NON-PROFIT FOUNDED BY SAN JOSE TEEN EMPOWERS YOUTH – P4



NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT 2018
REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN
TO PUBLIC - P8



BASIS
INDEPENDENT
SENIOR TEACHES
UNDERPRIVILEGED
STUDENTS - P18



JULY 13–JULY 26, 2018 ■ VOL. 31, NO. 15



Almaden Valley since 1986 * ALMADENTIMES.COM TO THE STATE OF THE STATE



Apoorva Panidapu is shown working on a custom art request for her charity.

Creating art for charity's sake

By Apoorva Panidapu Special to the Times

ive-hundred and eleven, five-hundred and twelve, five-hundred and thirteen...
We have raised over five hundred dollars! That's enough for 10 goats," my fourth grade teacher exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with joy.

I cheered and clapped along with my peers, delighted that my small fourth grade class was able to make a difference for underprivileged people around the world. We did it just by making and selling bracelets, origami, and artwork at our school fair. That the goats would provide entire villages with milk, cheese, and butter day after day simply thrilled me. I couldn't stop thinking about the class project even after it ended, wanting to make more art to buy more goats!

Throughout my life, my parents have always given me unconditional love and support. I think I took the incredible opportunities they provide me with for granted See CHARITY, page 6 'JUNGLEBALL' COULD BE HEADED TO THE BIG SCREEN

Steve Dini's screenplay is a top finalist in Los Angeles, Nashville

By Jane Johnson

Special to the Times

Ever hear a story that needs to be

Ever hear a story that needs to be told?

"Jungleball" provides hope, perseverance, fun and a little redemption against the backdrop of fate and the larger loss. The story's not only a true to life adventure, its screenwriter and long-time local teacher and resident, Steve Dini, lived through it all.

I don't know about you, but when I hear a story set during this time I can't fully realize the effects on the returning soldiers, because I never had to bear something that is societally judgmental and hurtful on such a large

scale. I wasn't there to experience the crushing barbs hurled through crowds at young men who'd been swept away in a draft only to return defeated and pensive.

Over the years with each new revelation of the larger picture or the details that hadn't previously declassified, our country learned to slowly begin healing. It was a heavy loss, the kind we weren't accustomed to swallowing. Barb-hurling citizens grew into thoughtful adults shamed themselves who, as seen in Ken Burns' documentary, wanted nothing more than to go back in time and apologize to See SCREENPLAY, page 16



"Even in a world where defeat and loss loom, it's the little victories that count."

–Steve Dini



One of the spectacular fireworks displays at Almaden Lake Park on July 4. Photo: Amir Attia/Ready Proof Design

5TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

25,000 celebrate 4th of July activities at Almaden Lake Park

By Denelle Fedor

Special to the Times

ore than 25,000 people converged on Almaden Lake Park to enjoy the 5th Annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show on July 4.

The 65-acre park was adorned with people sitting on blankets, chairs and under canopies enjoying a pleasant picture perfect day.

The annual patriotic event provides a safe place to watch an amazing fireworks show and also to honor those who have served our Country.

The festival, provided by Major Skyocket Sponsors: Skip's Tires, Brandenburg Foundation and Casino M8trix, was in full swing starting at 3 p.m. as Snarky Cats, Almaden Valley residents George and Cindy Nowicki's live band began to play.

Children played pick-up games of soccer, were flying kites, playing tag and enjoying the interactive children's booths within the festival area, celebrating America!

Food was plentiful from Art of the Barbeque and Sweet Rendezvous ice cream along with Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley, Falafel Fresh & Gyro, Los Jarochos Food Trucks, and Dippin Dots.

A "Most Patriotic Contest" was held this year and included the following categories: Best Patriotic Family; Best Patriotic Teen and Best Patriotic Child. Pete G. Magic performed his annual magic show to the delight of the many See FOURTH, page 14

THE YOST GROUP'S RECENT SALES



1122 BARNES LN | \$2,628,880 REPRESENTED SELLER



18530 ANNIE LN | \$2,400,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



1189 SPRING HILL WAY | \$2,300,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



18750 ANNIE LN | \$2,100,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



1282 PAMPAS DR | \$1,700,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



6103 FRANCISCAN WAY | \$1,700,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



962 HURLSTONE LN | \$1,670,000



6747 MOUNT PAKRON DR | \$1,750,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



6611 WHITBOURNE DR | \$1,605,000



1199 MALLARD RIDGE LOOP | \$1,600,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



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THE YOST GROUP'S RECENT SALES



