, officially kicked off the new campaign along Tully Road, one of the city's Priority Safety Corridors and site of an upcoming safety improvement project.

The behavior-change campaign will appear on billboards, posters, yard signs, buses and bus shelters, and digital ads. Videos will be shared online and radio ads will be broadcast in multiple languages. The straightforward goal: get drivers to realize they can take a simple step to become part of the solution to San José's growing problem of traffic deaths.

"Speeding can save a minute, but slowing down can save a life," said Mayor Matt Mahan. "With traffic deaths far outpacing homicides in San José, this new campaign reminds us that the safety of the community is in all our hands."

"This safe driving campaign couldn't come at a more crucial time in our city's history," said District 9 Councilmember Pam Foley, who chairs the City's Vision Zero Task Force. "We lost 65 neighbors last year. Those tragedies leave families and friends with holes in their lives that can never be filled. It's time we all took responsibility for our actions behind the wheel."



"Traffic fatalities afflict my district more than any other in San José," said District 7 Councilmember Bien Doan, who serves as vice chair of the Vision Zero Task Force.

"I'm happy to see major safety improvement projects happening, like the Tully Road project coming this summer. But we don't have to wait for construction to start to improve traffic safety. Let's all slow down to protect our families."

"Reducing and eliminating traffic fatalities is a top priority for the City administration, but we need the public's help" said City Manager Jennifer Maguire. "While our Department of Transportation builds more safety improvements and our Police Department focuses on traffic safety hot spots, we need individuals to join us in tackling this urgent problem. We can all decide to slow down on the road and perhaps save a life."

The campaign runs for three months. Materials are available at www.visionzerosj.org.

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Valley Water Youth Commission seeks new members

By John Varela

Board Chair, Valley Water District 1

Valley Water Youth Commission is seeking new members.

The Youth Commission, which is made up of 21 high school students throughout Santa Clara Valley, is shaping the future of local communities.

The organization is looking for students interested in getting involved in water-related issues and those who have an interest in speaking up on how public policies affect water supply, conservation, flood protection, environmental

justice, and climate change issues.

Valley Water is now accepting applications for the Youth Commission's vacant seats in districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. To find out which district you reside in, visit valleywater.org, scroll to the Valley Water in Your Area section map and input your home address in the Near Me search window provided.

You can find more information about the Youth Commission, including the application at www.valleywater.org/youthcommission

The application period closes Monday, June 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Please help Valley Water get the word out about openings on our Youth Commission by sharing it with high school students who may be interested. We look forward to their participation.

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Times Feature



Members of Evergreen Valley College and Indigenous residents rallied against the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District board hiring someone who isn't Native American for a class focused on Native American studies. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

Evergreen Valley College delays ethnic studies hire after protests

By Joan-Anh Pham
By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

Nearly 600 community members signed an online petition within days of its launching to oppose the hiring of a non-Native instructor for Evergreen Valley College's first full-time Native American studies teaching position.

Indigenous students, faculty and residents with feathers and ceremonial drums protested at the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District meeting on Tuesday, with signs reading "Nothing about us without us is for us." The board was set to approve the hiring of ethnic studies instructor Ryan Tripp at the meeting, but unanimously voted to put the decision on hold. Advocates said the hiring of a non-Native instructor furthers the discrimination that Indigenous communities have faced for generations.

"We have the opportunity to bring somebody in to give representation to the Native American students we have on campus, and we dropped the ball," Professor Arturo Villareal told San José Spotlight. He teaches ethnic studies at Evergreen Valley College.

Villareal said ethnic studies is meant to directly highlight the experiences of students of color, and a core tenet is to hire instructors from marginalized communities. The Evergreen Valley College ethnic studies department had no say in the final hiring decision, he added. Ethnic studies examines the histories, issues and struggles of different ethnic groups in an effort to address current-day experiences.

Tripp, a history and ethnic studies adjunct professor, said he declined the job offer via email Tuesday night after attending the meeting remotely and hearing opposition from the local Native community for the first time. He said he identifies as multiracial and does not identify as Native American, but has personal ties to the Native community due to his

father's family roots in 20th century Andean Indigenous culture.

Tripp said Native American studies is a subject he's researched throughout his academic career, including his doctorate program.

"If the Native community does not support not just me, or any given individual in a Native American studies position, I don't believe that the person should be teaching Native Studies at that college," Tripp told San José Spotlight.

