Coach Brennan talks new signees

By Jillian Darnell

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan had his official inauguration on Wednesday at the San Jose Center for Performing Arts, where he discussed his goals for his term in office.

In the press conference, Mahan said he wanted to focus on bringing back the basics of managing the city, working to address issues such as homelessness, crime, public safety, community clean-ups and to promote residency engagement.

During the press conference, Mahan said taxpayers pay an estimated $65,000 per unhoused person every year.

Mahan said many residents of San Jose have complained about the unhealthy environment the city lives in. To solve this problem, he wants to promote more programs and projects to continue supporting the homeless community through providing quick-build shelters that will offer the “basics.”

“We can’t wait for the next crisis,” he said. “We need basic safe spaces and services.”

Mahan discussed allocating funds for individuals who are houseless, including families.

“It’s common sense to spend a few thousand dollars to keep someone stably housed, that they look for a job or support from a family member,” Mahan said.

During the press conference, he said San Jose Bridge and Cash for Trash which employs homeless residents and citywide clean-up efforts.

San Jose resident Carl McRorie said the mayor made a lot of good points in his speech but that there’s nothing concrete about the homelessness situation.

“The homeless problem is going to get worse, the trash is going to get worse, the unhealthy environment the city lives in,” Mahan said. “We’ll be working to expand programs like San Jose Bridge and Cash for Trash which employ homeless residents and citywide clean-up efforts, giving them dignity of work and income and the opportunity to gain better skills and employment and housing along the way.”

When the mayor was pressed regarding what he meant about residents potentially leaving San Jose, Mahan said he was worried about the perception of the city and what the city can do to keep residents.

“You know, what I was referring to was really more about the sentiment of our community,” Mahan said. “We have not seen a mass exodus of people or businesses. We’ve seen some folks leave some businesses but that’s been at the margins.”

Mahan did not answer on plans to mitigate the cost of living in San Jose.

In discussing the housing problem in San Jose, Mahan preferred to talk about residents who may potentially leave the city because of complaints given on the campaign trail.

By Oscar Frias-Rivera

In honor of National Signing day, San Jose State head football coach Brent Brennan held a press conference on Wednesday morning to talk about the Spartans’ new signees.

With the new National Collegiate Athletic Association rules regarding name, image and likeness, student athletes can profit off of their name, image and likeness, something that was outlawed just two years ago. For the longest time, athletes in college were not able to be sponsored by anyone or anything due to the rule.

“I think people are paying attention to our process of improvement here,” Brennan said. “I think people are aware [of our success] which is exciting to give us a chance to widen that scope a little bit.”

The top signees, sophomore transfer quarterback Jay Butterfield was one of the key commits for SJSU.

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**VTA 2050 plan: transit sustainability**

By Matthew Gonzalez

The Valley Transportation Authority has developed the Valley Transportation Plan 2050, a proposal aiming to improve upon four major transportation categories: transit, highways and expressways, complete streets and land use. Each category has its own specific goals for sustainability in land use, efficiency with highways and expressways, safety for complete streets and transit, and land use.

**Transit**

The VTA has also created the Visionary Network for transit, a sub-plan it intends to adopt in December, 2023. VTA senior transportation planner Janis Soriano-Ramos said at the forefront of the Visionary Network is the feedback the VTA gets from the public so proper adjustments can be made in regard to transportation infrastructures.

“We really want to make sure that we can incorporate some feedback that they may have all along,” Soriano-Ramos said. “[We] can provide something that will be new benches, more shelters if there’s a location that you feel safer at night in those locations.”

VTA transportation planner John Sighamony said this sub-plan will greatly impact executing the transit aspect of the Valley Transportation Plan 2050.

“We included the VTA Visionary Network for the fact that piece is actually going to play a major role in the Valley Transportation Plan 2050 process that is going to be our focus for transit for this plan,” Sighamony said. “It’s going to be able to directly how we implement service in the upcoming years.”

**Highways & Expressways**

Sighamony said the overarching goal of the highways and expressways vision is efficiency.

“For our highways and expressways program, we do want to identify efficiency-based design practices for our projects,” he said. “We realized that we cannot build our way out of congestion.”

A secondary goal is to decrease vehicle traveled miles, which directly correlates with congestion on the road, according to a sac.org report.

“We do want to decrease (vehicle miles traveled), but we’re still trying to figure out what the percentage,” Sighamony said.