957 HURLSTONE LN | \$1,750,000 REPRESENTED BUYER



1347 VIA DE LOS REYES | \$1,475,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



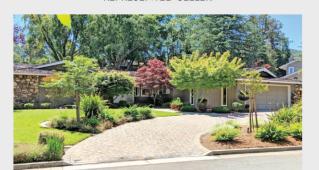
1268 BUTTERFLY DR | \$1,420,000 REPRESENTED SELLER



1107 SILVER OAK CT | \$975,000



1188 SPRING HILL WAY | \$1,908,000



7112 ECHO LOOP | \$1,900,000 REPRESENTED BUYER



6668 LEYLAND PARK DR | \$1,750,000 REPRESENTED BUYER



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6562 GRAYSTONE MEADOW CIRCLE REPRESENTED SELLER

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This Week:

PETS

Foxtails a summertime problem for pets: PAGE 6

COMMUNITY

Assessor Larry Stone warns homeowners 'Beware of scam': PAGE 11

NEWS BRIEFS

San Jose tops recent list of most million dollar homes: PAGE 10



ADVICE

ASK THE LAWYER: Is my elderly parent being taken advantage of?: PAGE 17

ALSO

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Almaden **Times**

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Valley Currents

cur | rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

Non-profit founded by Evergreen Valley teen empowers, educates youth

Roma Kidambi of Evergreen Valley runs a non-profit organization she founded in 2016 called Empower Educate Youth.

Empower Educate Youth makes hygiene product contributions that help reduce absenteeism and improve self-confidence in school-going girls.

According to UNESCO, 1 in 10 girls in South Africa miss school during their menstrual cycle due to a lack of sanitary products. Empower Educate Youth supports impoverished and deserving communities in South Africa and California by supplying girls and women with sanitary products.

"At Empower Educate Youth, we support women and young girls in developing nations and local communities by granting them access to menstrual hygiene products," said Roma. "Our work has allowed girls to further their education while on their period, empowering them to break down gender and social norms."

Roma partnered with St. Anne's Homes and Littlewood Primary School in Cape Town, South Africa, and sent over 1500 pads to meet the needs of women and girls. Megan Cooke, a teacher at Littlewood Primary said, "...purchasing food and electricity are seen as a necessity and anything else is overlooked;

sanitary napkins are one of these items and the lack thereof is often the cause of many of the girls not going to school while they menstruate. You have empowered 429 girls in grades 4-7 to proudly come to school and get an education even though they may come from unimaginable, poverty-stricken environments."

Appalled to learn of the lack of access to feminine hygiene products in developed nations like the United States, Roma rose to the occasion and partnered with two shelters in California, Handdelivering around 500 pads, she met the women receiving her donation at the Pajaro Valley Shelter Services in Watsonville. Shelter manager Carmen at PVSS said, "Feminine hygiene products are the one of the most needed products at our shelter, but they are not donated as often. Roma, it is the smallest of things that make a big difference to help the woman in our shelter thrive during their stay, thank you for thinking of us!"

Roma also partnered with AACI, an organization in San Jose that caters to female victims of domestic abuse. Edwin Tan, of AACI said, "Thanks to your gift of 500 women's pads, you provided survivors of domestic violence a safe place to rebuild their lives, and caring advocates who can help along the way."



Roma Kidambi (right) delivering 500 sanitary pads to **Andra Chao**, Grants and Development Associate at AACI, to help survivors of domestic violence.



Roma (second from left) poses with the Empower Educate Youth team.

Empower Educate Youth addresses the stigma surrounding menstrual cycles and empowers youth to dissolve the taboo associated with this aspect of women's health.

Empower Educate Youth has since expanded into Chaboya Middle School where they offer informal classroom presentations on menstrual hygiene management and barriers to access in the developing world

"In the future, I would like to extend these contributions to other areas of the U.S. and developing countries such as the Philippines and India. In expanding my organization in other schools, I hope to continue advocating for global development and increased access to education for women," said Roma.

Editor's Note: To learn more and to explore how to donate go to the Empower Educate Youth website, empowereducateyouth.org

LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to editorial@timesmediainc.com or mail to: Almaden Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124



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Times Local News

Charity

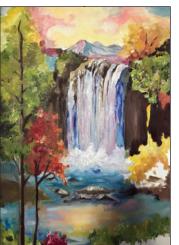
Continued from page 1 before participating in my school's fundraiser. I started to truly realize how fortunate I am to be born into my family, when I thought about the lives of the people who did not have enough food to eat.

