We are putting every single asset we possibly can, every conceivable resource, to battle these historic wildfires.

Gavin Newsom
governor of California

"Just in the last 24 hours, to put things in perspective, we had 421 lighting strikes, primary dry lightning strikes . . . 50 new fires overnight," Newsom said, adding that as of Aug. 26, 36 fires had been contained due to suppression efforts.

He said lightning strikes are around all the time, just going outstretched into the challenges that we're facing trying to mitigate the fires.

In the news conference, Newsom said that the department is working very closely with the local jurisdiction.

"We have identified just shy of 1,700 structures that have been destroyed and we anticipate that number to grow substantially in the coming days and coming weeks," he said.

Cal Fire stated on Twitter yesterday that a hot and dry weather forecast is expected in the upcoming Labor Day weekend, but that it expects the SCU Lightning Complex fire, which affects Santa Clara County, to be fully contained by Sept. 3 according to a Tuesday incident update.

Housing plan launches with safety precautions

By Samantha Herrera

The Santa Clara County Housing Authority's Continuum of Care released the 2020-25 Community Plan to End Homelessness amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Continuum of Care is an interest group made up of local government representatives and organizations dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness in Santa Clara County, according to the County of Santa Clara website.

According to the Santa Clara Community Plan, which went into effect Aug. 25, the previous 2015-19 plan helped 14,532 people from 4,299 households enter housing. It also doubled the number of permanent supportive units and temporary housing shelters and lowered the Homelessness Prevention System that now serves 1,600 households annually.

"We cannot accept a future in which thousands of people are forced to live unhoused," San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo stated in Aug. 13 Santa Clara County Newsroom post. "The new Continuum of Care Plan to End Homelessness identifies bold actions [and] aggressive targets to end homelessness in Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County, City of San Jose and Continuum of Care partners constructed the 5-year plan in partnership with the community, which will serve as the roadmap to help homelessness, according to an Aug. 13 Santa Clara County Newsroom post.

The Santa Clara County's Continuum of Care Toolkit site, which helps Continuum of Care partners effectively implement program protocols, stated that the plan will test three new strategies to reduce the root causes of homelessness through system and policy change.

According to the plan in Aug. 24 post, "Continuum of Care also plans to expand homelessness prevention services and promote housing programs to meet the needs of the community.

It plans on improving quality of life for homeless individuals and creating healthy neighborhoods for Santa Clara County.

Before the end of 2023, Continuum of Care toolkit site said that Continuum of Care partners hope to house 2,300 people through supportive housing systems. They also have plans to double temporary housing and shelter capacities, reduce annual homeless inflows by 30% and address racial inequities and track progress.

"This plan reinforces our need to build permanent housing for the lowest income levels housing so that otherwise unhoused families, such as Cakey and Claire, Santa Clara board of supervisors president, in the Aug. 13 County Newsroom post. "In order to meet the need to stop economically displaced families from becoming the newly homeless.

The County Newsroom post also stated that it hopes to expand the HOME Prevention System, which helps individuals and families in risk of homelessness remain housed, and other organizations to serve 2,300 people per year.

Santa Clara County's previous Community Plan was the reference point for the new Community Plan for 2020-25, according to the County's Newsroom post.

According to the Santa Clara County Toolkit post, community needs increased in 2019. Continuum of Care stakeholders participated in more community meetings and engaged in more interviews and surveys with the community, which increased more than 5,000 responses.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, outbreaks in early 2020, Santa Clara County's Community Plan also added safety measures to help combat the spread of COVID-19. The steps to reduce COVID-19 cases include connecting more than 1,903 households into congregate shelters, which is a shared living arrangement, and non-congregate shelters which offer shelter in larger spaces such as community centers. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Clara County stated on their newsroom website that it has distributed over 30,000 pieces of personal protective equipment, provided mobile showers and sanitation services for individuals in homeless encampments and assisted 96,963 households to permanent housing. According to the Santa Clara County Newsroom post, Sam Licc is currently building three emergency interim housing communities to shelter unhoused individuals and families during the pandemic.

These communities are located at Irons Lane, Ral Ferrant and an intersection at Monterey Road and Fremont Road. The city will continue to provide temporary housing for over 600 homeless residents after the pandemic.

The County Newsroom post also stated that Destination Home, a public-private partnership with the mission of ending homelessness in Santa Clara County, and Sacred Heart Community Service, an agency community aimed to raise awareness to homelessness prevention efforts. The post said the organizations distributed more than $15 million in assistance to 7,000 low-income families since the start of the pandemic.

Follow Samantha on Twitter @SamHerreraSJC
Despite no sit-in dining, manager Brandon Olson said the restaurant continues to thrive.

On Thursday, my partner and I ordered from the restaurant's diverse menu, including classics like the butter chicken pizza and tandoori wings.

The fusion pizza menu includes a wide range of both chicken and vegetarian options for customers to choose from.

