County expands vaccine eligibility

By Ryanna Bartlett
NEWS EDITOR

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department announced during a press conference Wednesday that workers in education and child care, food and agriculture, waste management and services and adults 65 years or older are eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine beginning Feb. 26.

Dr. Sarah Cody, Santa Clara County’s public health officer, said this is phase 1B, tier-one under the California vaccine distribution system.

She said the transition possible because the number of residents getting vaccinated and vaccine supply to the county have gradually increased, while the number of COVID-19 cases has gradually decreased since the first week of January. “As our county health system, we have had nearly 10,000 vaccination appointments scheduled just for [Wednesday],” Cody said during the press conference which was livestreamed on Facebook.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have been supplied to Santa Clara County totaling a combined 527,251 administered doses as of Wednesday, according to the California COVID-19 website.

The county’s mass vaccination

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By Stephanie Lam
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The San Jose State Academic Affairs board of directors examined how the university can provide more academic and financial support to first-generation college students during Wednesday’s Zoom meeting.

Anoop Kaur, the Associated Students director of academic affairs, said providing more resources is one of her top-priorities. “As a first-generation student, I had no support coming into SJSU. I would really like to see something developed.”

The Academic Affairs Committee addresses student academic needs and growth by reviewing university policies and communicating with faculty members, according to the A.S. committee webpage.

Kaur said she and SJSU Chief Diversity Officer Kathy Wong Lau brainstormed ways to provide more resources after the Spring 2020 Campus Climate Survey reported 54% of its respondents were first-generation students.

The Campus Climate Survey defines first-generation students as those whose parents or guardians haven’t completed high school or college.

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Anoop Kaur
Associated Students director of academic affairs

The survey is sent to students, faculty, staff and administrators every few years to ask questions about their campus experiences, according to the SJSU Campus Climate Survey webpage.

“I asked [Wong-Lau], ‘Why does SJSU only offer The Education Opportunity Program (EOP) as support for first-generation students when half of [the survey respondents] are first-generation?’” Kaur said. “So we started talking about ways to increase support”

EOP provides academic support to first-generation, low-income and educationally disadvantaged students.

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Anoop Kaur
Associated Students director of academic affairs

To handle every situation I can think of.

Alice Tsvinev
Psychology senior

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the county’s mass vaccination

VACCINES | Page 2

By Jacqueline Vela
STAFF WRITER

Some San Jose State seniors are maintaining a positive attitude about finding employment after they graduate amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Psychology senior Alice Tsvinev, who is expected to graduate in May, said although she’s “terrified” when it comes to searching for a job, she remains hopeful about her future.

“This whole pandemic has just really taught me to embrace the unexpected, but adapt and prepare how to handle every situation I can think of,” Tsvinev said in a Zoom call. “Getting through those times is hard, but we are working on it.”

Before the pandemic, college graduates were stepping into an economy with a low unemployment rate of around 4%, according to a Feb. 5 U.S. Department of Labor Statistics press release. The press release showed that students had myriad opportunities, students must now prepare for unpredictable job availability, according to a May 2020 EdSource article.

Seniors stay hopeful about job market

By Jacqueline Vela
STAFF WRITER

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VACCINES
Continued from page 1
distribution site, St. James Valley Medical Center, distributes both vaccines to an administered to more than 6,000 patients per day at multiple sites within the county, including sites at Burger Drive and the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, according to the public health department's website.

As we continue to expand this access, we will continue to focus on equity to ensure that those who are living in communities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 have access to vaccines and get vaccinated," Cody said.

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MEETING
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According to its website, the list of Wong and Kau's ideas include allocating a page on SJU's website where first-generation students can easily access resources for scholarships and student organization opportunities.

Another idea involved revitalizing the Generate First-Generation College Student Program, an academic mentoring program adopted by the A.S. Student Union in 2014.

Kaur said A.S. directors will choose one idea to support and elaborate on in the upcoming future meetings.

Wong-Nam, a justice studies junior and first-generation student, said she appreciates the committee's ideas, especially those for mentors.

"I think mentors would really help first-time students who come in with a lack of knowledge about planning and not knowing how to cope with life in college," Wong-Nam said in a phone call.

