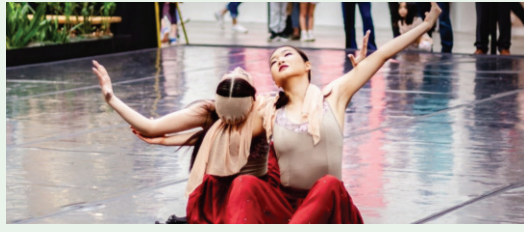


sjDANCEco presents
Spring DANCE
Festival April 26-27
at Eastridge Center
SEE PAGE 4



San José Mineta
International Airport to
have new generation of
Airport retail concessions
SEE PAGE 9



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APRIL 4 - APRIL 17, 2025 ■ VOL. 42, NO. 8

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San Jose City Council approved a 100% affordable housing project for 400 apartments in East San Jose. File photo.

Affordable housing to replace East San Jose abandoned building

By Vicente Vera
San José Spotlight

A vacant building in East San Jose will be replaced with hundreds of affordable homes.

A 100% affordable housing complex was approved at 2940 Alum Rock Ave. across from James Lick High School March 12 at Planning Director hearing.

The 50,900-square-foot development would construct 400 homes and demolish two vacant buildings to make way for a 6-story multi-family residential
See HOMES, page 7

East San Jose community aims to restore youth center

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

An East San Jose collective has stepped in to save the Mexican American Community Services Agency youth center from demolition.

The effort to repurpose the building is lead by the School of Arts and Culture and SOMOS Mayfair, representing the Si Se Puede Collective. At an Alum Rock Union School District board meeting Thursday night, trustees voted unanimously to instruct the district to investigate costs for liability, security, maintenance and upkeep of the youth center and report back in April. The board acknowledged the importance the center would have on the community, but also raised budgetary concerns since the district is confronting a \$20 million budget deficit and closing six schools in the upcoming 2025-26 school year.

Following a community outcry last year, the school district halted its plans to demolish the property in the hopes of finding a local partner. This month, the nonprofit organizations offered



The Eastside community packed the Alum Rock Unified School District board room in support of restoring the Mexican American Community Services Agency youth center. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

to renovate and lease the facility.

The Collective envisions MACSA as a vibrant, multi-use community asset, offering education, sports and community services. The facility holds historical and cultural significance as a symbol of innovation, hope, and resilience, Victor Vasquez, co-executive director of SOMOS Mayfair and Jessica Paz-Cedillos, co-executive director of the School of Arts and Culture, said in a statement.

"We believe that East San Jose deserves a space that reflects the resilience and aspirations of its people," Paz-Cedillos told San José Spotlight. "Our organizations envision MACSA as a space where students can access after-school programs that foster creativity and leadership, where parents

can find support services that promote stability and where residents can engage in workforce training programs that create pathways to financial security."

An assessment will be conducted to determine the cost of renovating the 30,000-square-foot building, Paz-Cedillos said. Previous assessments ranged from \$10 million to \$30 million, she added. The School of Arts and Culture and SOMOS Mayfair are asking the district for a long-term lease and in-kind rent and plan to pursue private funding, state and federal grants and launch a capital campaign. The renovation is slated for March 2026 to December 2027.

See CENTER, page 10

'Day on the Evergreen' slated for Saturday, April 26

By Sean Eastwood
Times Media staff writer

Evergreen Valley College Community Day (aka "Day on the Evergreen") will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at Evergreen Valley College.

The event is geared for the entire family with popup booths with the San Jose Sharks and San Jose Earthquakes, as well as an EVC art booth, classic cars, popup planetarium and vehicles from San Jose Fire and San Jose Police.

Among the two dozen community booths, EVC sponsored organizations,

the Girl Scouts, San Jose Parks and Recreation, San Jose Park Rangers, Kaiser and representatives from elected officials Sylvia Arenas, Domingo Candelas and Ash Kalra on site.

After lunch at the food trucks, the EVC soccer team will host a clinic at 1 p.m.

