

## Santa Clara County moves to red tier

Coronavirus case rates, hospitalizations and deaths have decreased but remain high.

Vaccinations are occurring at the rate of vaccine distribution and most county residents are not currently vaccinated.

The county can move to a less restrictive tier when COVID-19 cases decrease further and the number of vaccinated residents increase.

### Allowed indoors:

- > Restaurants at 25% maximum capacity or 100 people.
- > Retail stores at 50% capacity.
- > Gyms and fitness centers at 10% maximum capacity.
- > Movie theaters at 25% maximum capacity or 100 people.
- > Zoos, museums and aquariums at 25% maximum capacity.

INFOGRAPHIC BY LINDSAY VILLAMOR; SOURCE: CALIFORNIA COVID-19 BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY WEBPAGE

## Activist talks social justice self-care

By **Jovanna Olivares**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It can be difficult for activists to maintain happiness in the midst of social change, said Thea Monyee, a mental health advocate, during a Tuesday San Jose State Zoom webinar presented by the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center (CCCAC).

During the webinar called "Sustaining Joy In The Midst Of Social Change: Bridging Mental Health & Activism," Monyee, an artist and licensed marriage and family therapist, discussed factors that make activism difficult.

"I know for me, my activist awakening came from pain. It came through, hurt and harm," Monyee said.

"But then I realized I needed to be in this space . . . of what I wanted to build, not just what I wanted to destroy, I had to have a plan for after."

Monyee is a Black woman creator and has appeared on TV networks including HBO, BET, Spectrum, OWN, Fox Soul and TV One, according to her website.

She is also the host of "Shaping the Shift," a podcast about living through periods of change and uncertainty.

Monyee said practicing mindfulness and mental reminders about self-liberation is important for activists to dismantle oppressive power structures.

"Practice freedom now," Monyee said. "I'm not waiting to be free or emancipated."

**Practice freedom now. I'm not waiting to be free or emancipated. I'm not waiting for a law or a policy. I'm not waiting for anybody. I am free.**

"I'm not waiting for a law or a policy. I'm not waiting for anybody. I am free."

She said feelings of inadequacy and incapability are common among student activists and require inner work to overcome.

Diana Victa, the CCCAC department manager, said being an activist can be tiring.



**Thea Monyee**  
licensed marriage and family therapist

"A lot of the time as activists or social justice leaders, we're so immersed in the work that we forget to live for the work that we're doing," Victa said during the webinar.

Monyee said she recommends asking self-analyzing questions including "does this bring me joy?" in everyday situations.

"It's a question that excavates choice and power and exploration, which are all things that liberated people do," Monyee said.

Lauryn Carter, a nutrition and food science junior, said listening to music allows her to practice mindfulness while battling everyday stress.

"I play a good playlist and meditate which helps me become more aware of myself and my thoughts," Carter said in a phone call. "It can be liberating to put my airpods on."

Monyee said diverse forms of activism including writing and behind-the-scenes organization is fundamental for a movement to thrive and grow.

"Just because we're in the activist space doesn't mean we don't mimic the

systems that we are trying to dismantle," Monyee said. "We are in a systemic space that has determined certain groups more important than others."

Political science senior Gabriella Keil said she incorporates politics and activism in her art and photography to destress.

"It helps ease the mind by just putting my feelings about everything into an art piece," Keil said in a phone call. "I can only watch the news for so long. I think just realizing how much you can take on is important."

Follow Jovanna on Twitter | @joo\_zunigaa

## University installs new campus rooftop solar panels

By **Jacqueline Vela**  
STAFF WRITER

Some San Jose State students believe the university's recent solar panel installations will benefit the environment.

In a Feb. 11 campuswide email, Charlie Faas, the vice president for administration and finances, said solar panels were installed at SJSU's Park and Ride lot located along South 7th Street.

"The Energy and Utilities team achieved a major milestone with the completion of the south campus solar PV project at the park and ride lot," Faas said in the email.

The Solar Photovoltaic project adds solar panels on 10 main campus roofs, along with the covered carport solar systems at south campus, according to the website.

The Energy and Utilities team is within the Facilities Development and Operations group under the Administration and Finance Division. The team implements sustainability projects on campus, according to its website.

