

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Lake Cunningham is almost here! For more information, see page 4

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Wildfire safety virtual town hall slated for July 10

State Senator Dave Cortese is hosting a virtual town hall on wildfire safety and mitigation on July 10th, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Seth Schalet, CEO of the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, and others will be speaking on actions being taken on the issue of wildfire mitigation. Fire prevention tips on what you can do around your own home to mitigate wildfire risk in your community will be discussed. After the presentation, audience members will be invited to participate in a Q&A with panelists.

A zoom registration link will be sent out to those who RSVP for the event: RSVP LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/45s6ct3f>

For more information, call (408) 723-4154; or email Zach Contini at Zachary.Contini@sen.ca.gov.

From Classroom to Champions

Chaboya Middle School's Black Team Dominates Northern California Science Olympiad; Chaboya Black Team secures 360 medals

By William Bellou
Publisher

Chaboya Middle School's Science Olympiad Black Team delivered an outstanding performance at the Northern California State Finals, held at California State University East Bay, earning an impressive 4th place overall.

Throughout the season, the team amassed a remarkable 360 medals across 23 events, showcasing the ongoing excellence and scientific prowess of Chaboya students in these rigorous, multidisciplinary competitions.

80 Chaboya students participated in a diverse and dynamic lineup of tournaments, spanning mini, satellite, in-person, and virtual formats from September 2024 to April 2025. These competitions took place in numerous locations across the country, including Cummings and Marietta (Georgia); Boyceville (Wisconsin); Tallahassee and Miami (Florida); Sugar Land (Texas); West Chester (Pennsylvania); Mason (Ohio); Brooklyn and Chappaqua (New York); Apple Valley (Southern California); and sever-



Chaboya's State Team Champions, Leadership Team, Coaching and Proctoring Team. (Left to Right, Bottom Row to Top Row) Bottom Row #1: Priyanka Keshavan(C), Krish Darshan Raj, Shashvath Shiv Shankar, Riyansh Goyal, Christopher Joseph Kennedy, Shasta Mudda(C), Arushi Saha, Abhinav Raja, Ashwita Raja(C), Anushka Raman, Hasini Anumula. (Row #2): Puneet Nalluru(C), Rikhav Furia, Anjalika Sriwastava, Anshu Jam-mula, Autumn Le, Laya Gowravaram, Veenanjali Chellaboina, Shreya Preetham, Prerana Mullaguri, Simran Gupta, Saesha Bargal. (Row #3): Vivek Ambekar, Janaki Patel, Christopher Kennedy, Nyla Kennedy, Deepa Gopalakrishnan (Coach SCHS), Vijayalaxmi Chellaboina, Rekha Chowdhur (Head Coach), Preeti Mudda (Co-Coach), Bhagi Lakshmiarahan, Vidya Ramakrishnan, Sumana Shashidhar, Manish Gupta. (Top Row #4): Vijay Parmar (Co-Coach), Jagannath Rao Mudda (Co-Coach). Missing from the Photo: Sreekar Baddepudi(C), Tanisha Bhugra(TM), Prisha Kamal Bahl.

al cities in Northern California such as Sacramento, Cupertino, Milpitas, and Hayward.

The Science Olympiad, a renowned nationwide program founded in 1984, features more than 6,600 teams competing annually across all 50 states. The events challenge students to master scientific concepts, apply analytical thinking, and develop creative solutions to complex problems in real world contexts.

Chaboya's students have long embraced the rigor and excitement of this multifaceted program, consistently qualifying for the Northern California State Competitions. The 2025 season kicked off with a record number of student signups, leading to the formation of six teams. Over the course of seven months, these teams engaged in a wide range of tournaments,

See CHABOYA, page 7

Celebrate 4th of July at San Jose Gurdwara with a free 'Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social' 7-10 p.m.

By Kirpal Atwal
Special to the Times

San Jose Gurdwara, located in the Evergreen foothills, is again hosting the annual free ice cream social in celebration of our great country!

