By Madilynne Medina

Local advocates and community leaders are urging for mental health alternatives after the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to reject a $390 million jail plan. The proposal was to be located at the former prison site at 885 N. San Pedro St., according to the Santa Clara County Facilities and Fleet Department website.

Tomara Hall, race equity and community safety representative for the Reimaging Public Safety Coalition of Silicon Valley, and community members against the jail plan "felt that it's a lack of communication on the issues. If there weren't enough virtual meetings, and enough incarcerated folks in there, they're going to try and fill it," she said. "If we improve this letter, it's more of what the community needed, a more marginalized group." The jail plan was approved in a 3-2 vote, with District 2 Supervisor Cindy Chavez and District 4 Supervisor Susan Ellenberg voting against the facility's construction.

Ellenberg presented a referral during the supervisors' meeting rejecting the jail plan and charged the jail construction and proposed more comprehensive behavioral health care and expanding alternatives to pretrial incarceration, according to a Jan. 24 statement.

The referral comes after Ellenberg and District 5 Supervisor Otto Love's Jan. 11 referral, which received a unanimous board vote, declaring mental health and substance abuse a public health crisis in the county. Alternatives to incarceration including permanent supportive housing, addiction recovery programs, mental health treatment and mental health rehabilitation centers "are critical" to addressing public health and safety matters, Ellenberg stated in her Jan. 24 referral. Approximately 44% of people held in Santa Clara County jails are held pre-trial, according to the referral.

Kiera Simmons, president of local advocacy group Human Empowerment Radical Optimism (HERO) said, "It's the trauma. "Though Ellenberg's efforts to reject the jail didn't succeed in the Jan. 11 supervisors meeting, a portion of her referral will allow the county to consider options to build a new mental health facility and expand funding for existing mental health services and drug abuse infrastructure, according to a Jan. 23 January News article. Tomara Hall said lawmakers should promote deinstitutionalization and "moving forward with more empathy" for marginalized communities.

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First-round halftime picks don’t fumble

By Joaquin De La Torre

The Super Bowl halftime show is known for its grand spectacle since the first Super Bowl in 1967. Let’s take a look at a few halftime performances featured by the Grambling State University Marching Band with the Atlanta-doll teams and fan girls.

Many of the only halftime performances were similar, featuring marching bands, uniformed dancers, and drum lines.

It wasn’t until 1993, when Michael Jackson performed at Super Bowl XXVII for the NFL, that he headlined headlining pop artist tours of duty.

Since then, many spectacular artists have taken to the stage to play for American football’s biggest day of the year. Those next five artists have delivered superb performances and set the standard for every performance moving forward.

5) Madonna

Coming at a number five is Madonna, often referred to as the “Queen of Pop,” who performed at Super Bowl XLI at the University of Phoenix in 2007.

Her performance, some might argue, tried to do too much. Madonna performed a high energy show that was a spectacle but not one that was cohesive. Some elements, for example, the tightrope walker. Was it too strange and out of place for a halftime show performance? Maybe. But it broke expectations of what is possible at halftime shows.

The pop icon started her performance being shrouded in like an Egyptian goddess by an army of shirtless men in armor, while her 1990 hit “Vogue” played. Her outfit, designed by Ricardo Tisci for French luxury brand Givenchy, was a black body suit, with golden embellishments reminiscent of a gladiator and a crown of gold.

During her performance, 55-year-old Madonna impressively performed on Jan. 15, 1967, and it was a bit quirky and silly, specifically the stage design for “Teenage Dream” and “California Girls,” which had dancers wearing full black costumes and giant inflatable palm trees, but it was an absolute joy to watch.

The show began with Perry riding on the stadium mounted on a Trojan horse-shaped stand. Perry began her performance with a medley from “Poker Face” blasted through her hit song “Just Dance.”

As the chorus started, the floor men and women were at her feet. Perry started her performance with a medley that could easily bring a tear to anyone’s eye.