Maria Fuentes, vice president of the San Jose Evergreen Community College District board, said board members are listening to students and residents.

"The community and our educators have asked us to look at this and to take this very seriously," Fuentes said. "If we table it, we can figure out how to resolve it."

Evergreen Valley College student Marcus Rodriguez said students should be taught by an instructor who has endured the trauma and daily struggles of Indigenous people. He told the board it was offensive not to hire someone from the community.

community.

"I don't want a non-Native teaching what my ancestors have lived through," Rodriguez said

Data from the National Indian Education Association reveals 0.5% of teachers nationwide are Indigenous, with Indigenous students making up 1% of the student population. In Santa Clara County, the Indigenous population makes up 1.2%, according to census data.

Resident Ray Techicuahtli Baeza said there are plenty of qualified Indigenous educators to fill the role, and fixing the hiring process requires input from Indigenous students and staff.

"It's more than just having a degree from a college or university," Baeza told San José Spotlight. "It's also living in the communities, understanding what life is like, understanding the ceremonies, understanding the songs, understanding the history, the way of life that we live."

Data from the National Indian Education Association reveals 0.5% of teachers nationwide are Indigenous, with Indigenous students making up 1% of the student population. In Santa Clara County, the Indigenous population makes up 1.2%, according to census data.

Times **Feature**



The Meadowverse - Return of the wren

By **Matthew Frazier**

CLCA Expert Certified Water Manager

ECI Qualified Stormwater Manager

CalWEP Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper

With the return of No-Mow May here in San Jose and The Bay Area, there has been an influx of wildlife here throughout Santa Clara Valley, where I reside.

The dandelion is a beneficial weed

Right here in our front yard, the dandelions are emerging faster and faster with the passage of each day and week. It is something to observe. In addition to the native beneficial weeds, native insectary plants, and native beneficial predatory insects, there has been much flurry with both migratory and native birds. They perch on the stalks of the dandelions and forage for the seeds buried deep within the fuzzy globes. One of these bird species is the wren.

The wren is agile and musical

Though quite small, the wren is agile and musical at once. Appearing in troupes as time passes throughout spring, these beautiful birds bring an element of majesty to the landscape. There are many birds to observe. The wren is but one. But ... each morning, when I leave the house for a consultation, I have the distinct pleasure of hearing their calls and watching them scurry about in search of food.

The Meadowverse® thrives right here in Santa Clara Valley and beyond. Travelling through Evergreen Valley, on my way to Silver Creek Valley Outdoor Supply Hardware, there are many wonderful birds and environs to observe. The myriad colors and plethora species of wildlife is quite abundant and vibrant. The Wren makes its home in the small specialty birdhouses hanging from defoliated deciduous trees throughout the valleys of Santa Clara County and throughout the many gardens and landscapes of the valleys.

Evergreen Valley College is alive with birds, from all angles and locations. Evergreen Val-

ley itself captured my imagination years ago when I nearly enrolled at their local college to pursue an AS degree in Civil Engineering. The environs of Evergreen Valley are ripe with opportunity for these birds to thrive.

Back to the wren ... This small bird has found its way to our garden and our yard throughout the years. With the decision to let our front yard turf lawn grow wild and unencumbered by a mower, their return and proliferation has been one of wonder. Small though they are, the wren brings an element of beauty to the

local environs of the valleys and so too in Evergreen Valley. Seeing them increase in number this season, and over the years, is evidence of a changing climate and a changing terrain.

There are exciting ways to attract wildlife

For those of us who cannot resist the splendor of migratory and native bird species here in the county and its valleys, I encourage you to create the conditions for these small musical birds by hanging the small specialty birdhouses from your posts and trees and letting nature take its course.

We are most fortunate here in these valleys to have such abundant wildlife.

Happy birding to one and all, and thank you!

Editor's note: Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Stormwater Manager, and Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. You may contact Matt at (408) 656-5622 – Mobile; or by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



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Times Feature



Philharmonic Orchestra performs Elgar and Britten in a concert dedicated to youth and families

Saturday 2pm, June 3rd
(tickets start at \$5)

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2022-23 Season Finale Concert to be held on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, 2 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA.

This premier orchestra, made up of the most advanced students in the San Jose Youth Symphony, will open the concert with Elgar's Wand



of Youth Suites, which feature his earliest musical works composed for a family play, spirited and lively, and full of childlike charm.

