Board of Supervisors address COVID-19 challenges

By Bryanna Bartlett

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors met Monday to address the county’s challenges during the coronavirus pandemic, including its funds and vaccine distribution process.

In an annual State of the County address livestreamed on YouTube, Mike Wasserman, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, said despite damage to collective health, livelihood and the economy the county is in a strong position. “2021 will be the year of sering [Santa Clara County] from the jaws of a virus that has crippled our health, our economy and our well-being for too long,” Wasserman said in the address. He said the county has a $6 billion budget for the 2021 fiscal year and is facing at least a $100 million deficit even after budget reductions within the last month, but not many layoffs will occur.

Wasserman said the county has also been challenged by the state, federal systems and policies that have restricted funds and COVID-19 vaccine doses. But the county is fully prepared to utilize and administer the vaccines once available.

“If we were given as many vaccines as we need and our partners are prepared to get out, we could easily vaccinate 100,000 residents a week,” Wasserman said.

He also recognized the thousands of health care and community workers that he said have helped keep the county afloat.

Restaurant owner Alex Holt was one of many San Jose residents recognized. He was acknowledged for his “Fixed the Need” campaign, that has raised more than $100,000 in emergency food aid and delivered more than 10,500 meals to those in need.

SJSU students host Gregory’s Jam

By Madalyn Medina

The campaign organization “Justice for Gregory Johnson,” hosted a philanthropic festival Zoom call. “We felt as though this would be a way to allow more people to get involved,” 20-year-old Johnson’s body was found hanging in the Sigma Chi fraternity house basement on Nov. 22, 2008. The University Police Department and the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner’s Office ruled the case a murder, and more specifically a hate crime.

Cristopher Acosta, a political science senior and event organizer, said the steam enabled people to use art as a form of advocacy.

“There is power in guarding the community around, [voices of social justice],” Acosta said in a Zoom call. “We felt as though this would be a way to allow more people to get involved.”

SNJU recognizes that for many members of our community, the circumstances surrounding Gregory’s death are emblematic of longstanding systemic racism in our nation,” Peapam stated in the email. “They have called on the university to take action, to bring the truth to light.”

She encouraged students to attend the event as the country’s coroner and district attorney will reexamine the case after the pandemic, but said no new evidence has surfaced since the investigation’s conclusion in 2009.

Previous 2020 demonstrations that supported the Justice for Gregory Johnson campaign were organized by Block Liberation and Collective Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) Outreach, a San Jose activist group.

However “Gregory’s Jam” was put on by SJSU and mother of Philip Watkins, who was killed by police in 2015, said she misses her son and described him as kind-hearted and generous.

“If you don’t walk away with anything else tonight, walk away with this,” Watkins said at the vigil. Watkins looked at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

There have been 17 people “murdered shot and killed” in California police this year.

“People need to remember that these things happen in our communities,” said Brian Larson, an attends and member of the group “Up For Racial Justice, a group that “make sure people know it as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability,” according to the group’s website.

Valdez said the countrywide outrage from the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor left some families feeling alone because San Jose communities didn’t come together and protest for their loved ones with the same force they did for George Floyd’s death.

“Everyone needs to be more interested in the case or the cases of those who’ve died at the hands of local  police officers,” Wasserman said during the vigil if “You’re going to come out here and protest, don’t let it be a fad.”

Even though the vigil was created to remember the lives lost to police brutality, organizers raised awareness about past successes and a bill introduced by Mike Wasserman and Laurie Valez, which would ban the use of military equipment.

The life we’ve been forced to live is not fair. It’s an everyday struggle to try and find the happiness that was [there] once before.”

Laurie Valdez

“People need to remember that these things happen in our communities,” said Brian Larson, an attends and member of the group “Up For Racial Justice, a group that “make sure people know it as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability,” according to the group’s website.

Valdez said the countrywide outrage from the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor left some families feeling alone because San Jose communities didn’t come together and protest for their loved ones with the same force they did for George Floyd’s death.

“Everyone needs to be more interested in the case or the cases of those who’ve died at the hands of local police officers,” Wasserman said during the vigil if “You’re going to come out here and protest, don’t let it be a fad.”