The annual event Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social will take place Friday, July 4th from 7-10 p.m. San Jose Gurdwara is located at: 3636 Gurdwara Ave in San Jose.

San Jose Gurdwara has many events which are always free to

attend, and they provide delicious complementary food for everyone. The Evergreen Valley community is of the same family of mankind, expressing love for all people of all races, and all backgrounds.

The 4th of July is a very important day for Sikhs. Sikh Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have deep pride as they help set up for this and other events. The 4th of July is a very special day for them as they appreciate our freedom. We understand that and take pride in singing Amer-



ican patriotic songs and carrying the American flag with honor.

Important historical days help educate everyone about patriotism and how each culture con-

tributes unique gifts which weave the beautiful tapestry of our country. Understanding others, combined with embracing diversity,

See GURDWARA, page 6



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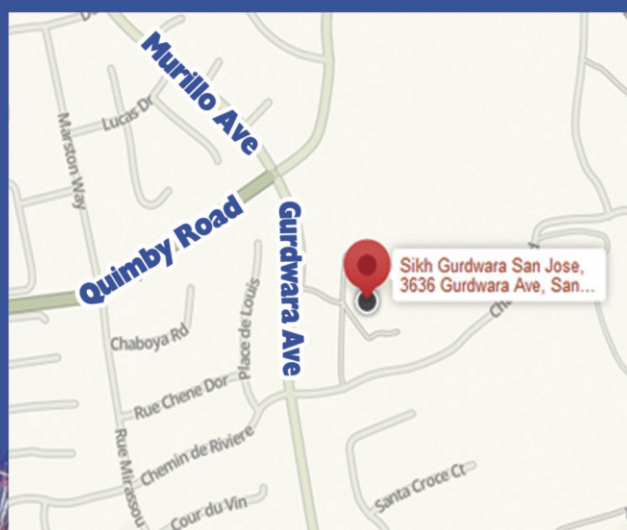
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“Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social” 7pm-10pm held at the Gurdwara on the Hill

We will not be using any fireworks but if you bring your binoculars and keen eyesight you will see the displays far in the distance which light up the sky!

All have been through such great challenges in the past years. We sincerely care about everyone and understand the sacrifices which have been made by families. We continue to have a fully outdoor event where you can walk under the moonlit stars with your family and friends. Admission and food are free. It is an event of joy and celebration of how wonderful you are and our strong and noble country called America is! If you can, come on up and have complementary ice cream or fresh fruit and connect under the moonlit sky with those of all races and cultures in our wonderful Bay Area! It is a night of building family for all. We also will be serving complementary vegetarian meals to-go at the Langar (kitchen area). – Kirpal Atwal, *Gurdwara Director*

We embrace the values of our American heritage strongly! Values of justice, liberty, equality and the caring about others are enshrined in the Constitution and also form the cornerstone of our Sikh beliefs. We are the Sikh Americans and very proud to be a part of the United States of America and of course the wonderful Evergreen community!



The San Jose Gurdwara is open for you to visit 365 days of the year.

It is located all the way up Quimby Road on the hillside.

The Sikh religion reaches out to the less fortunate and donations are always welcome. You can find information at our website below.

The address is 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148

Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712 | Website: sanjosegurdwara.org





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Celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks and community spirit

By Domingo Candelas

As we are now in the midst of Summer, keep in mind that the Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Lake Cunningham is almost here!

Join us for a family-friendly event featuring food trucks, live music, kid-friendly activities, and a professional fireworks show that will light up the sky. Entry is FREE, with the event starting at 3 p.m.

We see an increase in fireworks being set off in our neighborhoods around the Fourth of July. Every year, people get seriously and permanently injured because they underestimate the power of fireworks.

Keep our community safe by reporting illegal fireworks to 3-1-1. Please complete the form fully and include as much info as possible. For the City to investigate your report and potentially issue a warning or citation,



you must be a logged-in user with a 3-1-1 account.