The orchestra will also perform

Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, an intricate theme and variations, that is meant to teach children about all the different instruments of the orchestra, as a narrator takes the audience through this instrumental journey.

The performance culminates in a musical work of extreme power as all the instruments join to play together at the end. This is a great treat for the whole family!

Editor's note: Tickets now on sale online, visit: <https://sjys.org/product-category/tickets> You can also purchase tickets on Concert Day at the Box Office, one hour before the concert at 1 p.m.

Two San Jose students named 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the 59th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, recognizing 161 high school seniors for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education fields.

Among the California scholars residing in San Jose are: Annmaria K. Antony, Harker School; and Miranda A. Lu, Leland High School (*U.S. Presidential Scholar in Arts).

"U.S. Presidential Scholars have always represented the future of our country and the bright promise it holds. I want each of these remarkable students to know: your passion and intellect, pursuit of excellence, and spirit of service are exactly what our country needs," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "On behalf of President Biden, I am delighted to join your family, friends, and communities in celebrating your accomplishments. Aim high, share your talents, and continue embracing opportunities to lead as your exciting future unfolds."

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service and



Miranda A. Lu, Leland High School (L) and Annmaria K. Antony, Harker School (R). leadership.

Of the 3.7 million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2023 awards determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams or through nominations made by chief state school officers, other partner recognition organizations and YoungArts, the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.

As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 scholars in the arts and 20 scholars in career and technical education.

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 8,000 of the nation's top-performing students. The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent,

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Times **Career Corner**

You are valued

By **Angela Copeland**

For most people, switching jobs is not something they plan out in much detail. For the majority of job seekers, they have a personal connection to the job opening.



The process is fairly straightforward and relatively painless. Most people tend to assume that's what job seeking is like. This all changes when a job seeker is forced to proactively find a new job with no connections. Ask anyone who has landed a job completely on their own, and they will very likely have a harrowing story to share.

When a job seeker is searching on their own, the process can easily take anywhere from two to six months. This length of time is normal. It is not a reflection on the person's abilities or worth. But, it certainly doesn't feel that way. The issue is that the search process is completely different than when you know someone.

There are examples of difficult job searches shared every day on LinkedIn. Recently, a job seeker applied to 600 jobs. These applications led to 30 interviews. The 30 interviews ultimately led to one job offer. This job seeker had many years of experience and multiple advanced degrees. The entire process took three months.

And, a job search can often become elongated. The reason is that 570 rejections is emotionally exhausting. On top of this, friends and family judge the job seeker at how "difficult" their

search is. It leaves the job seeker feeling worthless, and wondering if they're even in the right career field.

Dear job seeker, please remember: it's not you. The application process is broken. You are competing against hundreds of online applicants. You are also competing with the friends of the hiring manager. And, you are contending with less than ideal economic conditions.

But, you are prepared for this. The key is to not lose hope. It's to realize that the system is broken; not you. You are the same talented, hard-working professional that you were before you started this search. You will find your path back.

Set goals for yourself. Keep doing your best to meet the goals, even when things feel difficult. In the example above, the job seeker applied to approximately 200 jobs per month, or 50 per

week, or 10 per business day. This process is a lot of work, but it will result in success.

In addition to applications, sit down and write a list of all of the great things about your background. Perhaps you have fifteen years of experience in project management. You are great at organizing teams. You have advanced knowledge in specific topics. Once you have your list compiled, keep it handy. Each morning, read the list. Remind yourself of who you are.

You are valued. You are needed. You are the same person that you were before the economy started to turn. Outside factors changed, but you have not. You remain the same person you always have been.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at www.angela-copeland.com.