**Complete Streets**

The Complete Street Program aims to make the streets of Santa Clara County safer. Sighamony said emphasizing the safety of non-drivers can help create more cohesive transportation overall.

“While we understand that a lot of people in this county drive, we have to understand that we have to make it safe for those that don’t drive,” Sighamony said. “There’s people that ride bikes, there are pedestrians and obviously the kinds of service we have to make them all of them kind of work in harmony.”

Similar to the Visionary Network for transit, the VTA wants to incorporate a similar plan named Vision Zero that could potentially save lives.

“Vision Zero is an initiative that looks to reduce the amount traffic deaths through quick-build data-driven safety improvements” such as paints and signs according to the City of San Jose’s “What is Vision Zero” webpage.

“For our complete streets program, we do want to develop a plan with Vision Zero,” Sighamony said. “We want to really look at reducing incidents between pedestrians and bicycles and cars.”

**Land Use**

Sighamony said they recognized the VTA’s lack of authority in terms of land use outside of its existing stations. He said partnering with member agencies can help counteract difficulties with making their transit network a catalyst for homeness.

“We want to promote jobs/housing balance and we really want to create a sense of place, and a lot of this can only be done when we partner with our member agencies as they have land use authority,” Sighamony said. “The main point of success of the VTA would like to achieve with their land use is to become more environmentally-friendly.”

Sighamony said an approach to achieving this is lowering driving time.

“The focus of this land use is really to minimize the need to drive and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” Sighamony said.

**Crime Blotter**

**Grand Theft Auto**

Jan. 28, 1:16 p.m. at Redglen
Inactive/Suspended

Possession of Unlawful Paraphernalia
Possession of Narcotic Controlled Substance

Jan. 27, 10:19 p.m. at Campus Village B
Cleared by Arrest
SJSU students volunteer at non-profit

By Matt Bejarano

Curio Asplund, physics and astronomy assistant professor at San Jose State, turned to an alternative teaching method by having students at the Santa Clara County community

Asplund's students volunteered at Sacred Heart, a San Jose-based non-profit volunteer organization that offers programs such as food banks to utility assistance.

The students helped with outreach for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a federally funded program aimed at assisting low-income households, according to a ca.gov website.

"In physics, it's not as common to talk about policy questions or how the subject really relates to you know societies," Asplund said. "My idea of creating the course in the first place was to change that."

Sánchez-Castañeda discussed student-volunteer work at the Sacred Heart office on Tuesday.

"Technically we only serve about 13% of the folks who are actually eligible for the program."

"We're always really excited to work with the educational institutions because we know the nature of Sacred Heart and our work," Sánchez-Castañeda said. "This is our opportunity to engage young people in an organization that is close by."

She said the program helps up to 10,000 families in Santa Clara County but still could be helping more families who are qualified for the program.

"Technically we only serve about 13% of the folks who are actually eligible for this program since we have eligibility income mandates that the families have to meet," Sánchez-Castañeda said.

"We're constantly trying to push that out so that we can inform the community and create that pathway and that access to the service."

Daniel Maldonado, energy outreach specialist at Sacred Heart, said he helps volunteers with the training and spreading the word about the program and that training the students to make the calls took about an hour.

"We give them a list of phone numbers and they sat there and they made the calls, the calls were to my team upstairs," Maldonado said.

Maldonado said the students were nervous at first but encouraged them to have an open mindset when talking on the phone.

"The group of students we had were nervous, and I get it, you are going to be talking to strangers," Maldonado said. "You're going to hear some stories that are happy and some that are sad."

Sacred Heart director of energy Lorena Sánchez-Castañeda talks to students at the Sacred Heart office on Tuesday.

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SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column, and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9

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"Why did the bike fall over?"

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Our office has reopened at DBH 213
SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 1

By Jillian Darnell
STAFF WRITER

After coming off a 21-point loss to San Diego State on Saturday, the SJSU football team will look to bounce back against the Wyoming Cowboys on Saturday at the Provident Credit Union Event Center.

Wyoming, which is currently last in the Mountain West basketball standings with a current record of 7-14, has won 16 games this season. They’ve had impressive wins over teams like Santa Clara, UNLV and Colorado State. They’ve had impressive wins over teams like Santa Clara, UNLV and Colorado State.

Coach Miles said one of the keys of the game is winning the turnovers battle. Though SJSU does not force a lot of turnovers, Wyoming turns the ball over at a high rate.

The Cowboys average 11.7 turnovers per game which is seventh in the conference.