Celebrate responsibly by attending a professional and permitted fireworks display! Lastly, this week, the City Council unani-

mously passed the Mayor's June Budget Message.

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your City Councilmember.

IN MEMORY

Edward Fahrner

94 Years, Evergreen Valley

Edward Fahrner Born in San Jose, CA. to Evergreen Valley Area Orchardist Emil and Gladys Fahrner.

Edward was preceded in death by his son, Phil Fahrner.

He is survived by daughters, Catherine Margherita, Nancy Picker and son, Edward Fahrner, grandchildren, Sherrie Ledbetter, Terri Santos, Amanda Costa and Seth



Picker. There are 8 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Edward attended Evergreen Grade School and was a 1949 graduate of Bellarmine Prep. He was a Teamster for more than 30 years and a member of Local 287. After leaving the Teamsters, he worked for the Second Harvest Food Bank for nine years. He retired from there in 1996 as a warehouse manager.

He was a huge Forty Niner Football and Giants Baseball fan. Edward was an avid bowler who bowled with his wonderful friend of over fifty years, Barbara Pugh.

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Times Local News

San Jose bans homeless people renting RVs

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

The San Jose City Council voted 9-1 last week to approve the “vanlording” policy to ban advertising and renting out of RVs to homeless residents. The new law’s intent is to discourage the use the recreational vehicles as homes.

The new law, which goes into effect in August, prohibits individuals in RVs from parking and sleeping on city streets and private property. District 2 Councilmember Pamela Campos was the sole “no” vote.

The policy comes on the heels of the city’s RV tow-away zones program. San Jose plans to select

up to 30 temporary tow-away zones and 10 permanent sites to clear RVs for street sweeping and cleanup. Implementation is scheduled for this year.

RVs parked in front of businesses on Kruse Drive in San Jose. *San Jose Spotlight file photo.*



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Gurdwara

Continued from page 1

brings strength to all to overcome any stereotypes we may harbor.

Equality

The American Sikhs believe in equality between all people with regard to cultures, race, religion as well as between men and women too. The Sikhs were one of the first cultures in history to honor and embrace equality between men and women. The truth is, America is such a grand place to live that all one has to do is just grasp the opportunities and figure out how to make things work for each unique situation.

Freedom!

What is so wonderful about America is that it is a diverse country and a place where people accept one another regardless of race, creed, color or religion. We also know that Independence Day is important, because without fighting for our country we would have no freedom!

The sky is the limit in how one can achieve goals and live life to the fullest in this beautiful, and very special place.

Thank you, Evergreen Community for accepting the Sikh Americans as your friends. Please visit our place on the hill where we serve complimentary vegetarian food 365 days of the year. Also, Sikhs never try to proselytize (change others religion or push them towards ours called Sikhism) instead we honor and respect all religions and treat everyone as brother and sister.

Message from President Bob Dhillon

Our Gurdwara is a community center as well as a place of worship. We have many events of this kind each year and want you to know you're always welcome. Our beautiful children's playground is open to the public.

It is very heartwarming to meet and see the community come up to greet each other during the 4th of July event each year. Although we do not use fireworks, our location allows the community to see such displays in the beautiful valley below while enjoying delicious, tasty treats. The children can go back for seconds if they wish to.

Thank you, Evergreen Community, for your friendship and camaraderie. For more information on the Under the Moonlight 4th of July Ice Cream Social go to the San Jose Gurdwara website and you can get our app there too: sanjosegurdwara.org

Editor's note: Learn more by viewing the informational ad for this event on page 2 of this issue.

Times Local News

Chaboya

Continued from page 1

continuously testing, refining, and expanding their scientific knowledge.

Their hard work spanned a broad array of disciplines, including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth and Space Science, Engineering, Technology, Social Science, and Scientific Inquiry reflecting the program's strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and hands on exploration.