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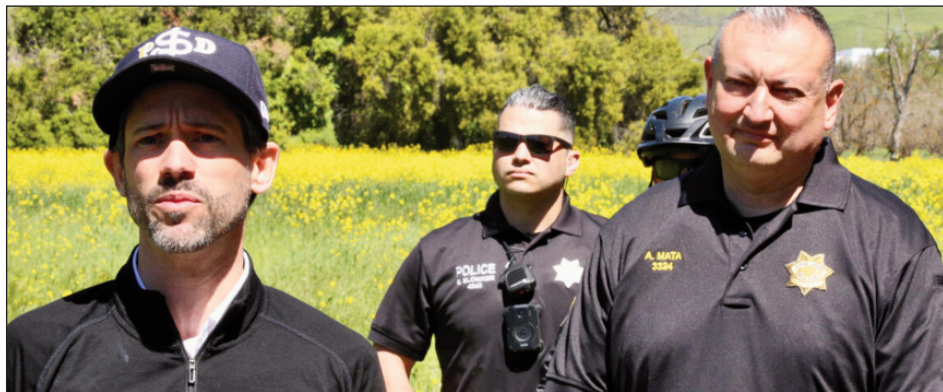


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Times Feature



Mahan, along with Police Chief Anthony Mata, right, is calling for doubling the rate of hiring police officers in the city. Photo by Joseph Geha.

San Jose calls for more police amid staffing shortages

114 positions currently unfilled

By Jana Kadah
San José Spotlight

San Jose is planning on funding 31 new positions in the police department despite struggling to fill more than 100 existing vacancies.

The city manager proposed last week spending \$2.9 million in the next fiscal year to create 31 new staff positions within San Jose Police Department, ranging from regular beat cops and community service officers to specialized investigative positions. The city is looking to spend \$1.3 million on hiring bonuses as well as other incentives to recruit and retain officers.

If approved, these new vacancies would add to the already 114 unfilled positions in the police department, which have fluctuated over the last few years. Although the overall goal of staffing up sounds simple, SJPD has historically failed to do just that.

The hope this time around is that by adding these new positions, it will signal to residents and visitors that San Jose is committed to supporting and growing the police department, Heather Randol, deputy chief of the SJPD bureau of administration, told San José Spotlight.

"That in turn creates excitement for not only people who work here, but also people considering coming here," Randol said.

These new hiring efforts align with Mayor Matt Mahan's March budget message, where he said increasing police staffing is his "top priority" for the department.

"We have to recruit and hire faster, and ensure that we retain the officers we have. This budget does just that," Mahan said. "We're a big city and we need our police department's staffing levels to reflect our size and needs so that we can fulfill government's basic responsibility for keeping residents safe."

San Jose has struggled to expand the police department and efforts have been made over the years to remedy ongoing staffing issues. Last year, the city budgeted millions to create 20 more positions in the department, though it's still uncertain how many have been filled. The city also announced a lateral hiring bonus program last fall, which gives \$10,000 to officers who transfer to San Jose from another police department. And just a few months ago, officers saw a 3.85% increase in their base wage salary plus other benefits.

Randol said one of San Jose's main selling points for prospective officers is the opportunity to work in a more specialized field. In the upcoming city budget, opportunities for new hires include 17 regular officers, two sergeants, six community service officers, three crime data analysts, a new position to protect the department from hackers and a detective in the family violence unit.

"People aren't coming to San Jose because we make more money than everybody else around us, we don't make the most," she said. "They come here because of the opportunity they have within this agency for specialized units or more promotional opportunities."

San Jose believed to have one of the smallest police departments of any major U.S. city

San Jose is believed to have one of the smallest police departments of any major U.S. city, with just 1,173 sworn officers for a city of approximately 1 million residents. By comparison, San Francisco employs 2,100 sworn officers with a population of about 875,000.

But SJPD still wrestles with the lingering problem of how to not just staff up, but retain its officers. With only 1,059 positions currently filled, San Jose Police Officers' Association spokesperson Tom Saggau said the shortage has had profound impact on slowed police response times and overall public safety. He said the ultimate goal is to get San Jose back to the 1,400 officers it had before pension reform struggles.

"It's going to take years, but it is a wise investment," Saggau told San José Spotlight. "We're in a scrub for qualified applicants, so you only have a couple of levers to pull and one of them is more money."

But not all residents believe more police officers equals safer city streets. Kianna Simmons, cofounder of local mutual aid nonprofit Hero Tent and member of the city's Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee, said there are hundreds of police alternatives suggested by the 31-person committee in a report to councilmembers—and the council still hasn't considered them. The report was published in April 2022 and she said no action has been taken since. An overarching theme of the recommendations is narrowing the scope of police activity to crimes and leaving other issues to trained civilian professionals.

Simmons said she wished the city council would listen to residents instead of "throwing more money to police."

"It really seems like every month there's like a new scandal with SJPD and it's been like that for years," Simmons said. "We have a very flawed department and it won't get better if we give them more money and power."