Cynthia Soto, the executive



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN JOSE STATE'S FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

**Rooftop solar panels have been installed on 10 San Jose State main campus buildings in 2021.**

assistant and operations coordinator for the administration and finance division, said the project began in 2019 when a power purchase agreement was signed.

In a solar power purchase agreement, a developer installs a solar energy system on a customer's property at a low cost in exchange for the sale of electricity and tax credits, according to the

Solar Energy Industries Association website.

Soto said it has taken about two years to complete the solar panel installations.

Installing solar panels reduces greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel dependency, according to an April 5, 2017 U.S. Green Building Council article.

Software engineering graduate student Ananth Upadhy said he was excited SJSU is

making an effort to protect the environment.

"The population of the country and the population of the whole is increasing at a faster pace," Upadhy said in a Zoom call. "Instead of depleting nature, we need to give back."

Psychology senior Alejandra Jauregui said she didn't know much about the solar panel project, but thinks it is an important one.

"I think that it's a very positive change and I am happy about that," Jauregui said in a Zoom call.

She said students would love to see more initiatives besides the project.

"I would love to see [a place] where people can take their fruits and veggies, their scraps," Jauregui said. "Maybe some workshops to teach [students] how to recycle or things we can do at home to save energy."

Upadhy said he would be open to helping a sustainability project.

"It is always about giving back to the nature," Upadhy said. "It is not only taking, but it is also giving back or at least giving back to the future generations."

He said he is concerned not just about the present, but the future.

"It's not only for the present creatures, but it's also for the future generations. When we see some of the problems, we have to resolve them and we have to give back," Upadhy said. "We have to leave something for the future generations."

Follow Jacqueline on Twitter | @Jacqueline\_v20

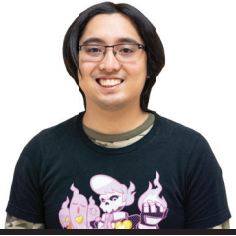
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Feat. Kevin Do

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# Newsom recall holds him accountable



**Chris Padilla**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Gov. Gavin Newsom needs to be recalled, not so he can lose his job, but because he needs to be reminded he serves California residents.

At first glance, Newsom is everything conservatives consider the “liberal elite.”

He’s an ineffective, hypocritical San Francisco Democrat who comes from money and has more ideas than common sense, to many of his detractors.

The truth is more complex than that.

Newsom has a long tenure in politics, from his time as San Francisco mayor to his current term as California governor.

In that time he’s gotten plenty done.

As governor, Newsom has expanded family leave, passed anti-rent gouging laws and gave the working class a greater tax break, according to a Newsom policy tracker on CalMatters, a news site focused on California government. But from the

coronavirus raging throughout the state to the damaging optics of his ill-advised maskless night out at the Michelin-starred restaurant, French Laundry, Newsom seems to be proving his detractors right.

As backwards as it seems, the recall could be beneficial for Newsom and California as a whole.

Newsom waffled on social distancing enforcement throughout the state and allowed the virus to spread.

In December 2020, sheriffs representing five of California’s counties refused to enforce stay-at-home orders that could’ve limited the spread of COVID-19, particularly in Southern California, according to a June 20, 2020 KTLA article.

Now that region is the most affected by COVID-19 in the state.