Day on the Evergreen Activities include:

- 150-200 students registering for Fall 2025 as part of our annual registration event
- A robust pickleball court next door
- Two food trucks (Mexican and Cheesesteaks)
- Music from DJ Wild
- San Jose Earthquakes Popup Kicking Booth
- San Jose Sharks Popup Shooting Booth
- Axe Throwing with the Girl Scouts (don't worry they are plastic!)

See EVERGREEN, page 4



Speaking out

Congressman **Jimmy Panetta** hosts a Medicaid Town Hall at Evergreen Valley College last week with medical experts Dr. Seema Sidhu, Kaiser; Amy Carta, Santa Clara County Health; and Dr. Rebecca Fazilat, Sutter Health.

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Times News

sjDANCEco presents Spring DANCE Festival April 26-27 at Eastridge Center

Free event celebrates Bay Area Dance Week

By William Bellou
Publisher

sjDANCEco will present its Spring Dance Festival at Eastridge Center on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m., coinciding with National Dance Week. The event is free to the public.

“Professional Programming” segments are 15-minutes each on the half-hour (1:30pm, 2:30pm, etc.), and free dance classes are held every hour, on-the-hour on Saturday and Sunday. The festival stage is locat-



HH Lin Dance Company to perform at Spring Dance Festival at Eastridge Center April 26-27. Photo courtesy of sjDANCEco.

ed on the main level of the Eastridge Center mall.

Dozens of choreographers and Bay Area dance organizations (from young children to professional companies and everything in between) present many styles of dance on the Eastridge festival stage during a free non-stop 5-hour program each day. The professional dance portions of the show are 15 minutes each at 1:30pm, 2:30pm and on the

half-hour all day long. Free dance classes will be offered at 1:00pm, 2:00pm, and at an hour throughout the day. The celebration is part of Bay Area Dance Week and National Dance Week (April 25 - May 4, 2025) and showcases the diversity of the Bay Area dance community.

Professional dance groups will come from San Jose, San Francisco, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, Fremont, Santa Cruz, Menlo Park and more.

Other dance groups scheduled to perform are coming from Campbell, Hollister, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Manteca, Walnut Creek and more.

Donors include: San Jose Downtown, Applied Materials, SVCcreates, City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, Rotary Club of Los Gatos, City of San Jose, Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation, Eastridge, Mission College Santa Clara.

Editor's note: Eastridge Center Mall is located at 2200 Eastridge Loop, San Jose, CA 95122, off Capitol Expressway and Tully Road.

Evergreen

Continued from page 1

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- EVC Women’s Soccer clinic
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- Congressman Jimmy Panetta
- Assemblyman Ash Kalra
- San Jose Earthquakes
- San Jose Sharks
- Santa Clara County Parks and Rec
- San Jose Police

- San Jose Fire
- Girl Scouts of Northern California
- Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
- AAPI Silicon Valley (AAPI SV)
- Bay Area Community Health
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County – Emergency Programs & Housing
- CaliBunga Waterpark San Jose
- CHAMPS - San Jose Downtown Association
- Community Health Partnership
- Consulate General of Mexico in San Jose
- District 8 Roundtable
- East Valley Christian Schools
- Evergreen Community Center

- Grassroots Ecology
- Kaiser
- Latino Education Advancement Foundation
- Mekong Community Center
- San Jose Downtown Association
- San Jose Park Rangers
- Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance
- Santa Clara Family Health Plan
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- Shine Together
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Editor's note: The event will be held at the field located next to the Bettencourt Soccer Stadium, MS3 Building. Use parking lot 6.