Silicon Valley Healthy Smiles to offer free dental clinic at San Jose Convention Center

Sponsored by Santa Clara County Dental Foundation

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose Convention Center will be transformed into Silicon Valley Healthy Smiles, for a two-day FREE dental clinic on Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, sponsored by the Santa Clara County Dental Foundation.

The 100-chair clinic will provide pro bono dental care to an expected 1,500 low or no-income, uninsured Santa Clara County residents. The Foundation's mission is to increase the overall health of individuals and families by eliminating infection and relieving pain.

"Santa Clara County is overwhelmed by the unmet dental needs; there are not enough providers to meet the demand. Poor oral health leads to a myriad of negative academic, physical, socio-emotional, and economic consequences," said Dr. John Pisacane, President of the Santa Clara County Dental Foundation.

The Santa Clara County Dental Foundation (SCCDF) is dedicated to increasing access to dental care for Santa Clara County residents. They do this by providing resources and funding for programs operated by volunteer dentists from the Santa Clara County Dental Society (SCCDS).

The Foundation is raising \$400,000 to cover the costs of this event. The funding covers the cost of materials, equipment,

the Convention Center, food, and more. The clinic is completely run by volunteer dentists and community members.

Dr. Ken Wallis, the SVHS Committee Chair shared that "cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals, stay plates and dentures will be available at the clinic and patients will be connected to an ongoing source of dental care."

There are no qualifiers to be able to receive FREE dental care (income, residency, etc.) at this clinic. People looking for dental services can show up and wait in line on the dates below.

"The community must work together to ensure that low-income residents, including the un-or-underinsured, and Medi-Cal members have equitable access to the dental care they need when they need it, where they need it, and how they need it," said Dr. Steve Beveridge, Executive Director of the SCCDF.

Patients will be pre-screened on Friday, May 19, 2023, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. to return on Saturday, 5/20 for treatment. Clinic is open Saturday, May 20, 2023, 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, May 21, 2023, 6 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The San Jose Convention Center, South Hall (big, blue tent) is located at: 435 South Market St., San Jose, CA 95113. For more information visit: SCCDF.org/SVHS.

Editor's note: The SCC Dental Foundation is issuing a "Call for Community Volunteers" for duties on Saturday and/or Sunday. Volunteers can sign-up online at <https://volunteers.healingca.org>.

OP-ED

Cal Fire Local 2881 comment on Governor Newsom's budget

It would have been easy to be lulled by the very wet winter to put fire suppression and prevention on the back burner and make cuts to CAL FIRE. Instead, the rains mean the fuels present an even greater danger than what we've seen during an era of historic fires.

Governor Newsom embraced an aggressive approach and made sure the

resources CAL FIRE needs will be in place to confront the harsh summer ahead of us. No Governor has had to endure more disasters in their tenure than Governor Newsom, and he has emerged from it all as a voice of reason, judgment and a leader uniquely suited to assess planning for a crisis.

Tim Edwards

President, CAL FIRE LOCAL 2881

Editor's note: CAL FIRE is the largest fire department in the United States. Mr. Edwards is a career firefighter for CAL FIRE who was elected president by his peers.

Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Improving the health of Silicon Valley's diverse community

By County Supervisor Joe Simitian

When Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) was founded nearly 50 years ago, Silicon Valley was a different place in terms of diversity.

Back then, the County's population was 3 to 4% Asian American; today it's close to 40%.

Chinese Americans were among the first and are still the largest Asian immigrant community in the country, and in the Bay Area. In our County, they are joined by six other Asian subgroups — Vietnamese, Filipino, and South Asian, Japanese, Korean, and Pacific Islanders — in making up 95% percent of our Asian and Pacific Islander (API) population. Our API population is the County's largest demographic group — approximately 40% of the County's population.

Clearly, we enjoy a very different dynamic here than the rest of the country, where an estimated 5-7% of the population is API. Diversity is one of our strengths. That said, it also creates a unique set of challenges in terms of how best to serve and include distinct communities.

Back in 1973, AACI's 12 founders saw the power of coming together as a collective — at the time in support of Southeast Asian refugees — and pioneering Asian American activism in the County.

Over the decades AACI grew to provide services to all Asian subgroups as well as to underserved non-Asian groups, with a particular focus on physical and mental health.

