

Spring 3-21-2024

## **Spartan Daily, March 21, 2024**

San Jose State University, School of Journalism and Mass Communications



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March 21, 2024

# Spartan Daily

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## Nirvana brings Soul to library

By Kaya Henkes-Power  
STAFF WRITER

Local San José coffee chain Nirvana Soul Coffee is set to open its third storefront location in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library on Monday.

Nirvana Soul Coffee, downtown San José's first black woman-owned coffee shop, was founded by sisters and San José natives, Jeronica Macey and Be'Anka Ashaolu.

"Our objectives are to serve high-quality coffee, create joyful experiences and an inclusive community while running efficient shops," Ashaolu said.

Ashaolu, who is also the founder and chief marketing officer, said stakeholders and certain procedures extended the timeline of the MLK Library Location, which was originally set to open in Fall 2023.

"We typically open shops (around) one to three months of getting our keys," she said. "We didn't have any other partners or stakeholders, so we can move as quickly as we wanted to."

Ashaolu said the decision to open a shop in the MLK Library linked back to the support of San José State's community, the historical significance and a personal connection.

"It's just a cool, fun collaboration of all the things we love," Ashaolu said. "Between the school, the library, coffee and charitable dining services, everything is just coming together."

Nirvana Soul Coffee

opened its first storefront location in Downtown San José in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the sisters were working on opening shop doors a couple of years before the pandemic.

"For us, we thought 'Okay, this is just going to be, like, go home for two weeks and everyone will get back to work and get back to normal,'" Ashaolu said.

Ashaolu said though that didn't happen, the extra time allowed them to continue planning, with the goal to create an experience that people could enjoy once their storefronts did open.

She said Nirvana Soul Coffee opened its roastery in 2021 in a facility in San José that roasts coffee beans sourced from other regions of the world.

"We had two Ugandan coffees that we've been doing over the winter, that's just very special and rare," Ashaolu said.

Jhoselin Milo, Nirvana Soul Coffee's director of dining services, who had worked with Macey before, began working with the shop three months ago.

"It was always something that (Macey) did mention, 'Y'know, it's my dream to open up my own coffee shop. This is the plan,'" Milo said.

The MLK Library location remains consistent in ambience with the other Nirvana Soul storefronts, being adorned with unique artwork and bubblegum pink ceilings.

"That's a very big,



KAYA HENKES-POWER | SPARTAN DAILY

The new branch of local chain Nirvana Soul Coffee brights up the first floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

important thing for us, is to maintain our values across stores, no matter how they're being operated," Ashaolu said.

She said the MLK storefront will have the same menu as other locations, but will have more food options created by on-site chefs.

"It's gonna be just another storefront, but we're also going to be offering some grab-and-go food items created by some of our executive chefs on site," Milo said.

Ashaolu said additional items will include sandwiches, salads and soups along with the usual menu items such as waffles.

Sai Deekshith Katukojwala, a graduate software

engineering student and barista at Nirvana Soul Coffee, said he is excited for students to experience the new store.

"Ever since my friends knew I got this job they are asking me 'When are you guys open? When can I come?' so the students are very excited to come in," Deekshith said.

Deekshith said people should try out their specialty banana chai, a chai tea mix steamed into one's choice of milk with banana syrup.

"The spices, it's aromatic but subtle, and then you have the sweetness of the banana," Milo said. "It's just a great combination."

Milo said the syrup flavors in the store are both

homemade and pre-made. Homemade syrup flavors include vanilla, ube, honey, and cake batter.

The shop will feature local artists including some current SJSU students and some alums, offering a chance for their work to be in the spotlight once the shop opens.

Milo said the hours of operation for the new location will be Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Ashaolu said Nirvana Soul Coffee's style veers away from the mainstream expectation of a coffee shop and features an upbeat and bright

atmosphere.

"I think for me and my sister we wanted something that matched our personality and this felt like our big shot," she said.

Ashaolu said she is excited to be able to build a brand that people love and a space that brings people together.

"Driving past seeing people with our cups and now driving past San José State and seeing our logos on the window is such a surreal feeling," Ashaolu said.