For many African children, hunger is a constant, chronic pain. Right now, children are living on the brink of famine. Millions of girls and boys

need emergency food assistance to survive. Death is prominent in many areas, and a devastating 20 percent of Africa's children do not reach the age of six. I decided to continue to work with Save the Children organization so that I could do more to help families in Africa who lack such basic human necessities as food, clean water, medicine, shelter, and safety.

Because I was so saddened by the harsh situation, I wanted to take action to defend human rights. I connected with Save the Children and created a charity dedicated to the Child Hunger and Famine Relief Fund. This fund aids children of Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, by giving them sufficient food, water, and shelter. I am proud to be making a positive contribution, wanting nothing more than to make art for charity's sake.

To launch my fundraiser, I created my own online art gallery (www.apoorvaartgallery.com), a platform for me to connect



with people who would like to buy my art or make donations in support of my cause. Since I started my charity 8 months ago, I've raised over \$2,500.

With Genius Junior airing, I've been fortunate enough to receive some media attention and I'm getting even more orders for my artwork.

As an avid artist, I'm most inspired when I'm painting and sketching in order to help improve the lives of others. I'm honored and humbled when I

can support the children of Africa, and I plan to continue making art so that I can help people all around the world.

Reprinted with permission from the National Association of Gifted Children. To view more art work or to purchase, visit apoorvaartgallery.com

Editor's note: Along with her other accomplishments, Apoorva has captivated the entire city with her appearance recently on the Genius Junior TV program.

She is 13 years old and she has figured out how her art can help the world. But wait, there is more, the paper will cover in a future edition other achievements and aspirations she has for her future.

She has been selected by the San Jose City Council to receive a commendation by Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas on Tuesday, August 7, at 1:30 in the City Hall Council Chambers

Thanks Apoorva for inspiring us all and making a positive difference in our world!

Foxtails a summertime problem for pets

By Dr. Raj Singh

Special to the Times

oxtails are one of the most common problems we see this time of year for both dogs and cats. They

can cause serious infection if not treated and can also cause other related medical problems.

Typically the pet owner will describe the symptoms as "my pet has been shaking his head" or "my pet's eyes are squinting," or most common, "my pet has been sneezing a lot."

So what are foxtails?

Foxtails show up in early spring months. Green and bushy in early spring, but resembles a fox's tail when they are dried in summer or early

fall; that's when they begin to break apart and we can see them all around us.

Foxtails become dangerous when the foxtail gets dry from the summer heat. The problem is that they break apart and have sharp points at one end so it moves only in one direction, but not the other. Foxtails can work their way into your pet's skin, ears, nose, eyes, and paws, becoming lodged there.

Warning signs of a foxtail in your pet

Here are some warning signs that your pet may have a foxtail: Severe and sudden onset of sneezing, pawing the nose, bleeding from nose, ear-tilting and shaking, pawing at the ear, crying, restless eyesquinting, swollen shut red eye, tearing, and discharge. Other symptoms include: throat-gagging, coughing, swallowing reflex, skin and paws-small sores between the toes, on the skin, or small oozing

lumps.



Your Pet and You By Dr. Raj Singh Veterinarian How to prevent foxtails?

Foxtails can be prevented in many ways. Be careful especially if your pet has long hair. Foxtails first get embedded in hair coat and then travel further into skin and body. Keep your pet's coat trimmed during summer months to lessen the risk of foxtail problems. Be aware of your surroundings and your yard by keeping all the weeds in control, which of course helps eliminate foxtail problems.

If you take your dog out for a walk in the park or on a hike, pay attention to what's surrounding you. Foxtails are found in dense, dry, bushy areas. When you bring back your pet home then check your pet's feet and underbelly. Brush your pet to make sure there's no foxtails hiding in the hair coat.

If you see any symptoms or signs listed above please take your pet to your family vet right away.

Timely intervention can save your pet from pain and also save you money.

Editor's note: questions for this column may be directed to Dr. Singh: forpetvet@ yahoo.com; 408.270.4600; Aborn Pet Clinic, 3286 S White Rd, San Jose, CA 95148.

Jackie Jones presents...

6586 Boston Post Court, San Jose



Updated throughout with a designer's eye and located in the most sought-after location in the Copperwood complex. Enjoy year-round alfresco dining on the tranquil patio while overlooking the beautiful green-belt. This wonderful dream home offers 1,405 Square feet of living space, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Offered at \$1,195,00

Jackie Jones presents...

4901 New Ramsey Court, San Jose



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This family home was designed with the finest materials for everyday living and large-scale entertaining. Situated on a 6,791 square foot corner lot across the street from Vista Park and features 2,533 square feet of functional living space, 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths (1 bedroom and bath on main floor) plus a entertainers dream backyard for casual living in all seasons. Listed at \$1,398,00.