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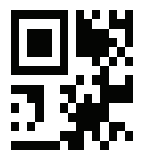


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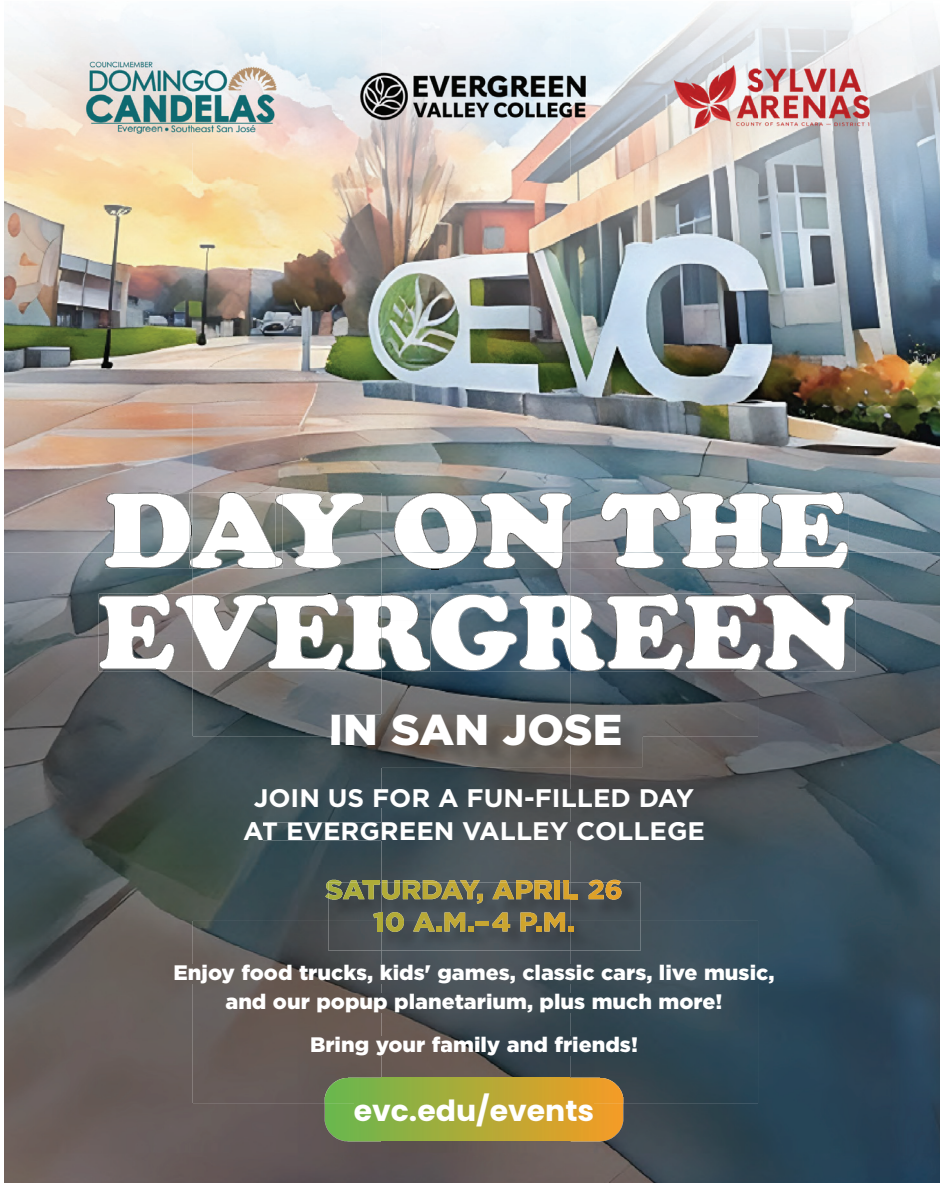
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Santa Clara County cuts Head Start education program

By Brandon Pho
San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County teachers and local leaders are warning of chaos after mass layoffs have decimated a critical preschool program for families living in poverty, known as Head Start.

Head Start staff received pink slips around March 15 amid uncertainty as to whether the federal program under the Trump administration will reimburse the Santa Clara County Office of Education for the costs. The education office's top officials have publicly expressed confidence the grant funding will be renewed, but said they can't hire staff for the next school year without that guarantee.

Jennifer Gravem, a spokesperson for Interim Superintendent Charles Hinman's office, said the layoffs will not affect all Head Start workers, but didn't immediately have an answer as to how many workers have been put on ice. She said it's unclear when employees will be brought back if the Head Start grant gets awarded.