As Chair of our County's Health and Hospital Committee, I know well one of the hard lessons of the

pandemic: it's important to connect folks in our community with essential healthcare services in a way that works for them. Another key lesson is prevention — making sure people don't get sick in the first place.

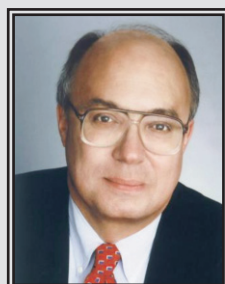
Pre-pandemic (in 2016), I pushed for the County's first comprehensive health study of our API communities. The resulting 2017 API Health Assessment disaggregated individual ethnic groups, revealing widespread disparities in access to care, as well as differing health risks and outcomes, including, in just two of many examples:

- The County's Filipino residents were 3 times more likely than their Korean neighbors to have had a diagnosis of asthma.

- Compared to the countywide infant mortality rate of just over 3%, the rate was highest among the County's Pacific Islanders (10.5%) and lowest among Koreans (1.2%)

and Chinese (1.1%).

As a result, with AACI as our lead partner, our County embarked on the API Community Health Worker Program to pilot ethnically, culturally, and linguistically specific strategies to improve health outcomes for a diverse community.



County Report

By Joe Simitian
Supervisor

In the program's inaugural year, 2021-2022, AACI launched services to the Filipino, South Asian, and Vietnamese communities, with 13 community health workers (CHWs) trained to deliver culturally tailored education around a variety of health-related topics, including COVID-19, domestic violence prevention, mental health, chronic disease prevention, food security, and healthy aging. CHWs are also trained to provide service navigation, referrals, health screenings, and basic motivational counseling.

Additional County support will now allow AACI to complete core CHW training and service expansion across all seven local API groups this year, as well as develop a more comprehensive data collection framework to track and evaluate long-term program outcomes and increase technical assistance to small API-serving partner agencies.

The API Community Health Worker program has already made significant strides improving health outcomes. Ultimately, it's about ensuring that this effort offers long-term health solutions and is built to last. Partners like AACI make that possible.

Earlier this month, I was honored to be part of an API Heritage Month event honoring AACI's founders. As we approach AACI's 50th anniversary in November, it's a wonderful time to recognize and celebrate the impact that AACI has had on the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities, helping make our County a healthier place to live, work, and play. Thank you AACI, for your dedication and fruitful partnership.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District which includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, portions of San Jose and unincorporated communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. Stay up to date on news and events happening in District Five by signing up for Supervisor Simitian's newsletter: district5.scc.gov.org/newsletter.



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Times News

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Report: Best large US cities to start a business in 2023

Orlando, Florida (pictured above) has been named the best large U.S. city to start a business this year.

The website WalletHub recently conducted a recent study ranking the nation's major metros on 19 metrics to determine how they stack up and which are the best big cities to start a business in 2023.

Four Florida cities topped the list with Orlando taking the crown with a score of 65.34 on WalletHub's scale, thanks to its "business-friendly environment, ample access to resources and low startup costs."

Boise, Idaho, was the top fifth metro area, according to Mayflower. However, Idaho was the top state overall.

The decision on where to start a business in the U.S. can be a determining factor in a startup's success given how greatly locales can differ when it comes to regulations, taxes and other factors

Florida cities are at the top of the list, and Orlando took the crown with a score of 65.34 on WalletHub's scale, thanks to its business-friendly environment, ample access to resources and low startup costs.

Orlando, Florida, has been named the best large U.S. city to start a business this year.

No. 2 Jacksonville was not far behind with a score of 62.25, followed by No. 3 Miami (60.78) and No. 4 Tampa (60.37).

Durham, North Carolina, notched a score

of 60.15, coming in at No. 5 overall. Although the city was ranked #38 for its business environment, its ample access to resources pushed it up the scale.

Durham, North Carolina, ranked No. 5 on WalletHub's list of best large U.S. cities to start a business this year.

Idaho's capital Boise landed sixth on the list with a score of 59.79. Although the city ranked lower on access to resources, its business environment was determined to be the third best in the U.S.

Atlanta, Georgia, was able to grab the No. 7 spot in the ranking, notching a total score of 58.79, followed by No. 8 Charlotte, North Carolina, which scored 58.3.

Atlanta, Georgia, ranked No. 7 on the list of best large U.S. cities to start a business this year.