At the heart of Chaboya's Science Olympiad success is the unwavering energy and dedication of its passionate coaching team, led by committed volunteers. Leading the program is Head Coach Rekha Chowlur, who, alongside Co-Coach Preeti Mudda, has played a pivotal role in inspiring and mentoring students throughout the season. They are supported by Jagannath Rao Mudda, the insightful Nature of Inquiry Coach, and Vijay Parmar, the tech-savvy Technology and Engineering Coach.

Equally essential to the program's achievements is the strong support from volunteer parents and the school's leadership, whose ongoing involvement has been critical to the teams' growth and performance. Together, this dynamic team of coaches and mentors has created a nurturing, high-achievement environment that continues to fuel Chaboya's remarkable and enduring championship journey.

Coaches Rekha Chowlur and Preeti Mudda have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Principal Ms. Michal Nozik for her unwavering support and encouragement throughout the season. A passionate advocate for STEM education, Principal Nozik has been instrumental in nurturing a culture of academic excellence, curiosity, and innovation at Chaboya Middle School. Her commitment to providing meaningful enrichment opportunities has played a crucial role in the growth and ongoing success of the Science Olympiad program.

By ensuring students have access to essential campus resources and fostering an environment where learning thrives, she has laid a strong foundation for Chaboya's continued accomplishments at both the state- and nation-wide levels.

Special thanks were extended to Ms. April Yan, PTSA President; Ms. Sonali Baheti, VP of Programs; and Ms. Sarika Thakur, PTSA President Silver Creek High School, for their steadfast support of the Science Olympiad program. Their leadership and collaboration were instrumental in coordinating resources, managing logistics, and ensuring the program ran smoothly throughout the season.

Coach Rekha Chowlur reflected, "Without the help of Ms. April Yan and the PTSA, it would have been a challenging year. Their support and collaboration were absolutely essential in helping us navigate the demands of the season and ensure our students had the resources and opportunities they needed to succeed."

Custodian Mr. Pedro Aguilar was also recognized for his vital role in facilitating access to school facilities for practices and test sessions, helping to create a consistent and productive training environment for the students.

The coaches expressed deep appreciation



Chaboya Science Olympiad Community along with the Coaching Team, Chaboya Administration

for the many dedicated parents and volunteers who generously contributed their time and expertise mentoring students, writing tests, and proctoring events. These collective efforts were crucial to the season's success.

A special note of gratitude was extended to alumni parents Sumana Shashidhar, Deepa Gopalakrishnan (Coach SCHS), and Rashmi Bhugra for their unwavering and continued support. Their lasting commitment to Chaboya's Science Olympiad community continues to inspire and uplift current students and families alike.

One of the most distinctive aspects of Chaboya's Science Olympiad program is its emphasis on developing life skills alongside scientific knowledge. The coaches foster collaboration, leadership, creative thinking, and problem-solving, all while encouraging students to treat their peers with respect. A unique mentorship model further enriches the program: experienced former participants and current student captains work closely with the teams, providing guidance and encouragement throughout the season.

The results speak for themselves. In addition to the Black Team's 4th place finish at the NorCal State Competition and 3rd place at the Santa Clara County Regional, the White and Red teams also earned a combined 30 medals and placed 16th and 24th respectively at Regionals demonstrating the depth and talent of Chaboya's student teams.

As the 2024-2025 season comes to a close on a high note, the excitement and anticipation for the 2025-2026 season are already building. Students, captains, mentors, coaches, and parents are energized and ready to aim even higher.

"Steadfast encouragement and strong mentorship have clearly fueled the Black Team's extraordinary success this season".

"As coaches, our goal is to help students explore different ways of learning and to think creatively," said Coach Chowlur. "We encourage them to be curious, to collaborate, and to challenge themselves — and this year, they truly rose to the occasion."

With passionate leadership, tireless student effort, and unwavering community support, Chaboya Middle School continues to turn scientific curiosity into championship success.