"It's very dependent on the federal government," Gravem told San José Spotlight. "We'll either receive immediate notification or in-time notification that the grant is reinstated, so people will be reinstated as we hear from the federal government."



The Santa Clara County Office of Education is laying off workers for a critical low-income preschool program. File photo.

Local education leaders and parents are in an uproar.

"The Head Start program gives children and families instruction on nutrition, how to self-advocate and puts them in touch with a lot of different resources — there's nothing else like it," Heather Burns, an early childhood special education teacher for the Sunnyside School District and former Head Start employee, told San José Spotlight.

"You can't imagine the poverty (those families) face. Rents are so expensive. In the program, you will literally see entire families renting out one bedroom of an apartment."

Even if the program restarts, Burns said the uncertainty caused by layoffs could have consequences.

"(The) temporary layoff could cause them to leave the area, get new jobs," Burns said. "These are people who spent a lot of time in the area. They know very specific resources to the area, who to refer parents to for different concerns relating to poverty. It's a very important network that takes

See *HEAD START*, page 8



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Times **Local News**

Homes

Continued from page 1

building. Homes at the apartment complex are expected to be affordable for residents who make 80% of the average median income — which in Santa Clara County is \$181,300 for a family of four or \$126,900 for individuals.

Darren Berberian, representative for developers The Pacific Companies, said they addressed concerns about traffic by increasing their budget for traffic-calming measures from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

Developers are also partnering with the city department of transportation for a car sharing program. The membership-based program would provide 100% electric car sharing services 24/7 on the property.

“We’re working with the city on the (parking) spaces for a car share program, which I think is absolutely phenomenal,” he said Wednesday. “We really tried to do everything we can to fill up the massive need for more affordable housing, but also be very mindful of the community and our neighbors.”

The property, owned by National Retail Properties, was once home to a drive-in burger restaurant called The Golden Point. The city planning department said the project is one of the largest affordable housing developments in recent years.

District 5 Councilmember Peter Ortiz, who represents the area, said his office worked with The Pacific Companies to reduce the effects on the neighborhood. In response, the developers pledged to create 401 parking spaces to prevent congestion and overflow parking on streets.

While the city eliminated its minimum parking requirement for new housing developments, Berberian said they wanted to be mindful about parking concerns.

Living just a few blocks from the future affordable housing complex, Ortiz said the soon-to-be demolished vacant building was a major source of crime and blight, which was often discussed by the Alum Rock Village Action Committee.

“It’s important to me that whatever this development is, it’s done right in partnership with the community,” Ortiz said Wednesday. “Whether it’s concerns regard-

ing environmental issues or concerns about traffic, all those are important to me.”

Alum Rock Village Action Committee representative Shannon Sapien said the group is actively engaging with The Pacific Companies

“They have shown an openness to making sure the structures blend seamlessly with one another, creating a cohesive and attractive streetscape. In addition, we have emphasized the importance of green spaces within the developments,” Sapien told San José Spotlight. “This ongoing dialogue is a crucial part of ensuring that the new developments serve both the practical and cultural needs of our community.”

The Pacific Companies were able to waive green and open space requirements at Wednesday’s meeting, allowing them to avoid eliminating homes from their plan, but also upsetting nearby residents.

“I want to express my vehement opposition to any reduction or elimination of the open space of this huge project, which is rather outsized for the area,” 36-year resident Trudy Ellerbeck said last week.

“We are very excited to bring this much needed workforce housing to the city of San Jose. We are looking forward to seeing this community come to fruition,” Berberian told San José Spotlight.



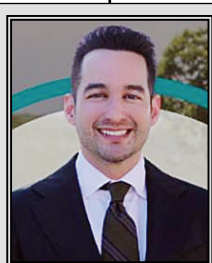
Rendering of affordable housing development at 2940 Alum Rock Ave. Courtesy of AO Architects & The Pacific Companies.

Community issues are easy to report

By Domingo Candelas

Did you know you can easily report issues like graffiti, illegal dumping, and abandoned vehicles right from your phone?