Follow Kaya  
on Instagram  
@kayuh.h

## Library exhibit chronicles healthcare

By Melissa Alejandres  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library is holding an exhibit on the history of healthcare reform on the second floor to show how accessible healthcare has been for Americans throughout the decades.

For All the People: A Century of Citizen Action in Health Care Reform is a traveling exhibit produced by the National Library of

Medicine, according to a webpage from the MLK Library.

The National Library of Medicine is the world's biggest library that consists of health professionals and has new developments from scientists in healthcare every day, while promoting other health science libraries, according to its website.

Medical librarian Dawn Hackman who works with the San José State University's Valley

Foundation School of Nursing with the Department of Audiology and is a coordinator for the exhibit, said the purpose of the exhibit is to educate people and shine light on the history of medical collections.

"A long time ago The National Library of Medicine started making these traveling exhibits available to libraries around the United States (to) highlight some of the great materials in the selections," Hackman said.

She said the collections range from information on AIDS activism, the Civil War, and historical collections in general.

"I think the exhibit demonstrates the power of citizens not necessarily just from health care professionals, but the power that citizens have to provoke reform," Hackman said.

She said getting patients or everyday people involved tends to push people to improve certain systems, like healthcare.

Hackman said she's looking to program other projects including an event for Black Maternal Health Week, which she hopes to bring to life for National Public Health Week.

Mariah Ramsour, a marketer and event coordinator for the MLK Library said the library is looking at proposals for new exhibits.

Ramsour said there will be more exhibits this upcoming August or September.

Ramsour said the exhibit is also translated in Spanish allowing more of the San José community to learn about the history of healthcare.

She said although healthcare may not be affecting every community member, it is important to stay informed because it could be affecting their family members or other people around them.

"There isn't enough conversation about healthcare," Ramsour said.

She said the community needs to continue having a dialogue about healthcare, whether the conversation is happening at the MLK library, or other universities and local businesses.

She also said it is important to continue having these conversations with healthcare professionals to help break barriers to accessing healthcare.

"For all the people means to me that healthcare should always be for everybody," Ramsour said.

Anamika Megwalu, a librarian at the MLK Library, said having the exhibit on the second floor for the entire public lends an educational ground.

"Classes can come and visit," Megwalu said.

Megwalu said there is also a digital version of the exhibit for people to look at online to stay informed.

The 1970s are still happening today and it's shown through activism as a long-term project Megwalu said.

"Even if people do not see any change within their lifetime it has a longer impact."

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MELISSA ALEJANDRES | SPARTAN DAILY

For All the People: A Century of Citizen Action in Health Care Reform information posters educate visitors about their traveling exhibit that currently resides at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

Presented by A.S. Events

PAUSE FOR

PUPPIES & PACKAGES

SMITH/CARLOS LAWN

THU, MAR 21

11AM-2PM

Who doesn't love puppies? Play with puppies on the lawn.

Assemble your own pick-and-choose care package at our dedicated station

Questions? Contact A.S. Events Assistant, Julia Beatrice, at [juliabeatrice.belangdal@sjsu.edu](mailto:juliabeatrice.belangdal@sjsu.edu).



# Women-led business keeps Mexican jello in SJ

By Ethan Li  
STAFF WRITER

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Interviews with Angelina Velázquez were conducted in Spanish and translated into English.

Walking into Jello Fantasy instantly evokes wonder as all kinds of jello molds cover the storefront from floor to ceiling.

Angelina Velázquez owns Jello Fantasy in East San José where she helps people bring their creative side to life through the creation of food.

In Jello Fantasy, one will find flower-inspired decorations in an open fridge with all sorts of fruits, nuts and vegetables spread out as the employees prepare for classes later that day.

Velázquez said in Spanish that she didn’t always have a storefront in mind.

“My journey toward the successful business I have now started over 14 years ago,” Velázquez said. “I started making Jello (with) few resources. My first location was simply out of my garage.”

Velázquez said she gained customers and new suppliers over the past 10 years and finally made enough profit to open up the storefront and hire employees until COVID-19 struck.