One could argue the sheriffs are responsible for the lack of enforcement,

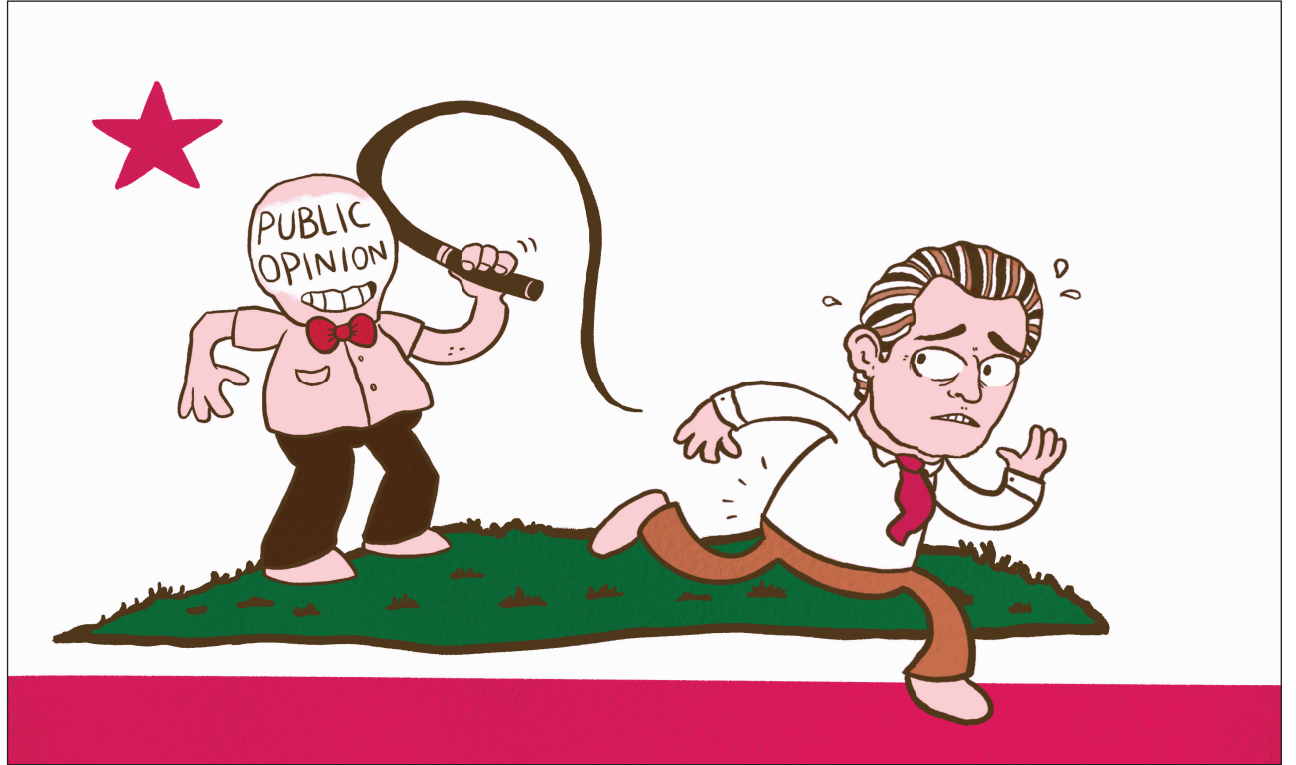


ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

## Newsom will be more inclined to be an effective leader with a potential recall putting his governorship on the line.

but the buck stops at the top.

Newsom threatened these counties for non-enforcement but never followed through, according to a Jan. 11 Sacramento Bee article. If he had mitigated the

issue, California wouldn’t be as deeply affected by the virus.

Newsom will be more inclined to be an effective leader with a potential recall putting his governorship on the line.

After all, if voters elected Newsom, they should be able to take him out if he proves unfit for the job.

If Newsom remains in office despite a recall, it would show California Democrats they backed the right person and may even silence detractors.

If a recall vote is successful, there would still be time for him to get his act together because the vote wouldn’t happen for 60-80 days after signatures have been verified, according to Ballotpedia. If Newsom can

prove he’s worthy of governorship, then a failed recall vote will prove he should keep the job.

It would show those who attempted to vote him out that he was rightfully elected into office.

And if he can’t beat the rap, then it would prove he failed Californians during the time we needed him most.

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# Conspiracy theories threaten American democracy



**Jovanna Olivares**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

“Satanic rituals, a deep state and child-eating Democrats” – no, that’s not the plotline to a new Ari Aster film à la “Midsommar.”

These are some of many QAnon beliefs that threaten our democracy with their growing presence.

QAnon was established in the dark fringes of the internet as a conspiracy group in 2017 by a small YouTube content creator and two moderators of 4chan, according to an Aug. 14, 2018 NBC News article.

4chan is one of the most extreme anonymous internet message boards, according to the same article.

An anonymous figure who goes by the alias “Q” claims to have access to classified military and intelligence operations, while posting cryptic clues on the site’s message boards for their followers to decipher, according to the NBC article.

But people who flock to cryptic message boards on the dark web have created extremism.