Chaboya's Brilliant Test Writers, Proctors, Mentors and the Logistics team: Christopher Kennedy, Nyla Kennedy, Sumana Shashidhar, Rashmi Bhugra, Daya Gulabani, Vivek Ambekar,

Janaki Patel, Deepa Gopalakrishnan, Bhagi Lakshmiarahan, Sukanta Saha, Shilpa Sinha, Gaurav Goyal, Sahil Bargal, Sanat Kamal Bahl, Priya Viswa, Shiv Ganapathy, Santanu Dey, Bheemaroo Mullaguri, Vijayalaxmi Chellaboina, Kaitlyn Nguyen, Srinivas Jammula, Preetham Swaminathan, Huy Le, Divya Mehta, Sneha Sriwastava, Vidya Ramakrishnan, and Menakshi Bhargava and Anant Furia.

Chaboya's White and Red Team Members:
Regionals 2025: Aneka Talluri, Bao Nguyen, Kaitlyn Ly, Laya Gowravaram, Veenanjali Chellaboina, Siddharth Gupta, Anika Kaashyap, Anjalika Sriwastava, Anushka Yadwadkar, Arhan Bhargava, Keith Dey, Krish Sureshkumar Saranya, Shreya Preetham, Viraj Pandey, Rikhav Furia, Prerana Mullaguri, Charlene Nguyen, Shardul Ambekar, Hugo Le, Aarya Vibhandik, Anvitha Penagalapati, Siddharth Yelamanchi, Swara Pandey, Sydney Nguyen, Kyna Chandra, Saanvi Ramtekkar, Anshi Sinha, Aariana Patel, Anay Mendiratta, Shlok Vazirani, Dev Abhilash ('24).

Team Captains, Alumni Mentors, and

Research Contributors: 2024-25 Captains Incoming Freshman: Deshna Shekar (Johns Hopkins University), Zaki Shaikh (University of California @ Santa Cruz) and Arya Kamat. **2025-2026**

Captains: Sreekar Baddepudi (G12), Puneet Nalluru (G12), Priyanka Keshavan (G10), Abhinav Raja (G10), Shasta Mudda (G9), and Team Manager Tanisha Bhugra (G10).

Mentors: Anushka Raman (G9,10, Chemistry), Aarushi Saha (G9,10, Engineering Builds), Ashwithaa Raja (G9,10, Anatomy & Physiology), Laya Gowravaram (G10) & Veenanjali Chellaboina (G10, Write It Do It), Christopher Joseph Kennedy (G9, Engineering Builds), Shashvath Shiv Shankar (G9, Code Busters), Anjalika Sriwastava (G9, Experimental Design), Anshu Jammula (G9, Water Quality), Autumn Le (G9, Disease Detectives), Shreya Preetham (G9, Helicopter Design & Meteorology), Devarsh Shekar (2024,G9, Physics), Sudhir Venkatraman (2024,G9, Road Scholar & Dynamic Planets).



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San Jose cancels Almaden Lake Park 4th of July festival

By Annalise Freimarck
San José Spotlight

San Jose resident Cathie Bacosa woke up around midnight last year to a fire ravaging her backyard in the neighborhood she’s lived in for 28 years. She thinks it was likely from fireworks. It was July 4, and more than 30,000 people had crowded into the small neighborhood to watch the annual Almaden Lake Park fireworks display near her home.

The fire destroyed Bacosa’s kitchen and backyard, forcing her and her family to live in a hotel for five months. She’s one of dozens of residents glad local officials have canceled the annual fireworks display this year, despite it being the 10th year of the lakeside festivities. The celebration included an afternoon festival and a nighttime fireworks display.

“I’m very fortunate. My family got out,” she told San José Spotlight. “We were safe. Our dog was safe, but it’s the scariest thing

that we’ve ever had to go through in our lives.”

Councilmember George Casey, who represents District 10 where the park is located, announced in a communitywide email Monday that San Jose had canceled the festivities due to safety concerns — and won’t utilize the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds as an alternative location.