“The pandemic posed many problems as



Angelina Velázquez, the owner of Jello Fantasy, poses next to a display of pigments for jello-making projects.

in-person meetings were prohibited,” Velázquez said. “To circumvent these restrictions we utilized live classes on Facebook and sent recipes to people’s homes.”

Velázquez said opening her business was a piece of cake compared to keeping it open. She said most of the work goes into the maintenance involved in the products she creates.

She said to keep a business running people need to keep up with infrastructure, including industrial cooking equipment, a consistent supply of produce and an innovative menu to keep customers entertained.

Jello Fantasy employee and San José resident

Mary Carpi said she enjoys working at Jello Fantasy because she gets to meet new people and see how they express their creativity in different ways.

“There really isn’t another place like this in San José,” Carpi said. “Jello is something that is more so from Mexico than the U.S. and there aren’t a whole lot of companies here that produce these kinds of molds.”

Melanny Sanchez, Jello Fantasy employee and San José resident, said she chose to work at Jello Fantasy because she enjoys the work environment.

“I feel like the place is very welcoming . . . and I get along with everyone, so

I feel really like working,” Sanchez said.

Velázquez said while everything is stable now and her business is flourishing, she still remembers the prior struggles.

“I had a fear that was hanging over me,” Velázquez said. “Do I have enough money to pay the rent? Do I have enough money to pay my employees?”

She said during the pandemic, small businesses were negatively impacted and were in risk of losing business.

Velázquez said the help of social media marketing and opening a website for her business helped keep it alive and well through

trying times.

She said she also has a shop where she sells everything people need to create their own jello or other desserts from start-to-finish.

Velázquez said as county restrictions slowly eased she found classes filled up to the brim. She said the store was completely packed and demand was high following the pandemic.

Capri said that she was familiar with desserts before working at Jello Fantasy. She said while she was growing up, her Mexican family would eat jello.

“I always had jello and cake (at birthdays),” Capri said.

“You get to see very amazing cakes and jellos made and there’s customers who come in and tell me I’m gonna do this and this and I’m like, ‘How?’ and then they bring me the picture later on,” Capri said.

Velázquez said the space she created is special because people come there to learn. She said that people can take the recipes here back home and share it with their families.

She said over time she began offering more classes to keep customers coming back and teach them new things.

She said over 30% of her clients have found community here and made her classes a consistent part of their lives for years. She said some people have been taking her classes for over a decade.

Velázquez said another source of inspiration for recipes is that her classes are simply her own palette. She said as she goes to restaurants and tries new foods she also gets inspired to create new classes.

“The most important part about starting a business is to stay consistent and to learn something that you are passionate about and to share it with people,” Velázquez said.

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
SJSU

150 E. San Fernando Street,  
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Saturdays  
February 10 and 24; March 9  
and 23, 2024  
From 10 am – 2 pm



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## Checklist of Tax Forms We Need

- 1

**TAX QUESTIONNAIRE**  
With info on your household
- 2

**SOCIAL SECURITY CARD OR ITIN**  
For each member of your family
- 3

**W2 & 1099 FORMS**  
From all jobs and self employment
- 4

**OTHER FORMS & DOCUMENTS**
  - 1099 Social Security
  - 1099 NEC
  - 1099 INT
  - 1099 G
  - IRS and FTB letters
  - Self employment expenses
- 5

**A VOIDED CHECK**  
For the account to deposit your refund
- 6

**LAST YEAR’S TAX RETURN**  
If you still have it
- 7

**PROOF OF HEALTH INSURANCE**  
1095-A and 3895 if you have them
- 8

**CHILDCARE PROVIDER INFO**  
For children under 18



WOMEN’S TENNIS

# Hawai‘i beats SJSU in tight contest

By Jonathan Canas  
STAFF WRITER

San José State women's tennis (9-3, 1-1 MW) suffered its first home loss of the season at the Spartan Tennis Complex in a 4-3 defeat against the University of Hawai'i Rainbow Wahine (6-6, 4-0 BW). The Spartans won their doubles matchups 2-1 but dropped their single matchups 4-2 which ultimately cost them the game.