The free San José 311 App is a powerful tool that connects you with city services to help keep our community clean and safe. Through the app, you can also schedule a free junk pickup — perfect for getting rid of large items that can’t go in your regular trash bin. When you submit a request through the app, it’s sent directly to the appropriate city team for review, updates, and resolution.



Council Report

Domingo Candelas, District 8 Councilmember

For concerns near freeways, highways, or ramps, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) offers a Customer Service Request Form to address those areas.

As a reminder, we are hosting various beautification/clean-ups next month, if you want to get involved in beautifying our community, sign-up to volunteer in the district.

The 311 App is a great example of how reporting concerns can make a real difference in our neighborhoods. And while, technology is great, my office is here to follow up on any issue (311

App reported or not!)

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Public Hours: 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Public Hours: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM • Judging: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Public Hours: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM • Event Conclusion And Checkout: 2:00 PM

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Times **Local News**

Head Start

Continued from page 6
time to develop.”

Scores of Head Start teachers and staff pleaded for their jobs at the March 5 Santa Clara County Board of Education meeting. Elsa Gutierrez, an associate teacher at Head Start, said many workers have been with the program for 15 years.

“It’s my calling — it’s the calling of all my colleagues,” Gutierrez said at the meeting. “We teach our children that they are important, valued and worth the world. Please don’t have us turn our backs on them as you are thinking of doing the same to us.”

It comes as the board on Wednesday will discuss applying for its five-year grant application to cover the program’s costs through June 2026. The county’s Head Start program also serves San Benito County and — if renewed — anticipates serving up to 1,207 children, 906 of whom are in preschool in addition to 201 infants and toddlers.

Dramatic federal spending cut proposals in Washington, D.C. coupled with a regional decline in school district enrollment is fueling one of the county’s worst financial crises in recent history. Head Start cuts are just one of many, with other program cuts impacting migrant youth and students with multiple disabilities.

Susan Salop, a board member of the Sunnysvale Education Foundation who has a son in special education, said the Head

Start cuts will leave the region’s poorest families out to dry.

“Obviously this region is extremely expensive to live in — and this is a critical program for the people who need it most. I was shocked, to say the least,” Salop told San José Spotlight, adding that Head Start students with special needs normally don’t get accepted by private daycares, nursery schools, or in-home providers.

The teachers union came out swinging against the layoffs earlier this month.

“It is unacceptable that the futures of our students and communities are disrupted again and again by unstable funding streams,” Riju Krishna, president of the Association of County Educators, told San Jose Spotlight. “We need more consistent and robust funding so our communities can rely on that support and fund the education our students deserve. (We) will always advocate for what’s best for all our students.”

Krishna, at a March 5 board meeting, questioned why educators were first on the chopping block, despite controversy over the county education office’s top-heavy administration.

A federal investigation last month also reported that more than \$135,370 earmarked for the Head Start program was misallocated to pay for non-Head Start staff and credit card purchases under former Superintendent Mary Ann Dewan. Hinman, Dewan’s successor, argued the findings pointed to a pattern of mismanagement. Dewan at the time said the

Continued on next page



San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan is partnering with Caltrans to address homeless encampments near state freeways. San José Spotlight file photo.

San Jose Mayor Mahan wants to clear homeless camps near freeways

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

San Jose has had some success in clearing homeless encampments along the city’s waterways, and now, it wants to clear the unhoused living under freeways.

Mayor Matt Mahan wants to partner with Caltrans to accelerate sweeps near freeways through state legislation and a city pilot program.

Currently, Caltrans has jurisdiction for State

freeways, highways and underpasses. So far, the agency’s history of clearing people from freeway encampments has been slow to none.

Freeway onramps aren’t campgrounds — living there is unsafe for everyone,” Mahan said. “I’m supporting Senate Bill 569 which would give cities the ability to conduct sweeps and do homeless outreach on Caltrans property.”

If the measure is passed, the state would reimburse cities for sweeps.

