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MAY 13 – MAY 26, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 10

Athenna Crosby



Athenna Crosby of Almaden Valley will compete in Miss California USA pageant representing San Jose

By William Bellou
Publisher

Athenna Michaela Crosby of Almaden Valley has been named Miss San Jose in the Miss California USA pageant which will be held June 3-5 in Anaheim, CA.

Each year two young women are crowned Miss California USA and Miss California Teen USA. The pageant provides a positive, fun environment in which young women have the opportunity to develop skills that will help them win in life by being their personal best in everything they do; building self-confidence, individual pride, and a greater self-awareness.

"I'm so excited to be competing in Miss California USA 2022 representing my hometown of San Jose," Crosby said. "As a former Miss California Teen USA, the pressure is definitely on for me to perform well."

Athenna, a Leland High School graduate, explained that the Miss California USA competition is even more competitive, as the

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Candidates share views at State Assembly Candidates Forum

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Candidates running for the 28th State Assembly District shared their views on decreasing poverty, homelessness and crime at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association forum.

Monte Sereno Councilmember Liz Lawler, former Santa Cruz County Clerk Gail Pellerin and Los Gatos Mayor Rob Rennie faced off, vying for Assemblyman Mark Stone's seat.

Rennie said homelessness is a top priority and rapid rehousing is essen-



Candidates for the State Assembly, Liz Lawler, Gail Pellerin and Rob Rennie, faced off at a recent AVCA forum.

tial to people being able to keep their jobs. He said less-expensive, faster-built homes for the unhoused are needed and called for expanded services for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Concerned with public safety, Ren-

nie said he ensured the Los Gatos police department is well staffed, trained and has the equipment needed for effective community policing. He purchased cameras to sight stolen cars used in property crimes entering the city.

"In Los Gatos, we're catching those serial property crime thieves with cars loaded with stolen goods from other cities," he said.

Rennie said he utilized his experience as a small business owner, city councilmember and mayor to champion small businesses, streamlining processes to make doing business easier and working to change ordinances to help businesses innovate. Concerned about climate change, he was a founding board member of Silicon Valley Clean Energy, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions by providing carbon free electricity.

Pellerin said she stands for equity, dignity and integrity. Having served in public service both locally and on the state level, she wants to shape policy around mental health, affordable housing, health care, education, climate change and public safety.

"I'm dedicated to creating a more sustainable, equitable and healthier community," she said, "and improving government access, especially for those who are most in need of services."

Pellerin said as suicide is the second leading cause of death for children ages 10-15, she wants to ensure mental health services receive the vital resources they need. Housing the homeless is also important to her.

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QUIXILVER DIVISION WINNERS!

Leland robotics team Quixilver division winners at FIRST World Championship

In another historic event for Almaden Valley's Leland High School's robotics team, 604 Quixilver emerged as Carver Division Champions at the FIRST World's Championship at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on April 23.

This was the first championship event since 2019, as the 2020 season was canceled. The 2021 event was fully remote, so most students were brand new to seeing a tournament of this size (450 teams) and competition level.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Tech-

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Times **Cover Stories**

Crosby

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winner goes on to Miss USA, where she has the chance to advance to Miss Universe, the most prestigious pageant in the world. She is the recipient of two "Miss Congeniality" awards during her pageant career.

Athenna said, "Being a former teen queen is an advantage for me given that I know the expectations of the organization and the skills it takes to execute the job. Yet, it is a whole new competition and I couldn't be more excited to be competing with the most accomplished and intelligent women across the state."

Athenna is involved in San Jose's community which she says is very important to her.

"I am honored to be singing the National Anthem at this week's San Jose Giants game. The San Jose Giants promote excellence amongst their athletes, and many of them have gone on

to play major league baseball for the SF Giants and other teams. They compete at the local level and at the state level, just like a pageant."

Aside from pageants, Athenna works as an actress, model, and television host. Her most notable work was hosting "Eco Company," which was a nationally syndicated show that aired on FOX about environmental preservation.

Athenna is currently the key host and moderator for Cinequest, Silicon Valley's international film festival which just wrapped a successful spring season. The event is anticipating a return to an in-person festival format later this year.

Athenna has also been a special guest on CBS Los Angeles, FOX News Bay Area, and Good Morning San Diego, and her most recent acting work includes two television commercials for Tahoe Blue Vodka and Sway Energy Drinks. Additionally, she has worked as a print and promotional model for brands such as Verizon Wireless, Xfinity, iTan, Cupshe Swimwear, and Polo Ralph Lauren.

Athenna was born and raised in San Jose and is a dual citizen of the United States and Venezuela.



Athenna Crosby Miss San José USA at San José Giants honoring the crowd, players, and game by singing the US National Anthem on April 26.

Quixilver

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nology) Championship brings together competing teams from across the United States and around the world.

Quixilver's first-place seeding in their division coming out of Qualification matches made them an alliance captain. The team chose as their partners Team 1323 - Madtown Robotic from Madera High School, Madera, CA, Team 4153 - Project Y from Los Alamos High School in Los Alamos, NM. , and Team 3603 - Cyber Coyotes from Reed City High School in Reed City, Mi.

The Leland robot excelled based on its simplicity and efficiency as well as skillful driving. After winning the Carver Division the team advanced to compete in the round robin Einstein semi-finals, finishing seeding 4th place, essentially fourth place overall ranking for this world championship event.

The FIRST Championship winners are decided in a final match between the number one and two seeded alliances at the end of the round robin.

This is the team's second season winning a Division Championship. The last division that the team won was in the Hopper Division in 2017 where they were ranked third at the end of the round robin matches.

While no strangers to the high-level competition of the FIRST Championships, this was the first year since 2017 that the Leland team qualified through a winning robot, after being 1st seed and winning at the San Francisco Regional and finalist at the Silicon Valley Regional at San Jose State University.

Leland's Quixilver 604 Robotics team has been a perennial competitor in the prestigious FIRST Chairman's Award category, which recognizes the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The team has advanced to the World Championship based on their strength in the Chairman's Award category for 11 out of the past 16 years.

This is the 31th Season of the FIRST Robotics Competition. There were 3200+ high school teams in 26 countries competing in 58 regional and 90 district events in order to qualify for the four day Championship event.

"We participate in the FIRST robotics competition to transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes," said Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder.



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