After losing the first round of doubles the Spartans won their next two rounds to gain the lead. The beaming sun was hitting the courts since the game started in the afternoon but this didn't have any effect on the game according to SJSU head coach Chad Skorupka.

“It was a nice day today. We just needed some focus and concentration here and there and it could have gone another way,” Skorupka said. Irena Muradyn, senior and reigning Mountain West player of the week, paired with freshman Cheuk Ying Shek for the first win. With the score tied at 1-1, reigning freshman of the week Duru Durgun and senior Rozalina Youseva won their match in a dominating 6-2 win after building up a 3-0 lead to start their match.

The pair of Durgun and Youseva



DANIEL POTTER | SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU's Carolina Millan volleys against Hawai'i's Nelly Knezkova Wednesday at Spartan Tennis Complex.

are now on a five-match winning streak according to the SJSU athletics website. “We are completing each other well and managing our risky shots together,” Durgun said.

Following the double matchups the Spartans started off the singles 2-0 because of Youseva and Durgun winning their matches first and second respectively. Youseva won her rounds 6-1 and 6-2. “I was definitely very motivated since I didn't have a very good last two matches, so I was hungry to win,” Youseva said. “I think that was the fastest set I've ever played.”

SJSU head coach Chad Skorupka said he wasn't surprised to see Youseva bounce back in her singles match. “She's been a competitor all five years here and she just gets it done,” Skorupka said.

After finishing second, Durgun joined her partner Youseva in watching the rest of the singles matchups. “Supporting each other during single matches goes a long way,” Durgun said. However, after gaining momentum and the lead, Shek and senior Jovana Babic dropped their matches.

Muradyn narrowly lost both of

her sets 6-4 and 7-5, making her the fifth match to finish, before joining the rest of her team at the empty courts to watch the game deciding match.

Then the Rainbow Wahine tied the game at 3-3 with only the last singles match to come between senior Carolina Millan and Hawaii freshman Nelly Knezkova.

Millan won her first round 6-4 with only one more game to secure the team and singles win. Hawaii returned the favor, forcing the game to come down to the third round. All eyes were on Millan and Knezkova

for the final bout as all the other matches had finished.

Millan fell behind 5-4 with the deciding point on the line and unfortunately hit it out of bounds to give Hawai'i the win and snapping SJSU's home winning streak. This was not a conference loss for the Spartans, but they will remain at home for their conference matchup against the University of New Mexico.

“We're going to be very hungry,” Youseva said. “It's a conference match and we had a tough battle against them last year.” However Durgun said the team doesn't want to overlook this loss against the Rainbow Wahine and take what they learned from this defeat into the game against the Lobos.

“The first thing we have to do is play with no fear (and) remember this is our home match and we have to step up,” Durgun said.

SJSU is scheduled to take on University of New Mexico Friday at 11 a.m. at the Spartan Tennis Complex.

Follow Jonathan on X  
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**ABOUT**

