

Glazier shuts down after fire

by Lexi Kupor and Caroline Wagner
People Editor and Graphics Designer

A two-alarm fire broke out on Village Lane in downtown Los Gatos, damaging several businesses in the early hours of Aug. 30.

After an hour of battling the flames, firefighters finally extinguished the blaze, but not before it did severe damage to local storefronts. Among the impacted businesses is Glazier, a local rolled ice cream shop that just celebrated its grand opening nine months prior. The business is also an employer of many current Los Gatos High School students. In addition to current damage, the fire also presents a setback to the owners' plan to a second location in San Francisco. In an interview with El Gato News, Glazier owner Arindam Jha indicated that the store hopes to return to business quickly, but nothing is certain.

"Everything is a question mark at this point in time. It might impact my long-term business prospect negatively," Jha explained. Jha stated that despite



FEROVICIOUS FLAMES: Glazier is closed for business after fire.

a lack of internal damage, the store is currently "not in a position to open." Along with destroyed electrical lines due to water used in battling the fire and a missing back roof, "extensive smoke damage" proves to be the most significant setback, and it may require a ceiling replacement to rectify. Removing the smell of smoke also poses a notable challenge.

Kashmere Salon also faced extensive damage that forced the business to close for the near future.

"We're our own little dysfunctional family here. We definitely are a little family," owner Delia Lira-Perez said in a statement to CBS KPIX 5. "It's going to be a long time. That's what we're hearing. Because it's the roof. The roof is just destroyed. It's destroyed."

This is not the first fire in the downtown Los Gatos area. Manresa restaurant suffered fire damage not only last year, but again five years earlier in 2014. A 2016 blaze burned Double D's Sports Grille — which just recently reopened — to the ground.

Santa Clara County Fire Department Captain Bill Murphy said to NBC Bay Area that the fire began in one storefront before infiltrating the rest of the block. The blaze may have spread throughout the attic after igniting behind Double D's Sports Grille, though the ultimate cause of the fire is unknown. In addition to Glazier and Kashmere Salon, a restaurant and table-top gaming store also suffered moderate harm. Luckily, no injuries have been reported.

(Sources: CBS KPIX 5, NBC Bay Area, The San Jose Mercury News)

Officer at LGPD resigns

by Sophie Sullivan
Media Production Editor

A local police officer has resigned just weeks after residents called for his removal when a video from 2016 displaying his use of brutal force on a suspect surfaced in early July. On Mon., July 22, Officer Jonathan Silva of the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department stepped down from his position following an outcry due to his history of violence while on the job.

After learning about Silva's past conduct, many citizens took to Nextdoor, a social networking website for neighborhoods, to voice their concerns. A poll conducted by a resident through the website indicated that 86% out of 706 voters agreed that Silva's past use of force while on duty "raises concerns," and his hiring should "be reviewed."

The San Jose State University Police Department fired Silva in 2017 following his use of violence which included beating, tasing, and kicking a mentally ill man in one of the school's libraries. The man, later identified as Philip Chi Chong, was under the influence of meth and had been viewing explicit material on a public computer when Silva was dispatched.

Chong was initially noncompliant when the situation escalated and Silva began to use force. After the incident, Chong spent ten days in the hospital recovering from collapsed lungs and broken ribs. Peter Decena, the university's police chief at the time, investigated the incident and concluded that Silva did not use excessive force. Chong later filed a claim against the University, settling for \$950,000. Silva had his badge taken

away, but appealed in 2018, with the court siding with him and ordering his reinstatement.

Silva left his job at the university and was hired by Decena, now Chief of Police in Los Gatos, in September of 2018. On Apr. 19, 2019, he was dispatched to a dispute between neighbors with the suspect yelling and arguing with the original caller. The suspect, identified as "James," was noncompliant and reached into his pants pocket, which Silva perceived as a threat. They engaged in a struggle, ending with the suspect unconscious and with multiple fractured ribs.

These incidents were not made public until early July when body cam videos were released to the public under California's police transparency law, Senate Bill 1421.

Weeks later, Silva resigned. A statement issued by the town gave no further details surrounding his resignation.

(Sources: KQED News, Nextdoor, Patch, The San Jose Mercury News)



SAFETY FIRST: Outside the Los Gatos Police Department.

Santa Cruz vessel ignites causing thirty-four deaths

by Jackie King
People Editor

A charter dive boat named The Conception went up in flames off the coast of Santa Cruz Island with 33 guests and 6 crew members trapped inside.

Of the 39 passengers aboard the boat on Sept. 2, only nine bodies are still missing. Five crew members, the only passengers who were above the deck at the time of the fire, were able to jump ship and swim to a dinghy in which they paddled away safely. Most of the victims were from California, including Carol Adamic, Steven Salika, and Tia Salika-Adamic from Santa Cruz, Raymond Chan from Los Altos, Andrew Fritz from Sacramento, and Carolina McLaughlin from Oakland.