“For us, the turnover battle is huge, because when we turn it over, we don’t play very well, for us that’s a really important thing,” Miles said. “The flip side of that is we do not turn teams over and when we do we can see it really lifts our offense. We get easy baskets, we get a steal into a fast break, something like that.”

Consistency has been a problem for the Spartans this season. They’ve had impressive wins over teams like Santa Clara, UNLV and Colorado State, but also have not been able to beat the best teams in the conference such as Nevada, Reno, San Diego State and Boise State.

“I feel like we just need to click as a team,” Tolbert said. “As a team we really haven’t been playing through each other and well together. We’ve been doing that a lot at home with the atmosphere with the crowd, that’s something that we will do, and that’s something we will bring with us on the road.”

For the Spartans, this will be a big game to get their confidence back after taking a big loss to San Diego. “Yeah, they’re a very good basketball team,” Miles said. “Even though their record isn’t there that they want it to be, but they got some real talent. The idea is that, you know, when you have a game, somebody below you in the standings, you have to take care of business at home against somebody like that.”

WYOMING VS. SJSU

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Above: Senior forward Sage Tolbert II practices during a practice at Provident Credit Union Event Center in September 2022.
Left: Sophomore guard Alex Cardenas guards junior shooting guard Omari Moore during a practice at Provident Credit Union Event Center in September 2022.
Below: Head coach Tim Miles instructs his team during a September 2022 practice.

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By Jillian Darnell
STAFF WRITER

Spartans look to snap losing streak

By Jillian Darnell
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Men’s basketball

By Jillian Darnell
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**MOVIE REVIEW**

By Mcyun Rahman

Shah Rukh Khan is Pathaan.

Literally. Not just the character or ethnicity, but the film itself tells the story of his cultural identity and has been fighting for it.

Released on Jan. 25, "Pathaan" is an Indian action-packed thriller directed by Siddharth Anand. The movie is about an Indian agent, played by Shah Rukh Khan, going rogue and helping Pakistan to take revenge against India.

The film also stars Shah Rukh Khan, also known as SRK, as the title character, Pathaan. Deepika Padukone, a prominent Bollywood actress, also stars opposite SRK as Ruba, who is a Pakistani agent working against Abraham.

Padukone, who debuted in Farah Khan’s classic 2007 film ‘Om Shanti Om’, also starred in ‘other films such as ‘Bajatey Raaste’ and ‘Jab Tak Hai Jaan’ and ‘Ghoom Khan: The Rebel’.

It’s another typical undercover/spy/ transporter defined between an Indian and Pakistani agent, fighting against evil. If you’re still not familiar with SRK, he is the King of Bollywood (and the King of the fans). He has starred in over 80 films, including 1995’s ‘Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge’, 1999’s ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’ and 2002’s ‘Don’.

"Pathaan" marks a turn towards more action-oriented films for SRK, who in the past has largely done romantic roles.

An in-Indian live in 2022, Khan said that he will no longer be taking on any more of his signature romantic roles, due to his age and "underdog" gap between him and his leading ladies.

This is quite different from his peers who often continue to star in films with actresses at least 10 years their younger. Despite this, the leads in "Pathaan" share an "awkward" age gap as well.

"Pathaan" was great, but I wouldn’t complain if he goes back to his classic romantic scripts, as long as his acting and "underdog" gap between him and his leading ladies can finally back and that he’s here to stay.

The main reason behind the film’s success surrounds SRK’s legacy and identity not as a mega-blockbuster hit-making machine, but as a man with roots scattered all over South Asia.

Pakistan and south-west Afghanistan," according to the Oxford dictionary. SRK identifies as half Afghan and half Pathaan and part Kashmiri, but was born in Delhi, according to an Aug. 19, 2010 Twitter post.

To be quite honest, the plot itself had nothing unique or special to contribute to the industry. The most remarkable point throughout the entire plot was Shah Rukh Khan’s "Tiger" character coming from the director’s larger than life franchise. The result is a big bang crossover that will be forever known as the Bollywood version of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Although the film had two very catchy songs, a drop-dead gorgeous leading lady, and iconic one-liners and references, none of these can be credited as the primary reason for the film’s popularity.