After the 2016 presidential election, a 28-year-old warehouse worker from North Carolina named Edgar Maddison Welch drove to Comet Ping Pong, a pizzeria in Washington D.C.

Welch walked in with an AR-15 in his hands and a Colt revolver on his hip, according to a Feb. 16 Washington Post article. Welch scattered employees and customers and fired

his assault rifle into a door, according to the Department of Justice.

He theorized that powerful Democrats were abusing children in the pizzeria and thus the “Pizzagate” conspiracy gained attention.

The events of Pizzagate show how false internet claims can quickly result in domestic terrorism.

“Q” made their first appearance on the dark web in October 2017. Their posts supported Pizzagate and elaborated on the conspiracy.

“Q” said satanic Democratic pedophiles controlled both the small D.C. pizzeria and the entire world, according to the same Washington Post article.

These theories involving children resulted in trending hashtags such as #Pedogate and #SaveTheChildren on social media.

Save the Children is a legitimate nonprofit that combats child trafficking and used the hashtag to spread awareness.

But QAnon warped its meaning into a gross conspiracy theory hashtag.

I have seen so many clueless adults share #SaveOurChildren on Facebook, further feeding the QAnon misinformation rabbit hole.

The pandemic has progressed QAnons agenda with strategic social media algorithms and by capitalizing off of people’s increased screen time.

Too much screen time during a pandemic can

### Breaking down the QAnon internet conspiracy platform

QAnon was established in 2017 by three internet content creators as a platform for politically conservative conspiracy theories.

The platform gained popularity after an anonymous figure claimed to have access to classified military and intelligence operations and posted cryptic clues on the site’s message boards.

- Awareness of QAnon grew from 3% in February 2020 to 9% in September 2020.
- 85% of Democrats with higher political knowledge are aware of QAnon conspiracy theories.
- 59% of Republicans with higher political knowledge are aware of QAnon conspiracy theories.

Nearly two dozen 2020 congressional candidates on the November ballot were associated with QAnon.

INFOGRAPHIC BY LINDSAY VILLAMOR

## Endorsing misinformation generates larger effects and enables followers to act upon dangerous ideologies.

rapidly turn anyone into a “conspiracy expert.”

A Nov. 16, 2020 Pew Research Center study found that awareness of QAnon grew from 3% in February to 9% in September.

People with more political knowledge are also more likely to know about QAnon conspiracies, according to the research.

Among Democrats, 85% of those with higher political awareness have heard of the conspiracies, compared to 59% of Republicans.

Nearly two dozen 2020 congressional candidates on

the November ballot were associated with QAnon, according to an October 2020 CNN Article.

Politicians associated with the platform’s misinformation are instigating real violence all while gaining political power.

“Q” proposes former president Donald Trump is the solution to a world corrupted by Democrats, according to the Feb. 16 Washington Post article.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, U.S. Rep. for Georgia’s 14th congressional district,

is an avid QAnon endorser. She refers to Democrats as a “cabal,” defined as a secret plotting clique by Merriam-Webster.

“There’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take this global cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles out and I think we have [Trump] to do it,” Greene said in a deleted November 2017 Facebook livestream video.

QAnon’s extremism poses a threat to Americans, yet the group’s ideologies are publicly endorsed by politicians who hold power.

Greene was one of many Republican lawmakers to falsely claim Trump won the 2020 presidential election.

Trending tweets among theorists including #FightForTrump led to the January 6 U.S. Capitol riot.

People were seen holding signs that said, “We are Q” and the QAnon motto, “Where we go one, we go

all,” according to a Jan. 7 Insider article.

According to an Oct. 15, 2020 article in The Guardian, QAnon has been linked to several crimes since 2018.

This includes threatening politicians, breaking into the Canadian prime minister’s residence, an armed standoff near Hoover Dam, two kidnappings and at least one murder.

Endorsing misinformation generates larger effects and enables followers to act upon dangerous ideologies.

Extreme conspiracy theory groups including QAnon should be treated as national security threats because they could dismantle the country’s fragile trust in the government.

Follow Jovanna on Twitter @joo\_zunigaa

ANALYSIS

# Pokémon transcends generations

By Giordina Laurel  
STAFF WRITER

This year marks the 25th anniversary of what is arguably one of the biggest influences on today's generation, the Pokémon franchise.