“We're more busy now than when anyone could come in,” said Brandon Olson, store manager for the Milpitas location. “Pizzas are flying off the shelves.”

Olson said the large range of hearty food on tap were the restaurant’s draw before the pandemic, but now it’s the pizza that brings customers.

The restaurant, located off the Landov exit on I-880 and hidden away alongside an old Rite-Aid and desolate construction site, is accessible through a wall surrounded with rustic barrels as over the fans in the kitchen.

After promptly getting our order, we got home, washed our hands and immediately dove into our midweek feast.

My partner and I decided to try the Bomb-Bay Pizza, the Curry Fries and the Indian Sampler, which we ordered through the Yelp app for dinner.

We chose the pick-up option because it was cheaper than delivery and allowed us to fully experience Parktown Pizza Company in one trip to the location.

We started with the Indian Sampler, which included samosas, but wings and cheesy bread accompanied by a green chutney. It was a good-sized appetizer that wasn’t too small and two adults with big appetites could still fit in two slices of pizza afterward.

The samosas were decently earthy and the wings were quite spicy. The chutney numbed my tongue with its spicy punch, giving off a good heat accompaniment to the appetizers.

Seasoned waffle-cut potatoes were the base of the Curry Fries while the raw onions and heavy amount of cilantro gave them a sharp, strong flavor. The potato curry dressing on top, however, had a consistency more like mashed potato curry dressing on top, however, had a consistency more like mashed potato, which is made up of red onions provided an acidic crunch, while the diced tomatoes on top took a showstopping, lemon-marinated chicken with chutney drizzled in a swirl that kicked up the spice, taking the pizza’s heat factor to levels a spice-weakling like me could barely handle.

The appetizers offered such a punch that by the time we got to the pizza, its full potential was lost.

The Garlic white sauce for the base definitely less its strong garlic flavor to the experience, while the mozzarella cheese complemented the dish. Heaps of cilantro blanketed the top with chutney detailed in a swirl that kicked up the spice, taking the pizza’s heat factor to levels a spice-weakling like me could barely handle.

Overall, the food was salty on its own and is designed to be enjoyed with Parktown Pizza Company’s vast array of beers on tap.

There are so many options on the menu, especially from the vegetarian section such as intriguing offerings like various paneer cheese pizzas enticing us to go back. Indian spice kicks with a beer on the side! Sign me up for another round.
SJSU is full price, not full service

Ruth Noemi Aguilar

San Jose State is unfairly charging students the same full cost of attendance as previous semesters, despite the school being mostly online.

On July 13, SJSU President Mary Papazian announced through a campuswide email, the school plan for Fall 2020: the SJSU Adapt Plan. It did not mention any changes to the cost of attendance although there would be major changes to the campus’s usual operations.

This decision to keep the cost of attendance the same negatively affects the students of San Jose State because a lot of student financial situations have changed. We don’t all have the same financial resources as before the pandemic and this has made it harder for students to pay for school, especially for places they won’t even be able to use. A lot of work places have had to close or reduce their hours because of the pandemic regulations, which means that many working students lost their source of income. While there has been some government benefits like unemployment and stimulus checks, not every student was able to receive these.

Adults without a social security number, even if they have a child with one, were not able to receive a stimulus check. Students who were claimed as a dependent on their parents’ taxes were not able to receive a check either, even if they weren’t being supported by their parents. Personally, without financial aid and support from my parents, I wouldn’t have been even able to return to San Jose State.

Not every student has the same financial situations I do though. Some don’t have sufficient financial aid, if any at all, or they don’t have financial support from their parents. Their financial situations have changed, but their costs haven’t.

In the plan’s FAQ, it was mentioned that a majority of SJSU students won’t even use campus until Spring semester seeing as only 10% of classes are in-person. Students will have to pay the full cost of attending the university despite not being able to access the amenities they are paying for, which is blatantly unfair.

The cost of basic registration fees for San Jose State is around $3,920 for full-time and in-state undergraduate students. This cost can go up for out-of-state students, those living on campus, and also for students pursuing different types of degrees. Included in this amount is access to the Wellness Center, Spartan Recreation and Aquatics Center and the Student Union.

There have been more restrictions placed on these buildings as well as limited hours. While these are necessary changes that need to be made to keep students as safe as possible, these changes should also be reflected in the cost to students. One reason why students still have to pay the full amount despite the changes is to help pay off long-term loans, “similar to a mortgage”, that the university took out to reimburse the Student Union and to build the Wellness Center and the SRAC as stated on their Adapt Plan FAQ. Although these payments that cannot be ignored or deferred by the university, this burden shouldn’t have to come out of the students’ pockets.

The university should be looking for places to cut other costs to be able to provide the money needed to pay off the university’s loans, but not at the expense of the students. Since the semester has already begun, the changes in attendance can’t be changed, but I believe the school should consider at least partially refunding the student association fee and the Student Union fee since those are the things students lose out on when they can’t physically be on campus.
Season delay leads to budget cuts

By Olivia Gerber

San Jose State University’s athletic department has some serious decisions to make this year as it faces budget cuts following the postponement of all fall sports.