Two Texas cities rounded out the top 10, with Fort Worth scoring an even 58, and Austin notching 56.86 thanks to their friendly business environments.

Fort Worth, Texas, ranked No. 9 on the list of best large U.S. cities to start a business this year, with Austin, Texas coming in tenth place.

Here's WalletHub's top 10 list of large US cities to start a business in 2023:

1. Orlando, Florida – 65.34
2. Jacksonville, Florida – 62.25
3. Miami, Florida – 60.78
4. Tampa, Florida – 60.37
5. Durham, North Carolina – 60.15
6. Boise, Idaho – 59.48
7. Atlanta, Georgia – 58.79
8. Charlotte, North Carolina – 58.3
9. Fort Worth, Texas – 58
10. Austin, Texas – 56.86



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Times **Auto****Scout***Continued from page 1*

great help and knows how to coach a team.

Austin Le's father, Don Le, said his coaches and Scoutmaster Peter Swartz had a tremendous influence on his son.

"All four of these men are basically the Mount Rushmore of Austin's life," he said.

Austin Le said Boy Scouts is great, and like baseball, it's a chance to grow.

"They teach you physical skills and survival skills," he said, "and they teach you how to become young men through leadership. They want you to be accountable, help yourself and others."

Austin Le said in addition to learning new skills, Boy Scouts taught him a sense of responsibility and self-awareness. He said Scoutmaster Peter Swartz helped him develop through the years.

"I credit a lot of my growth in Boy Scouts to him," Austin Le said. "He taught me a lot. He's shown me different ways I could do things better."

Blozan, a previous coach and board member for Almaden Little League, describes Austin Le as a kid with a passion for baseball.

"What's really cool is he ended up playing all the way through the league...to playing in high school," Blozan said. "And he stayed connected to the league."

Blozan said Austin Le and his older brother, Jacob Le, have a long history with Almaden Little League and have helped coach one of the junior teams. Blozan also appreciates both boys striving to become Eagle Scouts and focusing their Eagle Scout projects on improvements for the baseball field.

"It's a very difficult thing to achieve," he said. "Most scouts don't make it that far."

Blozan said the batting cage Jacob Le built for his Eagle Scout project is used daily and will be for years to come. He said the bullpens Austin is rebuilding are in sore need of attention.

"It takes somebody to take the initiative and effort to make it happen," Blozan said. "This kid, who is just a young man, is spurring on this incredible project...that hundreds and thousands of kids will use for years."

Blozan said the Le brothers revitalized the baseball field, making it better and easier for teams to warm up. He said he is thrilled with what they have accomplished and the kind of young men they are. Blozan said Austin Le was always a smart player and community oriented.

"He's a multi-faceted, multi-talented kid who not only loves baseball but wants to make a difference in the community," Blozan said.

Green, a long-time coach, said the Le family has always been involved in the community and Almaden Little League playing, coaching and announcing. Through the years, he's seen Austin Le transform from a shy youngster to a confident teenager.

"I can really see the leadership skills coming out," he said.



Don Le (left) said his son, **Austin Le**, had the support of the Almaden community growing up.

Green describes the junior's field as a diamond in the rough. He said the field for kids ages 13-15 doesn't get as much love as those at Greystone Park and the bullpens require renovation.

"It's definitely a big undertaking," he said of the project, "but Austin seems to have support and a plan in place to pull it off."

Troop 294 Scoutmaster Peter Swartz said Austin Le grew from a quiet scout to being more confident and serving in leadership roles. Austin Le was a Patrol Leader and Scribe. He attended summer camp and numerous camping trips, including whitewater rafting, and assisted with 10 service projects, Swartz said.

"I've been able to watch him grow in scouting," he said.

Swartz said the most successful Eagle Scout projects are those the scout has a personal interest in. He said it's fantastic Austin Le can give back to Almaden Little League, an organization that gave him so much.

"It's an impressive, challenging project," he said.

Don Le said growing up in Almaden, Austin Le had exposure to good men and mentors who helped him live up to his potential. He said his coaches encouraged him to keep going despite challenges and his Scoutmaster taught him time management and to keep the dream alive.