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San José Mineta International Airport to have new generation of Airport retail concessions

SJ City Council approves \$16.9 million in capital investment bringing new retail concession opportunities to Terminals A & B

Following a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, San José City Council has approved the selection of two partners, Hudson and Paradies Lagardère, to manage a new retail concession program at San José Mineta International Airport (SJC) that will support 50+ local retailers.

The collective minimum capital investment of \$16.9 million will support a high-quality build-out featuring fresh new looks and integrate new technologies that will enhance the passenger experience, increase speed of service and drive sales.

Consisting of 12 retail concepts throughout Terminals A and B, the new partners will bring an updated product mix and a refreshed look and feel to the Airport's retail concessions, with new retail outlets opening as early as this year. The new program features a diverse mix of travel essentials, cafés and specialty retail, prioritizing high-quality products, local merchandise, technology and exceptional customer service. To ensure product freshness, all grab-and-go food will be locally sourced from within Santa Clara County.

Prioritizing a keen sense of place—focusing on innovation, local flavors, small businesses and a curated product selection—the new program will include diverse offerings featuring established brands and local businesses, including an almost 50% increase in participation by Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Both retail partners committed to support a high-quality build-out with new technology components that are designed to delight customers and drive incremental revenue.

"With thousands of visitors expected to pass through SJC for the Super Bowl, NCAA Men's Basketball, and World Cup games in 2026, now is the perfect time to enhance our airport's shops, cafes, and overall customer experience," said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. "By putting the spotlight on small businesses and local foods, we ensure that travelers from around the world experience the unique identity of San José from the moment they arrive."

"Thank you to the City Council for investing in the Airport and creating new opportunities for passengers and Airport users to enjoy. SJC's new retail program will create a distinctive San José and Silicon Valley experience by offering visually appealing and welcoming concessions that capture the region's spirit and cultural richness," said San José City Manag-



Plaza de San José rendering

er Jennifer Maguire.

"Hudson's program will showcase a diverse selection of local goods, including wines from renowned vineyards such as Eden Rift Vineyards (Hollister) and J. Lohr (San José); artisanal gifts from esteemed local makers including Alice Frost Designs and Lola x Kenneth Collaboration (San José) and culinary delights from local purveyors such as Mike & Niki's Honey Company (Campbell), Sweetdragon Baking Company (San José), Garlic World (Gilroy) and Lala's Jam Bar (Sonoma County), among many others.

Tech enthusiasts will be captivated by a unique Google shop-in-shop featuring cutting-edge electronics and the newest and most trendy products in an experiential display where travelers can try and play before buying, along with merchandise available only at SJC. SJC will be among the first airports in the nation to feature merchandise directly from Google. Additionally, Hudson will carry a curated selection of best-in-class global electronics brands, including Apple, Bose, Sony and other sought-after technology.

Hudson's program will also include San José-based Nirvana Soul Café and all grab-and-go food products will be sourced locally from Eataly Silicon Valley. The overall concepts showcase the rich heritage of the San José region, drawing inspiration from iconic local names such as Santana Row and Willow Glen Market.

Paradies Lagardère's program will also reflect the unique character of the San José region by featuring an array of locally sourced goods, showcasing the work of artisans and makers such as Gooseberry Designs (Los Gatos) and The Capsmith (San José). Local gourmet offerings will include delectables from Nokki Farm (San José), Alice Stick Cookies (Los Altos), Ginger Lab (Santa Clara), Daybreak Coffee (San José) and Greenlee's Bakery (San José), among many others.

A highlight of the program will be a selection of licensed sports apparel for men, women and children.

OpEd

Is the East Side Union High School District facing severe cutbacks due to less funds being available?

By Kevin Larsen

In February of this year a heated school board meeting took place for the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD), which is currently struggling financially, as it has for several years.

At the recent ESUHSD board meeting, a vast number of teachers, community members and students spoke out to ask the school board not to cut the 11 campus monitor positions at the district high schools (one per school).