The most sensational moment of the show was when Beyoncé introduced Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams, reuniting the R&B group “Destiny’s Child” for the first time since the group dissolved in 2004. The group performed an ensemble of Destiny’s Child’s biggest hits, including “Say My Name,” “Independent Women Part 1,” and “Bootylicious.”

The group’s reunion was a testament to the power of music and the ability of artists to come together to create something even greater than what they could achieve individually.

The show ended with an emotional rendition of “Halo,” which could easily bring a tear to anyone’s eye.

3) Beyoncé

At one point, Beyoncé rode in on a Trojan horse-sized golden, riding into the stadium mounted on a Trojan horse-shaped stand. Beyoncé, who performed at Super Bowl XLVII in 2020, some special guests included Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny, who was actively trying to abolish the Dream Act.

The performance headlined by Beyoncé and Lopez was the most significant moment of the show, as it marked the first time a female co-headliner had been introduced to the halftime show.

The rest of Beyoncé’s performance was a display of pure, unadulterated artistry, with her fans singing her songs along with her and dancing to her music.

The performance ended with Beyoncé introducing Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams, reuniting the R&B group “Destiny’s Child” for the first time since the group dissolved in 2004.

The moment Lopez started singing, the dancers jumped up in surprise, some holding their hands over their mouths in awe. As the chorus started, the floor was transformed into a rich, green, and blue stage.

The show ended with an emotional rendition of “Halo,” which could easily bring a tear to anyone’s eye.

2) Jennifer Lopez and Shakira

Hands down though, Shakira’s performance at Super Bowl LII was the most impactful part of the halftime show.

Throughout the show, Shakira and Lopez performed in Latin-influenced outfits that were a different take on the traditional “football” look. The most sensational moment of the show was when Beyoncé introduced Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams, reuniting the R&B group “Destiny’s Child” for the first time since the group dissolved in 2004.

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1) Jennifer Lopez and Shakira

The best Super Bowl halftime performance was headlined by Jennifer Lopez and Shakira, who at some point were at the center of a civic demonstration. The group performed a medley of Jennifer Lopez and Shakira’s biggest hits, including “Let’s Get Loud,” “ tstyful,” and “On the Floor.”

As the chorus started, the floor was transformed into a rich, green, and blue stage.

The show ended with an emotional rendition of “Halo,” which could easily bring a tear to anyone’s eye.

In a similar manner, the Lopez and Shakira performance was a celebration of Latin culture and its contributions to the global music industry.

The American Immigration Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and advancing the U.S. immigration system.

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INFOGRAPHIC BY SAUMYA MONGA

Beyoncé performed several songs from her incredible album “Crazy in Love,” “Baby Boy,” “Single Ladies,” and “End of Time”.

The moment Lopez started singing, the dancers jumped up in surprise, some holding their hands over their mouths in awe. As the chorus started, the floor was transformed into a rich, green, and blue stage.

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ATHLETES BENEFIT FROM NEW FACILITY

By D’Netrus Chevis-Rose

The San Jose State Event Center unveiled its latest completed weight room project, which opened for student athletes this month.

Senior Associate Athletic Director Blake Sasaki said the new facility will accommodate the athletic performance training programs of various teams including men’s and women’s basketball, water polo, women’s gymnastics, swimming and diving and indoor volleyball.

Club sports will also have access to the new facility, he said.

“Athletes will have access from 6 a.m. – 4 p.m., and club sports from 4 p.m. – 10 p.m. and adjustments can be made as needed,” Sasaki said in an email.

The facility will be supervised by Head Coach of Athletic Performance, Abe Munayer, and Club Sports Supervisor Winston Adams, Sasaki said.

Sophomore volleyball athlete Mia Schafer said many of her freshman teammates live in on-campus dorms, and are happy to have a shorter commute to the new weight room.

The walk from the Dining Commons to Yoshihiro Uchida Hall for practice, then to the Event Center and back home is easier than the drive to South Campus, she said.