Even though the vigil was created to remember the lives lost to police brutality, organizers raised awareness about past successes and a bill introduced by Mike Wasserman and Laurie Valez, which would ban the use of military equipment. ”

"If you don't walk away with anything else tonight, walk away with this," Watkins said at the vigil. Watkins looked at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

There have been 17 people “murdered shot and killed” in California police this year.

“People need to remember that these things happen in our communities,” said Brian Larson, an attends and member of the group “Up For Racial Justice, a group that “make sure people know it as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability,” according to the group’s website.

Valdez said the countrywide outrage from the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor left some families feeling alone because San Jose communities didn’t come together and protest for their loved ones with the same force they did for George Floyd’s death.

“Everyone needs to be more interested in the case or the cases of those who’ve died at the hands of local police officers,” Wasserman said during the vigil if “You’re going to come out here and protest, don’t let it be a fad.”

Even though the vigil was created to remember the lives lost to police brutality, organizers raised awareness about past successes and a bill introduced by Mike Wasserman and Laurie Valez, which would ban the use of military equipment.

"If you don't walk away with anything else tonight, walk away with this," Watkins said at the vigil. Watkins looked at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

There have been 17 people “murdered shot and killed” in California police this year.

“People need to remember that these things happen in our communities,” said Brian Larson, an attends and member of the group “Up For Racial Justice, a group that “make sure people know it as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability,” according to the group’s website.

Valdez said the countrywide outrage from the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor left some families feeling alone because San Jose communities didn’t come together and protest for their loved ones with the same force they did for George Floyd’s death.

“Everyone needs to be more interested in the case or the cases of those who’ve died at the hands of local police officers,” Wasserman said during the vigil if “You’re going to come out here and protest, don’t let it be a fad.”

Even though the vigil was created to remember the lives lost to police brutality, organizers raised awareness about past successes and a bill introduced by Mike Wasserman and Laurie Valez, which would ban the use of military equipment.

"If you don't walk away with anything else tonight, walk away with this," Watkins said at the vigil. Watkins looked at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

There have been 17 people “murdered shot and killed” in California police this year.

“People need to remember that these things happen in our communities,” said Brian Larson, an attends and member of the group “Up For Racial Justice, a group that “make sure people know it as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability,” according to the group’s website.

Valdez said the countrywide outrage from the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor left some families feeling alone because San Jose communities didn’t come together and protest for their loved ones with the same force they did for George Floyd’s death.

“Everyone needs to be more interested in the case or the cases of those who’ve died at the hands of local police officers,” Wasserman said during the vigil if “You’re going to come out here and protest, don’t let it be a fad.”

Even though the vigil was created to remember the lives lost to police brutality, organizers raised awareness about past successes and a bill introduced by Mike Wasserman and Laurie Valez, which would ban the use of military equipment.

"If you don't walk away with anything else tonight, walk away with this," Watkins said at the vigil. Watkins looked at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

There have been 17 people “murdered shot and killed” in California police this year.

“People need to remember that these things happen in our communities,” said Brian Larson, an attends and member of the group “Up For Racial Justice, a group that “make sure people know it as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability,” according to the group’s website.

Valdez said the countrywide outrage from the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor left some families feeling alone because San Jose communities didn’t come together and protest for their loved ones with the same force they did for George Floyd’s death.

“Everyone needs to be more interested in the case or the cases of those who’ve died at the hands of local police officers,” Wasserman said during the vigil if “You’re going to come out here and protest, don’t let it be a fad.”

Even though the vigil was created to remember the lives lost to police brutality, organizers raised awareness about past successes and a bill introduced by Mike Wasserman and Laurie Valez, which would ban the use of military equipment.
Continued from page 1

students including Acosta, Leland Pama and Nina Cheung, and local activist Symone Jackson.

The Jam

The event’s headline, “Denise’s Set,” featured the Johnson family’s favorite music and a prerecorded speech of Denise Johnson at an October protest in front of Sigma Chi fraternity. “The older and university administration involved in the case have... sons and daughters. How would they feel if they lost... [their child] at 20 years old?” Denzel said in the recording. “Gregory, had the chance to do anything... SJSU [is a school].”