The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San José State community's top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily. The Spartan Daily is written and published by San José 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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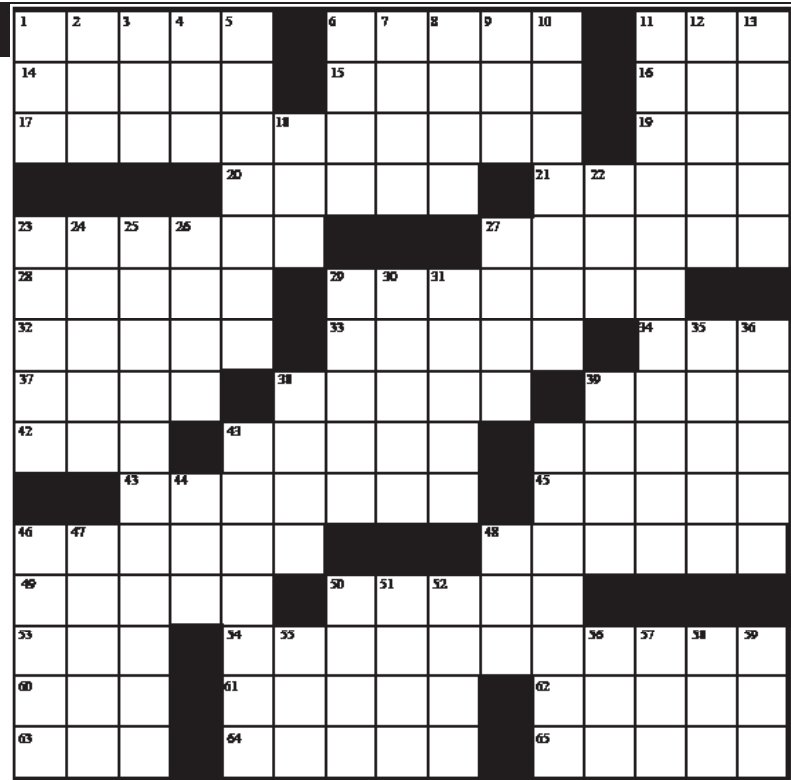
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Columns are the opinion of individual writers and not that of the Spartan Daily. Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board, which is made up of student editors.

## CLASSIFIEDS



ACROSS

- 1. Small game
- 6. Symbol for electrical resistance
- 11. Stag attendees
- 14. What a question might do
- 15. African capital
- 16. Stable bit
- 17. Frantic rush
- 19. Subject to hardship
- 20. Billing information
- 21. Stereotype
- 23. Ready to travel
- 27. Come apart
- 28. Plume source
- 29. Evening parties
- 32. Belly to the ground
- 33. Product of the press?
- 34. Word with wheel or engine
- 37. 100 centesimos
- 38. Downstairs, shipwise
- 39. Make jerky
- 40. It's an ok word
- 41. Coffin, in architecture
- 42. Show the way, in a way
- 43. Void fillers
- 45. Shaw of music
- 46. Garden State city
- 48. Restores antonym

- 49. Swell smell
- 50. Pulitzer Prize category
- 53. Eight-time Norris Trophy recipient
- 54. Sensitive issue
- 60. Stylish, in the '60s
- 61. They may run on gas
- 62. Sylphlike
- 63. Capone's pursuers
- 64. Heavily burdened
- 65. Potential virus carrier

DOWN

- 1. Emotive actor
- 2. Scorpius' heavenly neighbor
- 3. Disembarrass
- 4. Tchaikovsky's ninth?
- 5. Conceal in a hiding place
- 6. Type of presentation
- 7. She "charmed the husk right off of the corn"
- 8. Retrocedes
- 9. Hoedown date
- 10. Designer's studio
- 11. Breakfast offering, perhaps
- 12. Type of seal
- 13. Strunk and White subject
- 18. Length of measure

- 22. Roman greeting
- 23. Energetic
- 24. Match, grammatically
- 25. Do some saber rattling
- 26. Numbers game
- 27. Closed, as drapes
- 29. Part of a script
- 30. Ship of fuels?
- 31. Objects of devotion
- 35. Golfer Palmer, to his "army"
- 36. Apportions
- 38. Word with alley or bone
- 39. "The Last of the Mohicans" heroine
- 41. Dainty sunshade
- 42. Illustration by Jesus
- 44. "Dallas" character
- 46. One of the Judds
- 47. Trial partner
- 48. Australian ratite
- 50. First name in a famous 1857 decision
- 51. Philosopher Descartes
- 52. Part of NASDAQ
- 55. Avis output
- 56. Brown or Rice
- 57. Announcement to passengers
- 58. Greek antepenultimate
- 59. --- Aviv

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

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March 20

## SOLUTION'S

S	Y	L	L	A	B	I	R	O	A	A	D	D
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5	9	8	7	3	2	4	6	1
1	2	6	4	5	8	7	3	9
6	1	3	5	4	7	9	8	2
2	8	5	3	6	9	1	4	7
9	4	7	2	8	1	6	5	3

## JOKIN’ AROUND

How did Darth Vader know what Luke Skywalker was getting for Christmas?

He felt his presence.

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