She said while she's a part of EOP and uses the Chicanx/Latinx Student Success Center in the fall semester, she's concerned about the lack of resources for first-generation students.

"I have a team that supports students [and answers questions]," Cody said. "We're doing everything that we can think of to enable students to open and we will continue to do that."

Follow Bryanna on Twitter @kybrybarkett

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As we continue to expand this access, we will continue to focus on equity to ensure that those who are living in communities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 have access to vaccines and get vaccinated," Cody said.

continues to provide more evening and weekend vaccine sites to facilitate better vaccine supply access for health care workers, full-time caregivers or those who said they would be available for vaccination during weekdays.

"It’s unclear when the county will move the red tier from the purple tier, which indicates that the sustained spread of the virus instead of widespread community transmission, "Cody said in a phone call to California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy. "Of course it depends on the vaccine supply, chief financial officer for the city. "There are very few jobs that are left for people who are 65 years or older who are eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine soon," Cody said.

"It’s important that students [and faculty] understand what they are missing out on." Shira Efron

"It doesn’t add up that there is so much diversity and a lot of Latino first-generation students at SJU, yet people don’t take that into consideration and [realize] how big of an impact [more resources] could be for us," Wong-Nam said.

Follow Stephanie on Twitter @stephieLam

"Each of you has had at least a good 40% of what you would count on the official SJSU job postings, and that might impact the case rates," Tsvinev said.

Although Tsvinev said he stopped counting on the official SJSU job postings, according to Quiambao, the pandemic "definitely a drop in the number of something, but that you are still holding steady," Quiambao said.

"That’s where it stops you [if you are nervous]," Cody said. "If you are nervous, I would definitely connect with your career counselor so that we can talk it through and also practice," Cody said.

"I don’t think this is where you want to [promote yourself] because it’ll build her network connections.

"[Career counselors] can help talk through how to best brand and promote yourself because the fact that you are still learning and working in a virtual environment shows a lot of resiliency," Morgan said.

If you are nervous, I would definitely connect with your career counselor so that we can talk it through and also practice," Cody said.

"We see a steady stream of internships and jobs that are still being held," Quiambao said.

After the press conference, Quiambao said she encourages students to keep practicing.
Netflix show erases BDSM myths

By Madison Fangundes

Despite sex work and BDSM consistently being featured in the Hollywood spotlight, these communities have historically been perceived as taboo. The media has the power to change these derogatory perceptions and one Netflix series is bringing the community to light. BDSM stands for bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism. It includes a wide variety of sexual and nonsexual activities that can be practiced casually or as a lifestyle, according to a Feb. 12 Cosmopolitan article.

"Bonding," a Netflix series that follows the life of a dominatrix Mistress May and her assistant, released its second season on Jan. 27. A dominatrix is a woman who takes the dominant role in BDSM activities, whether in paid jobs or within a relationship, according to Dictionary.com. The role of a Domin is similar to a Dom, except a Dom is usually male.

The first season of "Bonding" received backlash from the BDSM and sex work community, according to a Jan. 27 Variety article.

Members of the community argued that the writer, Rightor Troy, wasn't truly connected to the BDSM world and made a comedy out of experiences that were not his.

Some BDSM community members also criticized the inaccuracy of how the BDSM community was represented throughout the show.

A former dominatrix, who prefers to be referred to by her dom name for privacy concerns, Princess Sophie, thought the show portrayed the BDSM community inaccurately in its first season. "The show doesn't encompass how consent between submissive and dominant partners really works and the small details aren't entirely accurate," she said.

According to the same Variety article, Doyle made the second season more educational and true to the BDSM community.

This is a big step toward normalizing the BDSM and sex work culture. The way the media portrays these types of communities can have an immense impact on how sex workers are treated.

JSU media and culture lecturer Apyel Berner said that media portrayal, especially in a capitalist society, has a great influence on how we view sex.

"It guides and shows us what is normalizing the BDSM and sex work culture. The way the media portrays these types of communities can have an immense impact on how sex workers are treated," Berner said.

According to the same Variety article, Troy also emphasized the need to film BDSM scenes responsibly.