Casey said emergency officials had a difficult time responding to calls last year due to the crowd and hundreds of cars blocking the streets, including a hillside fire that took three hours to put out and burned between 5 and 10 acres.

“There are no fiscally responsible options to mitigate the safety concerns this year,” Casey said in the email. “Holding a safe event for attendees and surrounding neighbors is of paramount importance and guided our decision to postpone the event while we work to identify a more suitable venue.”

San Jose Police Department deferred comment to Casey’s office. Casey was not available for comment.

A San Jose Fire Department spokesperson said they didn’t have additional comments beyond what Casey’s email said.

The annual festival and fireworks also brought foot traffic to local nearby businesses, including Vanshu 24×7 Liquor Store in the Old Almaden Plaza.

Owner Sumit Maan said his liquor store always gets an Independence Day boost as people flock to the area to celebrate. He’s worried about the dip in business he may see due to this year’s cancelation, but said safety must be the priority. He’d like to



San Jose officials have canceled Independence Day festivities at Almaden Lake Park due to safety concerns. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

see it come back to Almaden Lake Park in the future if the event can be better contained.

“If the San Jose Police Department and other communities participate and they’re managed good, then we will be happy,” Maan told San José Spotlight.

“The last couple of years, we saw there is no good management (of the event).”

San Jose is still hosting other fireworks shows on July 4, including one with a waterfront view at Lake Cunningham Park on the East Side. Other cities, including Sunnyvale, are experimenting with drone

shows that limit fire risk.

Michael Ross, a lead communications volunteer with neighborhood group Almaden Valley Community Association, said it’s a shame the show had to be canceled because he enjoyed it every year. But he understands the risks outweigh the benefits.

“The fact that it’s not going to be held is disappointing, as I’m sure it is to many people,” Ross told San José Spotlight. “Everybody likes fireworks, especially good ones, big ones — not wildfire-starting fireworks.”





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Times **Local News**

Empowering Evergreen Valley

Community resilience against wildfires, earthquakes, air pollution, and water safety

Residents of Evergreen Valley possess the remarkable ability to fortify their community against the dangers posed by wildfires and environmental challenges by adopting specific, proactive measures. Here are detailed strategies you should implement:

Wildfire Prevention

1. Create Defensible Space:

Begin by meticulously clearing any combustible vegetation and debris near your home. This includes removing dry leaves, twigs, and overgrown brush and relocating firewood to a minimum distance of 30 feet from your structure. Instead, consider cultivating fire-resistant landscaping with native plants that require less water and are less likely to ignite, such as succulents and ornamental grasses, to form a protective barrier around your property.

2. Harden Your Home:

Invest in fire-resistant materials to transform your home into a defensive stronghold against wildfires. Opt for Class A roofing materials, such as metal or tile, and use non-combustible siding to minimize fire risk. Additionally, install double-paned tempered glass windows and reinforced metal mesh screens to prevent hot embers from penetrating your home during a wildfire.

3. Establish Firebreaks:

Strategically create firebreaks—cleared pathways devoid of flammable vegetation that halt the fire's advancement. These can be achieved through controlled landscaping and are essential in high-risk areas. Working with local fire departments, you can develop effective firebreaks on your property that are vital barriers against advancing flames.

4. Get the Community Involved:

Mobilize your neighbors to create a united front against wildfires by joining local firefighting programs and initiatives to reduce fire risks in your area. Organize community clean-up days to clear out brush and debris from shared spaces and collaborate on fire mitigation strategies that foster a culture of safety and preparedness.

5. Prepare Your Emergency Plans:

Formulate a comprehensive emergency response plan that details your family's escape routes in the event of a wildfire. Ensure that everyone in your home is familiar with these plans. Construct an emergency kit with essentials, including at least a three-day supply of water, non-perishable food, first-aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, and copies of essential documents securely stored in a waterproof container.

Earthquake Preparedness

1. Secure Heavy Items:

Protect your home against earthquake damage by securely anchoring heavy furniture to the walls, such as bookshelves and cabinets. Consider using anti-tip straps and brackets to secure items that could easily shift or fall dur-

ing seismic events, thereby reducing the risk of injury.