Kadijah Walker, a political science senior and poet, created a spoken-word video to honor Johnson and communicate his mother’s fight for justice.

Continued from page 1

that could reduce police-related killings.

According to the website of Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager of district 54, Assembly Bill 148 would “establish a pilot program enlisting community-based organizations to serve as first responders to emergency situations, rather than law enforcement personnel.”

When you look at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

Sharon Watkins, SJSU’s communications senior, said in the recording, “The coroner’s office... into the investigation, I believe needs to be... Johnson said in the podcast. Leland Pama, communications senior, said it’s important Johnson’s case is never forgotten. Pama said he reached out to more than 400 local organizations, businesses and restaurants for endorsements for the event and several of them came from SJSU Greek organizations and clubs. Acosta said Gregory’s case triggered previous demonstrations because of how much awareness the campaign has created.

There were a number of Greek organizations who we didn’t think were going to speak out,” Acosta said, adding he hopes advocacy is something Greek organizations put into action seriously.

Walker said the best thing SJSU students should continue to do is ask questions, educate themselves and persevere.

“The strongest tool that students have on their campus in their voice,” Walker said. “When it comes to the suspicious [deaths] of Black individuals, their story becomes part of the amalgamation of what it is to be Black in America.”

Follow Madilynne on Twitter @madilynnee

Correction

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Spartan Daily published a story titled “LeBron and Serena, the greatest of all time” in which Dwyane Wade and Conor McGregor were misspelled. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

Follow Bryanna on Twitter @brybartlett

TUESDAY, FEB. 23, 2021
sjsunews.com/spartan_daily

“People are criminalized for the mere fact that they have a place to go. They’re trespassing no matter where they go,” Gayre said. “[The county is] excluding people from certain areas and forcing them from place to place and [it’s] not healthy for them.”

VIGIL

Continued from page 1

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Spartan Daily published a story titled “LeBron and Serena, the greatest of all time” in which Dwyane Wade and Conor McGregor were misspelled. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

When you look at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

Sharon Watkins, SJSU’s communications senior, said in the recording, “The coroner’s office... into the investigation, I believe needs to be... Johnson said in the podcast. Leland Pama, communications senior, said it’s important Johnson’s case is never forgotten. Pama said he reached out to more than 400 local organizations, businesses and restaurants for endorsements for the event and several of them came from SJSU Greek organizations and clubs. Acosta said Gregory’s case triggered previous demonstrations because of how much awareness the campaign has created.

There were a number of Greek organizations who we didn’t think were going to speak out,” Acosta said, adding he hopes advocacy is something Greek organizations put into action seriously.

Walker said the best thing SJSU students should continue to do is ask questions, educate themselves and persevere.

“The strongest tool that students have on their campus in their voice,” Walker said. “When it comes to the suspicious [deaths] of Black individuals, their story becomes part of the amalgamation of what it is to be Black in America.”

Follow Madilynne on Twitter @madilynnee

Correction

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Spartan Daily published a story titled “LeBron and Serena, the greatest of all time” in which Dwyane Wade and Conor McGregor were misspelled. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

Follow Bryanna on Twitter @brybartlett

VIGIL

Continued from page 1

When you look at those faces, it’s more than just the people, these are entire families and each one has another hundred people that were affected.

Sharon Watkins, SJSU’s communications senior, said in the recording, “The coroner’s office... into the investigation, I believe needs to be... Johnson said in the podcast. Leland Pama, communications senior, said it’s important Johnson’s case is never forgotten. Pama said he reached out to more than 400 local organizations, businesses and restaurants for endorsements for the event and several of them came from SJSU Greek organizations and clubs. Acosta said Gregory’s case triggered previous demonstrations because of how much awareness the campaign has created.

There were a number of Greek organizations who we didn’t think were going to speak out,” Acosta said, adding he hopes advocacy is something Greek organizations put into action seriously.

Walker said the best thing SJSU students should continue to do is ask questions, educate themselves and persevere.