According to the same Feb. 14 interview with Bustle, Troy said, "The relationship is often quite caring and quite devoted." Troy said in the same Feb. 4 interview with Bustle, "The relationship is often quite caring and quite devoted." Troy said in the same Feb. 4 interview with Bustle.

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Regarding the second season, "Bonding" is not perfect, but it is an example of how media creators should learn about communities they portray. Accurate representation is absolutely necessary for combating intolerance of the BDSM and sex work community.

"It is important for the media to portray these communities because hopefully, more exposure will lead to normalization," Princess Sophie said.

"Sex work has a negative connotation and proper media attention can help destigmatize fetishes and sex work," Berner said.

Follow Madison on Twitter @maddxsonn
LeBron and Serena, greatest of all time

Giorgiana Laurel

SPORTS EDITOR

The argument around which athlete is the greatest of all time (GOAT) is something upon which no one can seem to agree. But I would argue there are multiple GOATs within the history of sports.

There are many factors when discussing and identifying who is the GOAT. Some people like to bring retired or discussed athletes into the conversation, but for the sake of this discussion I’ll only look at active athletes as opposed to all athletes who’ve ever lived. Through that lens, Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James is the GOAT of team sports and Serena Williams is the GOAT of individual sports.

Individual sports and team sports are very different and sports in both categories require varying athletic abilities. Individual sports, including tennis, are unique because they pertain to the performance of an athlete overall with a stellar record. When it comes to individual sports, the GOAT is Williams. She led the Cavaliers in scoring the strongest team at the time, the Golden State Warriors, in 2016 from a 3-1 deficit. He has the ability to strategically improve the performance of an entire team. He is the GOAT of team sports.

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LeBron James is also an amazing facilitator and overall team player. He has a record of more than 9,000 assists and 9,000 rebounds as of April 2020, according to the statistics website Clutchpoints. James is an amazing athlete overall with a stellar record. When he returned to the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2014, he took the team to the finals the following year. In 2015-16, he led the Cavaliers to becoming the strongest team at the time, the Golden State Warriors, from a 3-1 deficit. He has the ability to strategically improve the performance of an entire team. He is the GOAT of team sports.

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The Spartan Daily serves as San Jose State’s top news source and was named the best student newspaper in the state. New issues are published Tuesday through Thursday during the academic year with the website updated daily.

The Spartan Daily is written and published by San Jose State students as an expression of their First Amendment rights.