The board members got heated too in their discussions, and one board member, Mr. Brian Do, refused to vote for the cut.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is now carefully watching things to make sure monies are balanced out properly for the current year and future ones.

A look back in time

There has been a constant drain on finances for this school district. Some claim that the ESUHSD does not receive the same amount of funding from the State as compared to other nearby school districts.

There was a break from hiring police officers to monitor schools due to some political views toward police officers and to save money for the district. Instead, Campus Monitors were put in place.

At several school board meetings many felt that Campus Monitors were very important in order to provide a level of safety for each high school campus. And now we have a push among some board members to cut the monitor program out of the budget.

When the school district cut the funds to have police officers on campus, then it only makes sense to use that money for the Campus Monitors. Many believe public board meetings are best to cut administration costs, rather than cut student needs such as Campus Monitors.

Teacher Union

The Teacher Union believes cuts should not be done for services that help students, and that the Campus Monitor program is crucial for the well-being of the students and staff.

The ESUHSD school board believes they must cut Campus Monitors, because legally they must fall in line with proper cost savings to ensure that the Santa Clara County Office of Education does not take over the oversight of spending and running the district in the future.

To learn more you can view these recent ESUHSD board meetings:

ESUHSD Board Meeting 02/13/25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRJOEsB-WV0>

ESUHSD Board Meeting 03/20/25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhT06YoN5r4>
These YouTube videos of school board meetings keep people informed, so we should thank the board members of the East Side Union High School District for offering this on YouTube. Many other school districts in our area do not use YouTube, and as a result, the community is less informed.

Where do we go from here?

The East Side Union High School District has made vast cutbacks this year to balance their budget. Such oversight is now coming from the Santa Clara County Office of Education for ESUHSD. So, where are we going? We know that to remain financially solvent the ESUHSD needs to take some new and progressive measures in spending and oversight. It is up to each resident to pitch in and help with ideas.

Donations

I suggest retired experts in finance ask ESUHSD if they can offer help. Go to board meetings and speak for two minutes and write each board member to help them. One may write them here: <https://www.esuhd.org/BoardSuperintendent/Board-of-Trustees/index.html>.

Also, perhaps there are those who can help with fundraising efforts to keep the Campus Monitors from being terminated next school year. They have already been informed they will be out of a job next year, but that could change if key people can figure out how to obtain donations. New vibrant ways of overseeing spending can also help this quest.

Warrant List

A school district Warrant List is a document shown on every school board meeting that details all the payments or expenses a school district is making and is a record of the orders drawn by the school district's governing board to its treasurer for specific amounts of money.

It is my belief that vast oversight needs to be done with an inspection of where monies are spent each month for the Warrant List items shown at each board meeting. We should ask the ESUHSD Board of Trustees to demand careful inspection of each and every dollar spent, and having a detailed Warrant List of items each month could help to solve the district's budget shortfall.

Kevin Larsen is a community advocate and resident of Evergreen Valley.

Head Start

Continued from previous page

misspending was an error and that she corrected it immediately when brought to her attention.

Hinman, who was brought in to reshape district spending after the board fired Dewan last October, assured the teachers' union on March 5 his office was scrutinizing executive staff.

"I can assure you we are top heavy and we are addressing that," Hinman said at the meeting. "There are some extremely high salaries. We're addressing that."

Hinman said this month's staff layoffs are making his fiscal right-sizing of the agency look "lopsided." But he said the office can't commit to tens of millions in contracts for programs like Head Start without certainty that the federal government will reimburse them.

"If we act and issue \$40 million in contracts and we're not issued that \$40 million by the federal government, we will go bankrupt," Hinman said. "I believe your jobs will come back — I really do. I believe we're going to get funded ... and when your jobs come back, which I believe they will, you'll see equity with management."

Board of Education President Maimona Afzal Berta said the fate of the county's most vulnerable preschool age children is in flux yet again over volatility in the federal government.

"The hope is that the Head Start layoff notices can be rescinded as soon as the (office of education) receives funding confirmation from the federal government," Berta told San José Spotlight.

