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SUPER BOWL LX FESTIVITIES

Bright idea gets big week started



People watch a drone show that depicts San Jose State University alumni Tommie Smith and John Carlos in Discovery Meadow on Super Bowl Opening Night in downtown San Jose on Monday. **NHAT V MEYER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**



Sal Pizarro
COLUMNIST

Like a scene straight out of a sci-fi movie, a thousand glowing blue-green drones laid out in rows on the grass in front of the Children’s Discovery Museum on Monday night as thousands of people gathered in anticipation.

Then, the colorful drones slowly lifted off in unison, lighting up the skies over Discovery Meadow Park and providing a bright finish to



Seattle Seahawks running back Jacardia Wright takes selfies with fans during Monday’s festivities in San Jose. The Seahawks play the New England Patriots on Sunday. **GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Super Bowl Opening Night as San Jose welcomed NFL media and fans to the Bay

Area’s largest city. The nine-minute Big Game Drone Show gave

everyone something to “ooh” and “aah” about from the start. The drones zipped around to form a taiko drummer, an Aztec dancer, a fire-breathing dragon and even the Little Italy arch — a celebration of the diverse cultures that call San Jose home. Big cheers erupted when the drones formed an image of Tommie Smith and John Carlos and their famous Olympic protest.

Of course, football was well represented, too. A pair of football helmets — in Patriots and Seahawks colors — clashing, a huge football opened up like an egg to drop a shower of

See **PIZARRO** on Page A5

Short-term rental offers are through the roof

By George Avalos
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SANTA CLARA — Real estate agent Joe Piazza tells some clients that he knows of people willing to pay up to a half-million dollars for their home ... to rent for a week for

their Super Bowl LX visit.

“Demand is very high,” said Piazza, who heads up Los Gatos-based Piazza Advantage Real Estate and is also with Coldwell Banker Global Luxury. “Some celebrity reps are offering a lot of money to rent these homes.”

In Santa Clara, the site of Sunday’s game, the average

monthly rent was \$4,935 as of midday Friday, according to a historical rent tracker on RentHop.

That figure represents a 28.8% increase compared with the \$3,832 average rent at the end of December, RentHop estimates show. A RentHop chart indicates it is the largest one-month increase

in average rental property prices in Santa Clara in at least 10 years.

“Demand is seeing a real spike, and prices are way up” in the San Jose, Palo Alto and Santa Clara areas, said Bram Gallagher, director of economics and forecasting

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RACE FOR GOVERNOR’S OFFICE

Steyer’s spending lapping the field

Billionaire used \$27.4 million for campaign, but he still lags behind frontrunners, poll shows

By Ethan Varian
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As the wide-open California governor’s race heats up, billionaire self-funded candidate Tom Steyer has spent nearly twice as much on his election bid as the rest of the field combined — but has yet to surge ahead of the pack in polls.

Steyer’s campaign has shelled out at least \$27.4 million, primarily on a flood of television and digital ads, according to new election disclosures for the filing period ending Dec. 31. That’s compared to \$15 million from 10 other contenders seeking to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose final term ends early next year.

That deep campaign war chest, however, has yet to thrust Steyer, a former hedge fund manager and environmentalist, close to frontrunner status.

A Dec. 4 poll by Emerson College had him at just 5%, amid a tightly packed Democratic field led by East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell at 12% and former Orange County Rep. Katie Porter at 11%. Undecided voters made up 31%. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, who entered the race just last week, was not included in the poll, which had a margin of error of three percentage points.

Steyer, who was set to debate several other candidates in San Francisco on Tuesday night, has sought to position himself as a progressive outsider in the race. Consider moving Steyer’s quote up immediately after this sentence so readers hear his voice before analysts critique him.

“Sacramento politicians are afraid to change up this system — I’m not,” he said in a recent YouTube campaign ad.

But even with nearly unlimited campaign funds, he may struggle to ensure that the message resonates with voters as the June primary approaches, said David McCuan, a political science professor at Sonoma State University.

“He still has the albatross of being a zillionaire who has offshore money,” McCuan said. “He still has a plausibility and believability problem.”

Steyer is hardly the first uber-wealthy candidate to launch a bid for the state’s highest office. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman, banker Bill Simon, and businessman Al Checchi are among those who lost elections after spending tens of millions of their own fortunes on campaigns for governor.

In 2020, Steyer himself flamed out in a Democratic presidential primary bid after spending at least \$250 million on the campaign.

In the governor’s race, Steyer pumped a total of \$28.8 million into his campaign through the end of last year, according to election filings. Porter raised

See **SPENDING** on Page A5

HOUSE PASSES \$1.2 TRILLION PACKAGE, 217-214

Trump signs funding bill to end partial shutdown

A battle remains for what piece of the pie the DHS will receive

By Kevin Freking
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a roughly \$1.2 trillion government funding bill Tuesday that ends the partial federal shutdown that began over the weekend and sets the stage for an intense debate in Congress over

Homeland Security funding.

The president moved quickly to sign the bill after the House approved it with a 217-214 vote.

“This bill is a great victory for the American people,” Trump said.

The vote Tuesday wrapped up congressional work on 11 annual appropriations bills that fund government agencies and programs through Sept. 30. Trump has said he will sign the bill when it reaches his desk, ending the partial government shutdown that began Saturday.

Passage of the legislation marked

the end point for one funding fight, but the start of another. That’s because the package only funds the Department of Homeland Security for two weeks, through Feb 13, at the behest of Democrats who are demanding more restrictions on immigration enforcement after the shooting deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good by federal officers in Minneapolis.

Difficult negotiations are ahead, particularly for the agency that enforces the nation’s immigration

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President Donald Trump speaks at a bill signing with Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., at the White House on Tuesday. **ALEX WONG — GETTY IMAGES**

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