The divers were all asleep when the fire began in the middle of the night, trapping them below decks. A recent medical examination revealed that the victims died from smoke inhalation rather than burns, and were dead before the flames reached them.

This accident is not just a tragedy for those who lost loved ones, but for an entire community of divers. The Conception was a popular dive charter boat that first launched in 1981, and it has served hundreds of guests. People from all over the United States have traveled to enjoy a relaxing yet exciting stay on this famous boat.

Tom Pulley of Los Gatos has been on The Conception many times in the past twenty years. Pulley first stepped aboard the charter dive boat about 20 years ago with friends from his dive shop, all of whom are very experienced divers. He explained that they would board the boat at the Santa Barbara harbor with all their dive gear and then receive a safety talk from the crew. He said this was very thorough as the crew ensured that the safety of guests was always their priority.

"The crew was always great helping you out" Pulley said. "We had a great time and never had a worry."

Despite his group having lots of diving experience, the crew never missed an opportunity to ensure the safety of all the guests.

Recent statements were made by the crew saying they did not receive adequate training to deal with such an extreme emergency. The surviving crew members said that the ship did not have a "roaming night watchman" who is required to stay awake all night to keep guests safe from emergencies like fires. They also explained that the boat did not have a designated person to complete this task which is a violation of the vessel's certification requirements.

Pulley is merely one of the countless people who enjoyed a few relaxing days on The Conception from all over the world.

Truth Aquatics, the boat rental services in charge of The Conception, also owns the charters The Vision and The Truth, both of which will continue to operate despite the loss of their sister ship.

(Sources: CBS Los Angeles, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, CNN)



UP IN FLAMES: The cherished boat caught fire for reasons still unknown.

LGHS offers a fresh new menu to students and faculty

by Esther Sun
Opinion Editor

In a conscious effort to provide healthier cafeteria lunch options to students, LGSUHS cafeterias switched their Point of Service provider from Meals Plus to Titan at the end of the last school year, resulting in a variety of new menu items for students to choose from when they returned to school in August.

Since the first day of school, news of the new cafeteria food has attracted droves of students every day to the lunch line in the basement of the main building, all eager to taste for themselves the notably healthier, more appetizing lunches. Most of these students are regular reliants on cafeteria lunches, but some are also students who typically bring lunch from home, their curiosity piqued by the hype.

Once at the front of the line, many students opt for the "Daily Special," a hot lunch option which in the past weeks has ranged



BON APPETITE: Delicious selections from the new menu include french toast.

from pulled pork sandwiches to poke, Mediterranean cuisine to marinara pasta. In previous years, the cafeteria offered little to no vegetable options, save for its iceberg lettuce salads. This year's daily specials, however, always include fresh cooked vegetables, as well as some type of meat. Some of these vegetables, like the tomatoes, are grown in the LGHS garden near the tennis courts. The cafeteria staff select the daily specials with the help of a special food consultant hired by LGHS, and daily specials may be served multiple days depending on their popularity and student feedback.

Students who prefer cold lunches can choose from different lunch bowls in the refrigerator, which on different days offers strawberry pecan salads, Greek salads, burrito bowls, and more. Another popular new menu item is the smoothie, which costs \$3.50 and has featured flavors like strawberry, pineapple, and mango.

The additional labor and equipment costs associated with producing a greater selection of higher quality food is being largely covered by generous financial support from the Home and School Club and the New Millennium Foundation. In spite of some minor disruptions like

increased prices and longer lunch line waits, students have generally been enthusiastic about the introduction of the new cafeteria menu, a move that has improved many students' experiences at school and helped sustain their energy through the day.

"I've always thought of food as a wonderful means to bring people together," Principal Kristina Grasty told El Gato. "My hope is that there is significant appreciation for the increase in the quality of food provided this year as well as the amount of work it takes to cook food for an entire school—and that we as a school will continue to receive support (emotional and financial) for the positive direction in which our food program is going."



HOT AND FRESH: Part of the selection of new foods offered at the cafeteria.

Call Safe Rides

by Austin Yung
Editor-in-Chief

After a wild night of partying, finding a designated driver can definitely be a challenge. Luckily, Safe Rides provides free confidential rides to high schoolers in need on Fridays from 10PM to 1AM, and on school dance nights from 10PM to 2AM. They take great precautions in order to maintain students' confidentiality as they are not affiliated with LGHS, ensuring that no information regarding students reaches the school. In addition, every call remains confidential, and volunteers never discuss Safe Rides outside of their shift, kind of like Fight Club.

Students of all ages can also volunteer at Safe Rides. Those who are interested can attend a training night on Sept. 20 and Oct. 4 at 8:30PM at Cafe Hope. Students can reach Safe Rides at 1-888-550-RIDE, and if there are any questions regarding volunteering contact them at saferides@casalg.org.