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Athletes are entitled to their platforms to bring awareness to social and political issues encountered on and off the field. The discussion of politics in sports has created opportunities for action that can combat racial injustices that have been ignored. It would be a waste to use such a valuable platform for nothing more meaningful than a game. The book “Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete,” by Robert W. Turner II examines the legal, financial, and mental effects of playing in the NFL as a Black athlete, a demographic that makes up 70% of the NFL. Corporations spend millions contributing to Political Action Committees (PAC) and political campaigns that receive contributions from financially combining sports and politics. After Nike's 2018 “Just Do It” anniversary ad campaign starring former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, Nike received a $195 profit boost totaling $847 million as a result of the campaign, according to a Sept. 2018 ARC News article. Corporations shouldn’t benefit from appropriating social movements, including the Black Lives Matter movement once it becomes “trendy,” and manipulate its original message to make money. Protests are not aimed towards gaining corporate buzz but rather igniting social movements in society for change. While the corporate giant ignored the illusion of being socially and politically conscious, Nike and its PAC contributed $424,000 to the Republican Party and its candidates in the 2018 election cycle. This compares to Nike only contributing $12,000 to the Democrats, according to Open Secrets, a nonpartisan research center for responsive politics. Nike monetized the face of Kaepernick and the notion of protest, and proceeded to give money directly to the GOFundMe page, a known donor to the Black Lives Matter movement. If people really want to keep politics out of their sport, then flag shouldn’t be permitted in stadiums and the national anthem shouldn’t be played. That opportunity is an overwhelming military presence, because I don't understand what the Air Force has to do with football. Manu Atienza, owner of the NBA Dallas Mavericks, announced the teams would stop playing the national anthem before home games this season, according to a Feb. 5 ESPN article. NBA Chief Communications Officer William-Ray Bell released the following day in response, despite no acknowledgement until Cuban's public confirmation on his Twitter. With NBA teams now in the process of selecting teams into their arenas, all teams will play the national anthem and recognize the national anthem, when in reality its players are being censored. It would be a waste to use such a valuable and prominent social platform for nothing more meaningful than a game. No, unfortunately activism can harm athletes’ success. It’s not patriotic to partake in the participation of the national anthem. Instead it exemplifies the prominent and damaging nationalistic values of the U.S. The double standards set upon white and Black athletes are vacant. It’s somehow “OK” to separate Tom Brady’s association with Donald Trump from his game, but not OK to do the same with Kaepernick. While Kaepernick faced death threats and promptly lost his NFL career because of his symbolic protest on police brutality, Brady can choose when to enter and leave the conversation and be shielded from accountability. Brady was seen being drunkenly dragged from a boat parade after celebrating Tampa Bay's Super Bowl victory and immediately went viral, according to a Feb. 11 Daily Mail article. Every time Black athletes use their platform to bring visibility to social issues, they’re vilified by the public and at worst, even receive death threats.Yet socially unacceptable behavior such as Brady’s is glorified. Sports and politics can coexist and bring long-term significance and impact to sporting events. Turning a blind eye towards major social issues is damaging, irresponsible, and is a major characteristic of a totalitarian state. Political statements don’t belong in sports, not because athletes shouldn’t voice their activism or don’t deserve the right to support movements, but because they can greatly harm their careers. From Tommie Smith and John Carlos to Colin Kaepernick, athletes have made political statements for decades yet have to be blacklisted and experience harm to their careers. One of the first cases of activism within the sports world was in the instance of boxer Cassius Marcellus Clay, more commonly known as Muhammad Ali. Ali was sentenced to five years in prison in 1967 after refusing to participate in the Vietnam War for religious and political beliefs. He was stripped of not only his championship title, but also support from fans, according to a Jun 13, Britannica webpage. Although Ali was eventually allowed to box again years later, his career was never the same and the stigma surrounding Ali’s refusal still persisted. No matter the movement, speaking out about personal political beliefs is a danger to athletes’ careers. The career of former 49ers quarterback Kaepernick is proof of that. After his political statement in 2016 where he kneeled during the national anthem in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, Kaepernick was left without a team after becoming a free agent, according to a New York Times timeline. The movement that Kaepernick began within the sports world created a whole wave of U.S. activism, but the message has become lost as people and corporations participate in performative activism. The NFL has ironically been an example of that, capitalizing off the Black Lives Matter movement as a trend, most recently in this year’s Super Bowl when the league released its “Inspire Change” ad promoting a campaign to end systemic racism. But the league has yet to release an apology specifically acknowledging Kaepernick’s career decline, according to a Feb. 3 ESPN article. The article discussed the NFL’s apology in light of the Black Lives Matter movement wherein commissioner Roger Goodell said the league was “ Colin Kaepernick’s players earlier?” The hypocrisy between the two is ridiculous and directly correlated with politics. Some supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement, saying the message out is still important, but it’s been scarcely criticized on a larger scale. Even though it’s not the fault of the million or the advocate, the truth is that criticism and mocking could’ve been less vocal and the narratives off the field. U. athletes couldn't use the constitutional right of free speech and can openly support their political views in their own time, however those with views that might be “controversial” shouldn’t have their success taken away. Some sports fans can’t appreciate the athleticism of certain athletes without the personal political beliefs of those athletes overshadowing their talent. With a clear separation of sports and politics, fans can be more unified over the actual game rather than the views of the athletes playing. Tom Brady has been seen with a “Make America Great Again” hat in his locker, a symbol of former President Donald Trump who’s famously denounced the Black Lives Matter movement. Connor McGregor is one of the best UFC fighters, even though he’s in a ring, according to sports columnist Nancy Armour in a Feb. 2 USA Today article. Some would ask how are fans expected to support a certain team or player that is physically talented, but don’t support their political views, even though they’re reputable players, according to sports columnist Nancy Armour in a Feb. 2 USA Today article. 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