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Center

Continued from page 1

San Jose Councilmember Peter Ortiz said MACSA is a cornerstone of East Side's history and development.

"In its heyday, MACSA provided a comprehensive network of support for our Latino youth and families," Ortiz said at the meeting. "Whether it was food, education, health care, child care or sports programs, MACSA stood as a beacon of hope."

San Jose Deputy City Manager Angel Rios, Jr. urged the board to support restoring MACSA for the neighborhood's youth.

"We're aware of the fiscal crisis," he said. "But I think there's an even greater crisis here and that's the crisis of hopelessness. Too many of our young people are feeling hopeless. Work together and do something."

Community supporters showed up en masse following a call to action on social media by the Si Se Puede Collective. Clapping, the audience broke out in a chant of "Si Se Puedes." "For our youth! For our Future!" added an audience member.

Parent Dilza Gonzalez urged the board to consider the needs of the East Side community suffering anxiety due to ICE raids.

"We're living in a moment where we have a federal administration telling our community and our kids that they are not welcome, that they are not enough," she said. "They are creating a war against our community. The same community you are here to serve. Show them that you care, and this is a safe place for them. That was what MACSA was for me ... and what we want to continue."

Vasquez and Paz-Cedillos say they are committed to restoring MACSA as a hub for youth development, workforce training and family support services.

"There's a great need in our community and a great sense of hope that we're going to create something that will benefit the next generations and honor those that came before us," Vasquez told San José Spotlight. "We hope the district continues to partner with us. This is a way for them to get additional investment for their students."



Brennan Wall with New Ballet dancers in Swan Lake. Photo credit: Bari Lee

New Ballet presents Swan Lake, ballet's iconic love story

New Ballet, a popular institution that Silicon Valley, announces its production of Swan Lake will be performed May 17 and 18 at the Hammer Theatre Center.

"Swan Lake is a classical ballet that is a one-of-a-kind experience," said New Ballet Founder/Director Dalia Rawson. "The production honors a timeless story, with physicality, intense emotions and beautiful music. I am thrilled to bring Swan Lake to the local community so audiences can experience the relevance of one of the most popular ballets of all time."

Swan Lake is the most beloved of classical ballets. Featuring Tchaikovsky's iconic score performed live by the New Ballet Orchestra, a lake of glittering swans, a noble prince and a streamlined production with a running length of about two hours, this exciting production captures the magic of ballet's most romantic love story.

Full length shows will be accompanied by a live orchestra, conducted by Thomas Shoebottom.

Select Premium Tickets in the Orchestra or Parterre section provide a unique experience including access to the Hammer Theatre Center's exclusive lounge before the show and at intermission, with treats and beverages for all ages, as well as photo opportunities with dancers in costume.

Performances

Saturday, May 17: 2 p.m.
Saturday, May 17: 7 p.m. (LGBTQ+ show in partnership with PRIDE)
Sunday, May 18: 11 a.m. (My Very First Ballet)
Sunday, May 18: 2 p.m.

Note: My Very First Ballet: Swan Lake is a special shortened performance for families with toddlers and preschoolers. (Run time: one hour with no intermission).

*New Ballet is also pleased to present a special LGBTQ+ performance in partnership with PRIDE on Friday, May 17, 7pm.

Hammer Theatre Center is located at 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113

TICKETS PRICES: \$25-\$111, Groups of 10 or more can receive a 10% discount by using code: SLGROUP To purchase tickets, visit: <https://newballet.com/spring>

About New Ballet

New Ballet is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that was founded in 2016 by local dancer, choreographer, and ballet teacher Dalia Rawson. The Company is the Resident Ballet Company of the Hammer Theatre. Its performances are vibrant celebrations of dance and fun theatrical experiences for the whole family. Hailed by Metro Silicon Valley as "the leading ballet organization in the South Bay," New Ballet celebrates the virtuosity of classical ballet and the cathartic power of the performing arts.

New Ballet's programs are made possible in part by an operating grant from the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs.

For more information about New Ballet visit: <https://newballet.com>.

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on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

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