The significant loss of revenue from just the football team could cause budget cuts across all sports, according to the university’s vice president of administration and finance.

“For our department, we are really at a loss,” he said.

An August update to the CSU Operating Budget presented by SJSU to the Administration and Finance Division, disclosed an approximated $322.3 million decrease in recurring government funding, as well as a $138.6 million decrease in in-place orders made it necessary for the university to cut $3 million. The report stated that in addition to the state reduction, the campuses face a number of other reductions in funding, and increasing expenditure as a result of the pandemic, such as a loss in tuition revenue, housing revenue, and sponsorship revenue.

The loss of a full football season, and particularly the loss of the 2020 football season, is devastating financially. For the athletic department that could impact the university’s ability to recruit and retain its student-athletes.

Following the announcement from the Mountain West Conference, Athletics Director Marie Tuite told the Silicon Valley Business Journal in an Aug. 13 article that, “every expense that we have except salaries is on the table,” she said. “We would have to look at everything.”

Evidently “looking at everything” does not include looking at decreased funding for enhancements to the CEFCU Stadium.

According to the same Silicon Valley Business Journal article, athletic department officials are going through contracts such as the $87.6 million deal the university signed with Citizens Equity First Credit Union in 2016. This contract specifically deals with the CEFCU Stadium, officials will need to find out if missing a football season means losing one of the 15 annual naming rights payments from CEFCU.

“Football at the stadium this fall will also suffer because of the loss of scoreboard and game program advertisements, adding to the list of lost assets this year,” he said.

The 2020-21 school year, San José State University and 63 other institutions of higher learning are facing budget cuts across all sports.

The loss of a fall sports season, but the question is, department officials having to find out how much money to keep reserved for a facility that will not be used for fall sports any time in the near future, especially with the knowledge that the department is struggling to make ends meet.

The Spartan Daily requested an interview with Charlie Fu, the university’s vice president for administration and finance, and received a response from Kenneth Mashinchi, senior director of media relations.

“Just at this time, we are still evaluating and assessing. When there is a greater clarity of exactly how the sports schedules for the 2020-21 school year, San Jose State University will then be in a better position to answer budget questions,” he said.

The project is a rebuilding on the student’s end as well and also provides support to the SJSU men’s and women’s soccer programs. Currently, the project budget is listed at $40 million. This is an outrageous large sum of money to keep reserved for a facility that will not be used for fall sports in years to come, especially with the knowledge that the department is struggling to make ends meet.

Esports takes off amid pandemic

By Joanna Olivares

San Jose State’s esports club has demonstrated potential during its first official year and has proven to be a strong competitor in the Mountain West Conference.

Despite only being established in 2019, the team was awarded Club Sport of the Year and has won several tournament titles throughout this past season.

The esports club has transformed from a small gaming club into a respectable, well-known competitive club with approximately 30 members.

The club is subdivided into 12 teams named after the 12 video games in which players compete.

Edward Ham, esports club vice president, through Discord, the gaming app.

As this new season takes place, one member of the club, along with approximately 100 esports players, mentally prepares for the intense aspects of online competitive gaming and the large workload necessary to stay on top of the game.

Gaming tournaments, such as AIMH, create a fierce environment for taking home titles and awards.

The Mountain West Conference for League of Legends, Guardians of Oklahoma State University and Counter-Strike are among the most popular collegiate esports games at SJSU.

Vallorti is the newly formed team made up of some of the esports club members, and he said that his team is working hard by winning first place in the first annual Collegiate League of Legends (NaLL) and American Collegiate Counter-Strike (NaLLS) tournaments.

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The SJMU men’s soccer team practices Monday in front of the CEFCU Stadium which is under construction for a new scoreboard and seating.

The SJMU esports club has grown since it was first established with approximately 30 members in 2019.

We work to develop our competitive teams to compete for scholarships across multiple esports titles.

Edward Ham, vice president of SJSU esports

The popularity of online gaming and additional factors such as quarantine and nationwide shelter-in-place orders make it probable that this number will continue growing.

“Our recruitment run for this semester has seen a larger number of applicants than past years,” he said.

The vitality and streamable content of online gaming has been prominent far before the limitations of the pandemic.

According to Roundhill Executives, it is estimated that the viewership for esports will grow to 644 million by 2022, with 547 million unique viewers and 297 million esports ambassadours.

“For any sport, our players compete for not only prize pots but also the glory and right to say that they are the best,” Ham said. “With millions of players around the world, being able to compete at the highest level of a game is quite an accomplishment in itself.”

Despite their promising team rosters and having won thousands of dollars in awards, as well as the Mountain West Conference for League of Legends, which took place at Las Vegas for a $50,000 tournament, the team maintains their original passion and dedication for competitive gaming.

“We don’t like to take things too seriously, playing games should always be fun,” Wards said.

Follow Joanna on Twitter @LivGERBER