2. Assemble Earthquake Kits:

Prepare for the unforeseen by assembling an extensive earthquake preparedness kit. This kit should include essentials like a minimum of one gallon of water per person per day for three days, a three-day supply of non-perishable food items, a whistle to signal for help, a multi-tool, a flashlight with extra batteries, and a first-aid kit. Include personal items like medication and copies of essential documents.

3. Conduct a Home Safety Assessment:

Take a proactive approach by performing a thorough home safety assessment. Identify vulnerable areas such as unbraced walls, unsupported heavy fixtures, and weak foundations. Reinforce these zones by bolting the house to its foundation and securing gas lines to prevent leaks during tremors.

Addressing Air Pollution

1. Reduce Emissions:

Commit to reducing your carbon footprint by using public transportation, carpooling with neighbors, or biking instead of driving. Advocate for local sustainability initiatives that encourage car-free days, increase public transit options, or promote electric vehicle use to help enhance air quality in your community.

2. Stay Informed:

Stay engaged with local air quality updates through apps or websites that monitor pollution levels. Consider limiting outdoor exposure and wearing masks to safeguard your health

during high pollution, especially if you have respiratory issues.

3. Plant Trees:

Join community efforts focused on reforestation and urban greening. Participate in local tree-planting events to enhance air quality, create habitats for wildlife, and provide shade that reduces temperatures in urban areas.

Water Safety

1. Practice Water Conservation:

Conserve water diligently to contribute to the sustainability of local water sources and maintain high water quality standards. Implement strategies such as using low-flow fixtures and collecting rainwater for irrigation to achieve your conservation goals.

2. Report Contamination:

Be an advocate for water safety by remaining vigilant for signs of water contamination, such as discoloration, odd odors, or sediment accumulation. Report any concerns to local authorities immediately to ensure prompt assessment and intervention.

3. Educate Yourself:

Equip yourself with knowledge regarding best practices in water safety. Participate in community workshops on safe drinking water, wastewater management, and aquatic ecosystem protection to actively safeguard local water resources.

By adopting these specific, well-informed strategies, residents of Evergreen Valley can significantly bolster their resilience against environmental threats while fostering a robust sense of community safety and enhancing the area's overall well-being.

Let's come together to take impactful actions for a safer, healthier future! Please contribute to the overall well-being of the area.



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Times Local News

Two exhibitions
planned for July 11
opening at San José
Museum of Art

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Two interesting exhibitions are opening July 11 at the San José Museum of Art.

Pao Houa Her's practice engages with the legacies, potentials, and aesthetics of landscape and portrait photography traditions through works that examine the complex intertwining of desire, homeland, and artifice.

Pao Houa Her: The Imaginative Landscape (detail, below) is the first survey of Her's practice. Spanning nearly 20 years of work, it connects California agricultural landscapes to the jungles of Laos, poppy fields in Minnesota, and beyond.

Though specific to her own Hmong American experience, The Imaginative Landscape explores constructions of homeland that resonate across diasporas.

Young bay mud (detail, below) —a scientific term for ecologically rich and water-saturated deposits that are less than ten thousand years old—underlies much of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Inspired by the ways young bay mud shapes our experience of and interaction with the region, this exhibition highlights artists with local ties who are using mud to explore ecological entanglement

and belonging in the Bay Area. These artists invoke indigenous, ancestral, sensorial, and multi-species knowledge to propose alternative ways of relating to our immediate environment.

Editor's note: San José Museum of Art is located at: 110 South Market St, San José CA 95113 msamay@sjmusart.org | cell 415.722.0555. Free admission for youth, students, and teachers with ID. SJMA's new hours Thu 4–9pm, Fri 11am–9pm, and Sat–Sun 11am–6pm.

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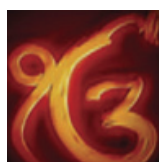


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