“The strongest tool that students have on their campus in their voice,” Walker said. “When it comes to the suspicious [deaths] of Black individuals, their story becomes part of the amalgamation of what it is to be Black in America.”

Follow Madilynne on Twitter @madilynnee

Correction

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Spartan Daily published a story titled “LeBron and Serena, the greatest of all time” in which Dwyane Wade and Conor McGregor were misspelled. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

Follow Bryanna on Twitter @brybartlett

Right now there are so many people living in motorhomes and cars, there’s no real safe parking programs for those people and the city is gassing them.

Scott Largent
SJSU Resident

Spartan Daily published a story titled “LeBron and Serena, the greatest of all time” in which Dwyane Wade and Conor McGregor were misspelled. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

Follow Bryanna on Twitter @brybartlett

Correction

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Spartan Daily published a story titled “LeBron and Serena, the greatest of all time” in which Dwyane Wade and Conor McGregor were misspelled. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

Follow Bryanna on Twitter @brybartlett
By Christina Casillas

A variety of vibrant stickers cover the touting sign in front of a parking lot just outside of Kickz inc. on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

The stickers of varying sizes and colors continue into the store, covering doors that serve as canvases connecting Kickz inc. to the community.

“They do a lot of work in helping them out. They’re a community service,” said Ryan.

One couple decided they wanted to do something for the community since the shop first opened, Ryan said.

Traffic and belittled at another store, Ryan said he and a couple of friends decided they wanted to create their own sneaker store after being profiled and belittled at another sneaker store.

“We wanted to be an urban boutique,” Ryan said. “There wasn’t a lot of minority-owned businesses like this back then, so our thing was we wanted to do something where we would be by Valley Fair and Santana Row.”

Ryan set up shop in December 2014 and since then Kickz inc. has supplied sneaker fans with a variety of shoes.

Not only does the shop do for the community, as Kickz inc. gave more than ten thousand toys to kids across the Bay Area last year and provided Thanksgiving meals for nearly 150 unhoused people.

“We don’t promote our community service,” Ryan said. “We’ve always done it out of the kindness of our hearts.”

He said Kickz inc. recently partnered with Silicon Valley Sports, a San Jose gym, and created an Amateur Athletic Union basketball program called Cali Elite.

Not only does the shop have a strong community connection, Ryan said the inventory Kickz inc. offers distinguishes the shop from other retailers.

“The stuff you would go buy at a Foot Locker you wouldn’t buy from us,” Ryan said.

Sneakers rose in popularity during the ’90s when athletes including Michael Jordan and hip-hop groups such as Run-D.M.C. partnered with shoe brands, according to a May 2018 Smithsonian Magazine article.

Geri Rodriguez, the manager at Kickz inc., said the athletes who’ve partnered with brands to create their own shoes are part of the reason he’s interested in sneakers.

“Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, Lebron James, they’re like superheroes,” Rodriguez said.

Many sneaker fans, including Charles Van Meurs, a San Jose State counseling education grad student, got introduced to sneaker culture at a young age.

Van Meurs’ brother taught him everything he knows about sneakers and has brother gave him his first pair when he was in seventh grade.

“I went to my room and I saw there was a shoe box on my bed,” Van Meurs said.

Although the coronavirus pandemic posed financial challenges for Kickz inc. from March through July, he said he never thought about closing.

“Pandemic or no pandemic, I work too hard, my family works too hard,” Ryan said. “I have too much responsibility for what my business provides to the community for me to let it fail.”

Photography by Travis Fotot

Follow Christina on Twitter @christina_casi.
We shouldn’t be asked to humiliate and disrespect themselves to be successful in their industry.

Madi Medina

STAFF WRITER

I don’t want to return to campus when there’s a chance someone who’s been molested and humiliated could get sick.

Giorgiana Laurel

STAFF WRITER

I don’t want to return to campus when there’s a chance someone who’s been molested and humiliated could get sick.

Giorgiana Laurel

STAFF WRITER

I don’t want to return to campus when there’s a chance someone who’s been molested and humiliated could get sick.

Giorgiana Laurel

STAFF WRITER

I don’t want to return to campus when there’s a chance someone who’s been molested and humiliated could get sick.