The main reason behind the film’s success surrounds SRK’s legacy and identity not as a mega-blockbuster hit-making machine, but as a man with roots scattered all over South Asia.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan are the primary countries that are generally considered South Asia, although Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar’s inclusion is the most remarkable point throughout the entire plot was Shah Rukh Khan’s "Tiger" character coming from the director’s larger than life franchise. The result is a big bang crossover that will be forever known as the Bollywood version of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Although the film had two very catchy songs, a drop-dead gorgeous leading lady, and iconic one-liners and references, none of these can be credited as the primary reason for the film’s popularity.

The main reason behind the film’s success surrounds SRK’s legacy and identity not as a mega-blockbuster hit-making machine, but as a man with roots scattered all over South Asia.

The nationalist identities portrayed are definitely trending on dangerous routes, but also show the beautiful blend of cultures and unity amongst the greater South Asian region in general.

Exploring these extremities can also expose the harm of putting pride and borders over people and humanity.

For instance, a character is Indian but becomes a traitor after the Indian military decides to not pay ransom for him and his wife when they get kidnapped. He then takes extreme measures in order to seek revenge on his homeland.

Similarly, in the film, Pakistani General Qadir goes to extremes to get payback on India after the repulse of Article 350. Article 350 allowed a “certain amount of autonomy” for Kashmir and Jammu, according to a Aug. 6, 2019 BBC article.

For context, Kashmir and Jammu have historically been caught in the crossfire between Pakistan and India since the partition of India after gaining independence from Great Britain in 1947, according to a June 15, 2020 New Yorker article.

While both nations are looking to control the territory, Kashmiri’s have their own cultural identity and have been fighting for it.

At one point in the film, Ruba, who is Pakistani, says “These are not my people,” and states that her true people would “hang” someone like Qadir once they find out what he’s doing.

It’s a bold move, considering the histories between Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Kashmir.

Regardless, fans are glad that King Khan is finally back and that he is here to stay.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Letters to the Editor may be used to publish the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Hall East, Room 209 or submitted to spartannews@spartandaily.com. Letters to the Editor must contain the author’s name, year, major. Letters become the property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, misspellings and length. Letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication. Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication or SJSU. The Spartan Daily is a public forum.
Beyoncé prioritizes money over morals

We should expect someone of Beyoncé’s status to stay consistent when advocating for marginalized communities.

Beyoncé is one of the most humanitarian and socially aware people on this planet, which is why it was surprising to find her first performance in four years to have been in Dubai—a place where being gay is a crime punishable by death.

It was especially confusing coming directly after the release of her latest album, “RENAISSANCE,” which is an outward celebration of Black queer artists.

In 2019, Beyoncé dedicated her GLAAD Media Award to her uncle Johnny and said in her acceptance speech that “LGBTQ rights are human rights,” according to a March 28, 2019 BBC News article.

Yet she called a price on ignoring a checked and successful past of advocating for the oppressed, and how much would that theoretically cost?

The answer to those questions is simple, Beyoncé can and just did, and the price tag for a blind eye from a woman of her status is $14 million.

Support for LGBTQ rights on women, is a program not because of how powerful she is.

To that I ask why all of “RENAISSANCE” was left off of the concert’s setlist.

Given the subject matter of this album entirety, not only does it make sense for her not to perform in Dubai, you can also see the irony and backwardness in creating an album about LGBTQ advocacy, only to drop the mantra in order to collect a check.

In the same breath, we shouldn’t expect celebrities to be martyrs, flying to lands under any circumstances without asking the people of that country.

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In the same breath, we shouldn’t expect celebrities to be martyrs, flying to lands under any circumstances without asking the people of that country.

"Don’t Say Gay Bill" the type of experience an American Beyoncé fan would have in more hostile areas of the country is questionable.

The act prohibits Floridian public schoolchildren from learning about gender identity and sexual orientation in the classroom, which silences children over being allowed to discover their own identities, according to a Feb. 6, 2023 Time article.

It’s a matter of having a belief and sticking to it, especially when that belief is equal human rights for the silent communities you specifically set out to uplift.

Putting all of the horrifying human rights violations aside (since apparently that’s something we can do now), it’s concerning to see an artist of her stature take a private concert at a hotel opening as the gig for her return after a four-year hiatus.

Beyoncé has since announced the "RENAISSANCE WORLD TOUR" on her Instagram account, which is sure to take place over the course of this year.

Simply put, the expansive message of “RENAISSANCE” doesn’t fly in Dubai.

I encourage any diehard Beyoncé fan to consider being upset over the disregard for the expression and stigma.

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OPINION

THURSDAY, FEB. 2, 2023

OPINION

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