What started as a simple game for the Game Boy console in 1996 has evolved into a global phenomenon that makes it difficult to imagine a time before its existence.

The player's function in the game is to be a Pokémon trainer. They collect and train fictional animal-like creatures known as Pokémon that battle with other Pokémon to improve their skills.

The game was created by Japanese video game designer Satoshi Tajiri and was inspired by his childhood when he collected bugs that fought each other.

According to Ameridisability, a publication for people with disabilities, "[Tajiri] originally called it 'Capsule Monsters,' inspired by a Japanese fad for toy monsters in small round capsules available at vending machines."

The first Pokémon game, "Pokémon Red and Blue," was originally called "Pocket Monsters Red



ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN JOHNSON

and Green." There were only 151 Pokémon at the time, but there are 898 in existence as of this year and they're all on the official Pokémon website under "Pokédex."

The release of the first game led to the creation of many different products and merchandise, from action figures to trading cards. The trading cards first released a few months after the video game's development in October 1996.

People were introduced to the franchise in various ways and one of the most common ways was through the trading

cards, which was the case for business management sophomore Ameet Jogia.

"It was at my elementary school . . . it was like third to fourth to fifth grade," Jogia said. "I remember someone had brought Pokémon cards to class and then we were looking at it at recess."

Jogia currently has more than 100 cards, similar to well-known celebrities who also have large collections.

In an October 2020 article from Dicebreaker, a website dedicated to tabletop games, retired rapper Logic bought the most expensive Pokémon

card for more than \$200,000.

The Maryland rapper bought a rare holographic Charizard card that had no shadow underneath the character like most cards do.

Pokémon has been referenced in hip-hop songs multiple times.

From legendary artists including Ice Cube in his song "Can You Bounce" where he raps "I collect them like Pokémon from Nokishan, accept the ones with no behind," to newer rappers such as KYLE in his song "Oceans" where he raps "Yeah I wanted Pokémon

but that don't make me a nerd."

With trading cards still being produced, traded and collected today and the 25th anniversary cards available at places including McDonald's and inside cereal boxes, the market and fanbase of Pokémon keeps expanding.

Pokémon took the world by storm again in 2016 with the release of the augmented reality app and smartphone game, Pokémon Go.

The app uses the player's phone camera to show Pokémon in the physical world on their screen. The app gives users the real sensation of capturing different Pokémon and in order to capture Pokémon, it requires players to explore different areas to keep finding characters.

"I think it's gonna stick around for quite a bit," chemical engineering freshman Jaden Apilado said. "Especially if our generations like showing our kids."

Each generation discovered Pokémon in different ways whether it was from video games, trading cards, TV shows or even memes. But no matter what generation, Pokémon has become a cultural staple that has found its way into multiple facets of global society.

Follow Giordina on Twitter | @ItsGiordina

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17				18					19				
20					21				22				
		23		24				25					
26	27	28	29		30			31					
32			33	34			35			36	37	38	
39							40						
41					42		43						
		44				45			46				
47	48	49			50			51	52				
53					54			55		56	57	58	59
60					61			62					
63					64			65					
66					67			68					

**ACROSS**

- 1. Dishes of shredded cabbage
- 6. Sneaker or pump
- 10. Arithmetic
- 14. Tortilla chip
- 15. Klutz's cry
- 16. River of Spain
- 17. Abstinence
- 19. Drudgery
- 20. Move unsteadily
- 21. South southeast
- 22. Digestive juice
- 23. Relaxes
- 25. Shouts
- 26. Rectum
- 30. Loan shark
- 32. Disquiet
- 35. A childhood disease
- 39. Ancient ascetic
- 40. On the beach
- 41. Hollywood hopeful
- 43. Craftsperson
- 44. Obtaining
- 46. Annoyance
- 47. Lure
- 50. Kings of the jungle
- 53. Don
- 54. A high alpine meadow

**DOWN**

- 1. Hissy fit
- 2. Alley
- 3. Dull pain
- 4. Iota
- 5. Not drunk
- 6. Drunkard
- 7. Lifting devices
- 8. Nocturnal arboreal marsupial
- 9. Feudal worker
- 10. Belonging to a club
- 11. Agitated
- 12. Quaver
- 13. Gaps
- 18. Fury
- 24. A type of large sandwich
- 25. It makes dough rise