Giorgiana Laurel

STAFF WRITER

I don’t want to return to campus when there’s a chance someone who’s been molested and humiliated could get sick.
Women athletes honored in panel

By Ruth Noemi Aguilar in Stumpf Hall

Women athletes were honored in a panel on Feb. 3, as part of the 35th anniversary of the Wall of Song in Sports Day which was an important event to celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day on Thursday.

Bonnie Sugiyama, director of the PRIDE Center and Gender Equity Center at San Jose State, said it’s crucial to have a space acknowledging the accomplishments of women and girls because the conversation about gender is still a new topic.

“I think it’s especially important that we celebrate [women’s] ability to be in this space and to have these opportunities,” Sugiyama said during the event.

The theme of the night was “Find Your Power.” A phrase annual at motivating girls and women of all ages to claim their spots in the athletic world, and was inspired by Nina Simone’s song “Finding Freedom.”

The event was also hosted by San Jose State’s Institute for Community Work and Shared Athletic Resources.

The night was organized to not only focus on female athletes but on social justice and community. Executive Director of the ISSAR Dr. Akilah Carter-Francique said during the event that we hope that you will support us in these efforts.

The fundraiser was made following the death of George Floyd to raise money for the Black Lives Matter movement. Student-athletes would post themselves on social media being active for 8:46 miles or 8:46 minutes, the amount of time Floyd was under the knee of officer Derek Chauvin. “It ended up spreading a lot more than we anticipated, we couldn’t even keep track of how many schools were participating and we ended up beating our goal of $10,000 and raising over $70,000,” Harris said.

At the end of the night, a special performance was made by soprano soloist Dr. Danielle Lars with the Spartan Marching Band. The performance was a call and response with “Feeling Good” and the cheer of volunteers sang the following line.

“Mama was on one screen while the multitude of images would show up alongside her as the song continued and ended with the group singing together.”

Men’s soccer team rallies for win

By Joriana Olivares

The men’s soccer team won their first match of the season against Dixie State.

The game began on Feb. 27 against Grand Canyon University at Spartan Soccer Complex.

Marin and again Castro were named the Offensive Players of the Week for Feb. 15-21 for his strong offensive play and assisting both goals.

“We ask that of you. We hope that you will support us in the future of sports and community work done,” Sugiyama said. “That’s our charge to you and we hope that you will support us in these efforts.”

The fundraiser was made following the death of George Floyd to raise money for the Black Lives Matter movement. Student-athletes would post themselves on social media being active for 8:46 miles or 8:46 minutes, the amount of time Floyd was under the knee of officer Derek Chauvin.

“it ended up spreading a lot more than we anticipated, we couldn’t even keep track of how many schools were participating and we ended up beating our goal of $10,000 and raising over $70,000,” Harris said.

At the end of the night, a special performance was made by soprano soloist Dr. Danielle Lars with the Spartan Marching Band. The performance was a call and response with “Feeling Good” and the cheer of volunteers sang the following line.

“Mama was on one screen while the multitude of images would show up alongside her as the song continued and ended with the group singing together.”

The night was organized to not only focus on female athletes but on social justice and community. Executive Director of the ISSAR Dr. Akilah Carter-Francique said during the event that we hope that you will support us in these efforts.

The fundraiser was made following the death of George Floyd to raise money for the Black Lives Matter movement. Student-athletes would post themselves on social media being active for 8:46 miles or 8:46 minutes, the amount of time Floyd was under the knee of officer Derek Chauvin. “It ended up spreading a lot more than we anticipated, we couldn’t even keep track of how many schools were participating and we ended up beating our goal of $10,000 and raising over $70,000,” Harris said.

At the end of the night, a special performance was made by soprano soloist Dr. Danielle Lars with the Spartan Marching Band. The performance was a call and response with “Feeling Good” and the cheer of volunteers sang the following line.

“Mama was on one screen while the multitude of images would show up alongside her as the song continued and ended with the group singing together.”

The night was organized to not only focus on female athletes but on social justice and community. Executive Director of the ISSAR Dr. Akilah Carter-Francique said during the event that we hope that you will support us in these efforts.