“This is going to be a lot more efficient with our time, and I think that’s the greatest gift you could give our student athletes,” Kersten said in a phone interview.

Senior swimming and diving athlete Chloe Limargo said compared to the Koret Center weight room at South Campus, there is a much wider range of equipment.

The new medicine balls in the Event Center are a lot easier to handle than those at the Koret Center, she said.

Limargo said she was relieved when she heard about the new weight room last year.

“The new facility means teams have to equally share the facility,” Limargo said.

She said the swim team normally holds practices nine times a week at the Spartan Recreation and Aquatic Center.

With the addition of the Event Center weight room the team will hold weight training sessions three times a week, Limargo said.

“There was a lot of excitement and anticipation with the new weight room. Not just the swimmers, but our coaches as well,” Limargo said in a text message.

“Not just the swimmers, but our coaches as well,” Limargo said.

Limargo said she appreciates the team being closer to the student population on the main campus.

“I think it also helps us to keep our presence on campus, we all were fairly disconnected from the main student body, so being able to be on the main campus has been a welcoming change,” Limargo said.
The use of television shows to drive characters’ stories is the best thing to happen to any cinematic universe because they can expand those “worlds” more than standalone movies. Whether it’s Marvel, Star Wars, or DC, shows derived from these fictional universes allow fans to spend quality time with minor movie characters they’ve come to love but don’t necessarily know. For comic lovers, their favorite side character could be a main character for a short time. I’m not saying we should drop movies and push out shows. Movies will continue to dominate box office…but to get more people interested in a story, TV shows are a necessity. For example, no one anticipated the storyline of Marvel TV show “WandaVision,” which was streamed on Disney+. Technically speaking, if someone’s never read the comics they would hardly know the extent of Wanda Maximoff’s powers. It was a pleasant surprise with an emotionally satisfying story. WandaVision can be watched even if you’ve never seen a Marvel film. There are details a superfan could notice but an average viewer wouldn’t notice. Shows aren’t a cinematic universe. They add detail to the cinematic universe while also advancing the story’s end.

The Mandalorian didn’t devalue the cinematic universe. It never devalues the main character development while still pushing the wider universe along with the plot. This is why releasing TV shows alongside the cinematic universe is genius. It never devolves the main story and if anything, the shows help uncover more minor details about it. “The Mandalorian” is another great example of expanding a universe that has ended its main anthology. While I don’t agree with what Disney did to the final Star Wars trilogy, I do like what it’s doing with its shows. One of the most mysterious details in the Star Wars universe was the expressionless mask of a Jedi-like character. This made for good television because nearly everyone was talking about “baby Yoda,” which encouraged other people to watch the show.

The shows make the minor characters of the bigger universe more recognizable and likable. The Mandalorian was the most “in-demand” original streaming series of 2020, according to a Dec. 24, 2020 Business Insider article. Business Insider is an online media company for financial news. The Mandalorian, like WandaVision, drove a minor character’s story while also bringing in characters from its entire cinematic universe. The Mandalorian didn’t devolve the old Star Wars stories, it brought life to the timeline again. The shows make the minor characters of the bigger universe more recognizable and likable. Another reason shows are tools for a cinematic universe is the weekly releases. Viewers are more likely to watch shows that are released weekly as opposed to shows that are released all at once, according to a June 15, 2021 Parrot Analytics article. Parrot Analytics is a company that developed a metric to rate the number of viewers for shows and their likelihood of attracting subscribers to a streaming service.

Wade Payson-Denney, an insights analyst at Parrot Analytics said in an Axios interview that “by dropping an episode once a week, streamers are more likely to keep subscribers on the platform for longer . . . and stay long-term,” according to a June 15, 2021 Axios article. When an episode is released once a week, I find myself talking about it longer and more often than I would with a movie. The shows released on these platforms are exploring their respective worlds, and creating space for new ways of storytelling. Shows aren’t a better option, but having them alongside gives an extra insight that can bring new viewers and please existing fans.