- 26. Mimics
- 27. Where a bird lives
- 28. Constellation bear
- 29. Resembling snoring
- 31. Back
- 33. To untwist
- 34. Stink
- 36. Fail to win
- 37. Historical periods
- 38. Dispatched
- 42. Cultivated land
- 43. In the past
- 45. Agile
- 47. Inhabit
- 48. Creepy
- 49. Enclosures
- 51. Neither
- 52. Smooths
- 54. At the peak of
- 56. Anagram of "Fear"
- 57. Chilled
- 58. Smelting waste
- 59. Not there
- 62. Startled cry

### SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

			8	2	4	7		
	1					3		
			7			5	8	
9				7			1	
				6				
	2		3					8
	7	8			9			
		2					9	
		5	4	3	2			

### SOLUTIONS 3/2/2021

S	U	M	O	S	E	G	G	S	C	A	P	S
A	P	A	R	T	F	E	L	T	A	M	A	H
R	O	W	E	R	F	L	E	A	L	O	S	E
I	N	S	O	U	C	I	A	N	T	C	U	T
			T	A	C	T			U	S	U	R
L	I	A	R		L	I		E	E	L		
E	D	G	E		V	E	N	D	T	A	B	L
S	L	A	C	K	E	N		E	L	A	T	I
S	E	R	I	N		T	U	F	A	O	K	R
			P	E	G		N	O	D		R	E
S	T	O	R	E	Y		C	R	E	E		
T	I	R	O		R	E	L	E	N	T	L	E
O	T	I	C		A	W	E	S		H	A	B
P	L	E	A		T	E	A	T		E	M	O
S	E	L	L		E	R	R	S		R	E	N

1	8	6	9	7	3	2	5	4
7	2	5	1	4	6	9	3	8
4	3	9	5	8	2	1	6	7
2	9	3	6	1	7	8	4	5
8	6	1	4	3	5	7	9	2
5	4	7	2	9	8	6	1	3
9	5	2	8	6	4	3	7	1
3	1	4	7	2	9	5	8	6
6	7	8	3	5	1	4	2	9

### JOKIN' AROUND

Why did the man put his money in the freezer?

He wanted cold hard cash!

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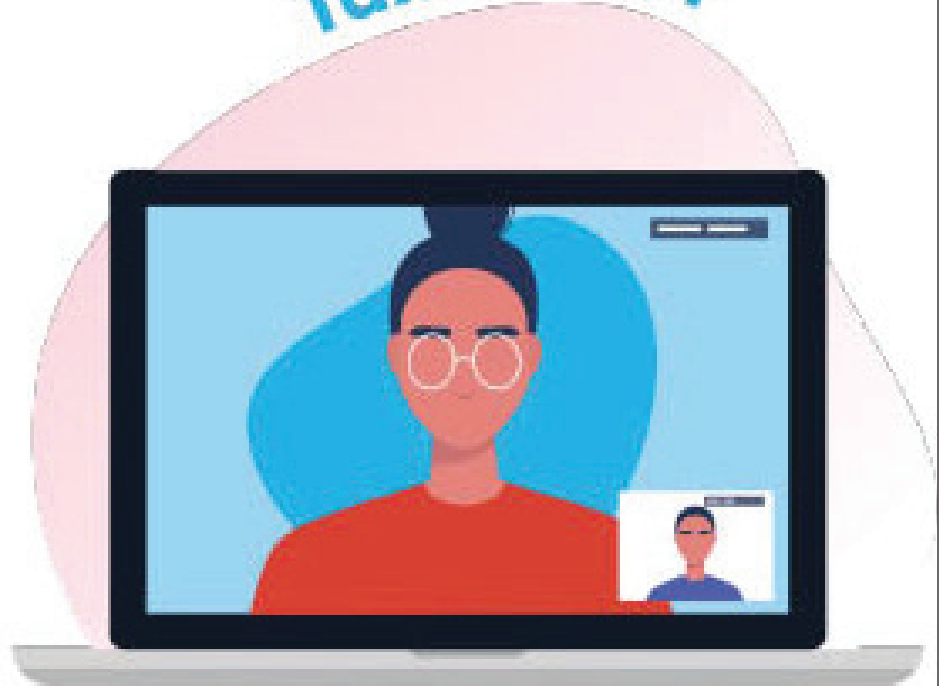
## Self-Serve



## Virtual Services



## Tax Coach



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# Student-athlete focuses on activism

By **Jamie Bennett**  
STAFF WRITER

School can be stressful during the coronavirus pandemic, but giving up isn't an option for San Jose State communications senior and activist Natasha Harris.