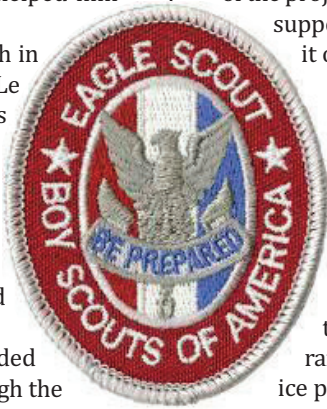
"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," he said, quoting Proverb 27:17. "We've been around a lot of iron in this neighborhood that sharpened Austin and his brother, Jacob. Men who took them under their wings and pushed them."

Don Le said creating the Eagle Scout project has been a good lesson for Austin Le in planning, scheduling and funding. He said Boy Scouts honed Austin Le's resiliency and leadership skills and both Boy Scouts and baseball taught him the importance of teamwork and being part of a community.

"It's taught him to be open to wild ideas that can work," Don Le said. "We've been blessed to have people along the way who guided them."

Austin Le is looking forward to implementing his Eagle Scout project.

"It's going to feel great knowing a lot of people supported me," he said. "They've seen me grow through baseball, grow through Boy Scouts. Their seeing me do this is a pretty good feeling."



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Times Cover Story

Coalition

Continued from page 1

to ensure they are installed in D10. Members of the audience spoke about speeding on Hampton, Trinidad and other streets.

The Councilmember spoke about a proposal asking for 3 more investigators to be added to the Independent Police Auditors (IPA) office to conduct alleged police misconduct. Concerns regarding the overall goal of such a change were discussed, including a preference for improving the current process instead of adding investigators.

Solutions to curb homelessness continue to stall in San Jose. Senator Dave Cortese has called for an audit of how San Jose has been spending its money and time regarding its homeless issue. Michele Dexter, Chief of Staff to the councilmember shared the state has not provided any specific timeline or details at the present time. Michele added that the state has the authority to investigate as much or as little as they choose regarding San Jose’s overall homeless spending.

The D10 Working Groups reported out the following:

Marketing Committee

Lenka Wright, the marketing committee chair shared the outcomes of the D10 Leadership survey. The top three concerns to date in D10 are development/growth, homelessness and public safety. The survey is still open and is available on the D10 Leadership group website.

Slowing drivers down on Hampton

Led by Ron Van Cleave, Residents put together a proposal with the goal of slowing drivers down on Hampton and the connecting streets. Some neighbors shared they do not have sidewalks and are looking into a resident walking lane for walkers, stop signs and overall other traffic calming options. Not all residents agree, as the homes in this area were intentionally built without sidewalks and others do not want more stop signs. District 10 resident Dolores Carr suggested calling 3-1-1 for immediate attention to alert San Jose Police Department for patrols in the neighborhood which will ensure drivers slow down.

Community Cats

Led by Dinah Hayse, leads this group in partnership with the San Jose Animal Care Center. The goal is to Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) as many stray and unowned cats as possible in San Jose. The group is very popular and provides an outlet for community service. Jill Borders, a D10 resident shared, “my daughter never gets out of bed on a weekend at 6:00 am – except now that she has been volunteering with Dinah. My daughter loves it and enjoys this type of civic engagement.”

Welcome to Blossom Valley Signage

Eldon Nichols, President of the Comanche Neighborhood Association is working on installing Welcome to Blossom Valley signage near Blossom Avenue.

Gas Leaf Blowers

Led by Marty Stuczynski, the goal of this group is to create a ban on leaf blowers in San Jose. Not everyone at the meeting is in favor of the proposal sharing that one gas leaf blower can save up to 8 hours of landscaping maintenance. Marty shared that many cities already have a ban including Los

Altos and Pasadena

Families and Homes

Organized by Brenda Dohmen, Families and Homes seeks to repeal Senate Bills - SB9 & SB10 which removed local government oversight on land use issues. Families & Homes are working with other cities and counties in CA to change land use oversight back to the local government level. They will soon be collecting 40,000 signatures to place the “Our Neighborhoods Voices Ballot Initiative” on the ballot in 2024.

Anita Enander, a Councilmember from Los Altos was a guest speaker at the D10 Coalition meeting. Anita shared informa-

Solutions to curb homelessness continue to stall in San Jose. Senator Dave Cortese has called for an audit of how San Jose has been spending its money and time regarding its homeless issue.

tion about the goals of the working group Families and Homes including her work with other elected officials throughout CA., about to ensure control over land use is brought back to the local government sphere.

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