

Big city mayors call for sustained state funding to address homelessness
SEE PAGE 4



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SEE PAGE 9

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SEE PAGE 6



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Scouts honor American heroes

Flags placed on headstones at Oak Hill Cemetery

By William Bellou
Publisher

In a heartfelt display of patriotism and respect, a group of dedicated Scouts embarked on a mission to honor American heroes by placing American flags on the headstones at Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose.

The solemn act, carried out on Saturday, May 27, serves as a poignant tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for the ideals of our great nation. Oak Hill Cemetery is a revered location that holds the memories of countless servicemen and women, has become a focal point for

See **FLAGS**, page 2



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Great show of charity at Cadwallader Elementary School

By Frank Shortt
Times staff writer

Cadwallader School in the Evergreen School District hosted The Outreach Program, led by Regional Manager Christopher Romero of the West Coast offices on May 15.

The organizing was accomplished by Lucy Hsu, third grade teacher at Cadwallader School, under the auspices of Principal Maureen McClintock.

Their goal, along with parent volunteers, was to package at least 10,000 lunches to be distributed to local food organizations. First through Third grade students participated under the direction of Mr. Romero, Cadwallader staff, and

parent volunteers.

Children at the school showed much enthusiasm as they produced hope for others out in the community who are less fortunate than themselves.

Lucy stated; "My students and I talk a lot about making a difference around the world and locally. Last year I took my students on a field trip to pack meals to send to Ukraine. This year, we decided to focus our efforts on feeding local families who may be struggling in the Bay Area. I did some research and found out about the outreach program, which has experience bringing food packing events to work sites and school sites around the country. We set the goal of rais-



Teacher **Lucy Hsu** with enthusiastic students prepare for packaging efforts.

ing \$4000 to pack 10,000 meals. This was a big challenge considering it's a very busy time of the

school year. Our first, second, and third grade students, along with the support of our school PTA, reached our goal! We divided our six classes into three groups. Each group signed up for an hour of food-packing. We set up five stations, and invited a few parent volunteers to help with each station. After three hours of packing, we surpassed our goal slightly by packing 10,044 meals. The meals fit into 46 large boxes that will be picked up by the Second Harvest Food Bank tomorrow. It was a huge success! The kids enjoyed the activity and are already looking forward to it again next year!"

The last effort by Cadwallader students produced several thousand lunches destined for Ukraine. This was a very successful venture. If all schools throughout California would mimic the enthusiasm shown at Cadwallader, hunger could be wiped out in all communities.

The parents of Cadwallader showed up not knowing what their role would be in the venture, but were willing to do what it took to

See **CHARITY**, page 20

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds plans plod ahead

By Joseph Geha
San José Spotlight

Plans to revamp the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds into a sports and recreation facility have been progressing for more than a year, but it's unclear when shovels will hit the ground.

After more than a year of exclusive negotiations with the San Jose Earthquakes, Major League Cricket and San Jose State University—all of which are eyeing big developments on portions of the 150-acre fairgrounds—more time is needed to hammer out the details.

Abraham Andrade, executive director of the Fairgrounds Management Corporation, the nonprofit contractor that runs the county property, said agreements to extend the talks with all three organizations are in the works.

Progress is being made toward establishing a 15,000-capacity professional cricket stadium and a



Abraham Andrade, executive director of the Fairgrounds Management Corporation, points to some new signage on a building at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on May 11, 2023. Photo by Joseph Geha.

parking garage on a 14-acre parking lot that fronts Tully Road in San Jose. A vast soccer complex for the Earthquakes' practice use and youth academies that could land on a 15-acre patch of land along Umbarger Road is also still under discussion. That development could also include an additional 18 acres for

See **FAIRGROUNDS**, page 2

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Times Local News

Fairgrounds

Continued from page 1

six public soccer fields that would be managed by the county.

"We're deep in the negotiations with both, they're moving along," Andrade told San José Spotlight.

San Jose State, meanwhile, is hoping to create a commemorative track and field facility on nine acres in the middle of the fairgrounds, honoring the legacy of Speed City and the Olympic Project for Human Rights. The project would also include an indoor sports complex.

The proposals all fit into an effort more than three years in the making to rebrand the underutilized fairgrounds as a sports, entertainment and family destination.

Major League Cricket is responsible for the funding and development of the stadium, the county is handling the parking garage only.

Assemblymember Ash Kalra secured roughly \$9 million in state funding to help pay for the Speed City project, which will be held until agreements are made and construction begins.

Though the general shape of some of these agreements are in place, Andrade said it's too soon to pinpoint specific cost details and timeframes.

"It's a very high level of confidence that all three will materialize on the fairgrounds property," Andrade said.

Andrade believes as these projects move closer to reality, it will spur more momentum for other projects, including a potential 25-acre equestrian, livestock and agricultural education center. As these activities go live, the revenue generated could help the fairground tackle much needed renovations to current buildings like expo halls.

No housing at the fairgrounds

With visions for sports and entertainment facilities, the fairgrounds leadership and county are not allocating any space for transitional or permanent housing for homeless people, which housing advocates want. There are roughly 10,000 people without permanent housing in the county, and 77% of them are unsheltered.

Andrade said the county has done a lot of work to address the homeless crisis, and is actively pursuing other sites for housing solutions. A portion of the fairgrounds land was previously used for a community health clinic and affordable housing development.

District 2 County Supervisor Cindy Chavez,



The Santa Clara County Fairgrounds entrance archway has stood at the site since 1956. *Photo by Joseph Geha.*

who represents the area where the fairgrounds are located, has been at the forefront of the effort to reimagine the site's potential.

"Our residents and their children deserve an area they can use for active recreational events, sports competitions and park activities," Chavez told San José Spotlight. "The urban area around the fairgrounds is densely developed."

San Jose homeless advocate Richard Scott said he thinks the county could make space for sports, entertainment and housing homeless people on such a large site.

"It's beyond my understanding that cricket fields and running tracks are more important than taking care of people that are living on the streets," Scott told San José Spotlight. "When they could easily be side by side."

The fairgrounds property currently hosts events such as concerts and religious celebrations, and rents out some of its property to paintball operators and utility contractors that need space to park vehicles and equipment. The fairgrounds also hosts off-track betting, as well as bingo nights. It was a county location for large-scale COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, temporary overflow shelter for homeless people and monkeypox vaccinations.

This summer will mark the return of the Santa Clara County Fair that hasn't been held since 2019 due to the pandemic. It will run for 10 days, longer than usual, to make up for lost time.

"It's the longest fair in 20-plus years," Andrade said.

The site will also host its third year of Fairgrounds Live, a free weekly summer concert series with food trucks, a beer garden, night market and games, and free admission, beginning July 12, running for 12 weeks.

Flags

Continued from page 1
this remarkable initiative.

Led by the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America, a team of enthusiastic Scouts, along with their committed leaders, meticulously adorned the final resting places of veterans and fallen soldiers with the iconic Stars and Stripes.

With unwavering determination and a deep sense of gratitude, the Scouts demonstrated their commitment to honoring the brave men and women who selflessly defended the United States. As they metic-

ulously placed each flag with care and reverence, they acknowledged the sacrifice made by these courageous individuals and the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to them.

The impact of the Scouts' efforts extends beyond the physical act itself. By engaging in this solemn tradition, they encourage the community to join them in paying tribute to the fallen, reminding us all of the enduring legacy left by those who dedicated their lives to protect the values we hold dear.

For more information about Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, please visit www.svmc.org