Harris has played for the SJSU women's soccer team in the last four years and has been touted as one of the strongest defenders in the 2018 Mountain West Championship winning squad, according to the SJSU Athletics website.

She was a starter for one of the top defensive back lines in collegiate soccer and helped lead the defense for a school record of 11 shutouts, which included eight in conference play, a Mountain West single-season record.

Harris opted out of this season and said she's focusing on her mental health and wanted to distance herself from the team.

"I've recently been diagnosed with bipolar and BPD [Bipolar disorder] and it was really affecting my relationships with people on the team and my motivation," Harris said in a Zoom interview.

"I decided that it might be best for not only myself, but also for the girls, if I just opted out of this final season."

Harris added she felt insecure and disconnected from her teammates after she returned to the team following a knee injury.

Harris has continued to focus on her work as an activist following this decision.

She helped create Athletes4CHNGES, an



Former SJSU women's soccer player Natasha Harris opted out of this season and has pursued activist work instead.

organization dedicated to promoting equality and solidarity.

SJSU alumna Darrian Reed joined the organization when it first began and said it has grown significantly from a small group of friends to an online platform with more than 3,000 followers.

"When Natasha was first getting involved with Athletes4CHNGES, it wasn't even a group," Reed said.



**I know, a lot of people might think I'm just going to post or yelling at everybody about something that can't be changed. But I fully believe it starts with each individual. And that's what I'm trying to work on.**

**Natasha Harris**  
communications senior

Reed said the organization began when Harris got her team involved in a virtual run created by her friends from University of California, Santa Barbara.

"She then reached out to me to see if I could help out a bit with making graphics and we ended up becoming this whole organization with an online platform," Reed said.

Harris believes having a

platform is important for every activist and said her online following allows her to spread awareness about local events and fundraisers.

She said that after the events surrounding the death of George Floyd last year, she realized many people around her were unaware of major social issues that impact people of color.

"I know, a lot of people might think I'm just posting to post or yelling at everybody about something that can't be changed," Harris said. "But I fully believe it starts with each individual. And that's what I'm trying to work on."

Harris continues to work hard for the San Jose community and is educating others on social justice, according to kinesiology senior and former teammate Karlee Pottorff.

"We're founding different [platforms] like SJSpeaksup and Athletes4CHNGES and she's always been part of a lot of social activism," Pottorff said in a Zoom interview.

"[Harris] has always been drawn to encourage others to become part of [the movement] too and empower people through what she's educating and what she's experiencing."

Harris said she plans to work on social activism in the San Jose community even after she graduates this semester.

Follow Jamie on  
**Instagram**  
@j4mj4m



## ABOUT

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.

Reader feedback may be submitted as letters to the editor or online comments.

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### CORRECTIONS POLICY

The Spartan Daily corrects all significant errors that are brought to our attention. If you suspect we have made such an error, please send an email to spartandaily@gmail.com.

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Columns are the opinion of individual writers and not that of the Spartan Daily. Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board, which is made up of student editors.



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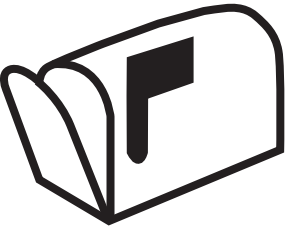


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Letters to the Editor may be placed in the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209 or emailed to [spartandaily@gmail.com](mailto:spartandaily@gmail.com) to the attention of the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor.

Letters to the Editor must contain the author's name, year and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, label and length. Only 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.

## Correction

On Tuesday, March 2, the Spartan Daily published a story titled "Venue provides space for esports club" in which Alan Ignacio was misidentified.

The Spartan Daily regrets this error.