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1045 Willow St, San Jose, CA 95125

Times **Features**

National Night Out 2018 registration is now open

he 35th Annual National | by the San Jose Police Depart-Night Out will be held this year on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. National Night Out is a crime and drug prevention event that is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town

ment.

This year nearly 40 million people across the country are expected to participate in the evening event including families from all over Evergreen Valley Watch and co-sponsored locally | that will organize and register their own block parties. Block parties are a way to instill a sense of community and safety among residents. They can be large or small and range from BBQs to potlucks, ice cream socials, or any other idea where neighbors can come together to strengthen

the bonds of community.

Register vour National Night Out gathering by 11:59 p.m. on July 27 to qualify for a visit by the Sheriff's Office to your event. Deputies will make every effort to visit and volunteer at events within the jurisdictions they serve daily.

Please check your local police department as well for events in your area. National Night Out is a great opportunity to meet the men and women of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office who work hard to keep our community safe.

National Night Out is designed

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime prevention efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Participating neighborhoods nationwide are asked to turn on outside lights, lock their doors,

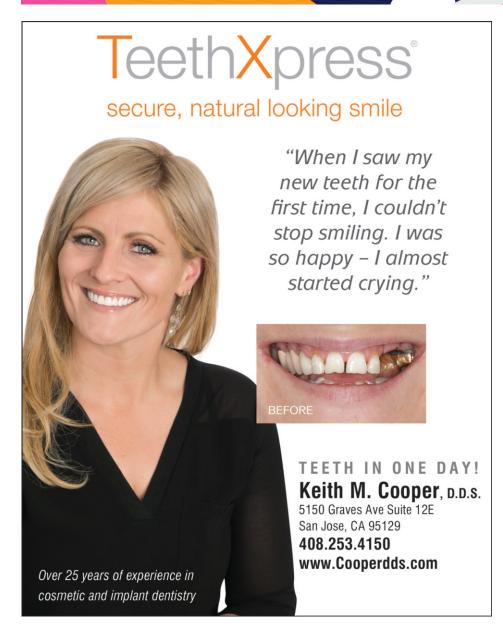


and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of events ranging from small potlucks and BBQ's to large block parties.

Some additional event ideas include, but are not limited to, ice cream socials, disaster preparedness, games, contests, discussing neighborhood issues or setting neighborhood goals, food or clothing donations, plan a clean-up day, beautify a common discuss or plan a area. Neighborhood Watch Program.

Register now and begin planning your event as soon as possible. The City of San Jose is a nationally registered participant in this year's event. To register visit: www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/ Pages/National-Night-Out.aspx







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OFFERED AT \$1,650,000

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SOLD! – 6611 Leyland Park Drive, Almaden
OFFERED AT \$1,880,000



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- Over \$132 million in real estate sales in 2017
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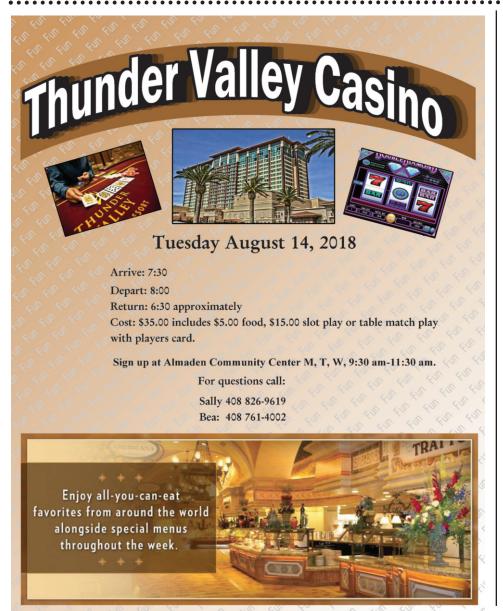




AMY MCCAFFERTY

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NEWS BRIEFS

Join the Friends of the Almaden Library

Since its inception, the Friends of the Almaden Library (FAL) has served the needs of the community library by raising and managing funds to support programming and purchases of books, media and technology tools not covered by City funding.

At present, FAL focuses on fundraising at two annual book sales and through the lobby sales area and has a dedicated team of volunteers who sort donated books and materials. As we look ahead, the possibilities are wide open to increase opportunities and we are limited only by a volunteer staff eager to help.

Membership in FAL is free, and ensures you will receive regular newsletters and information regarding volunteer opportunities and how money raised is benefiting our library community. FAL is a 501(c)3 organization.

Learn more about Friends of the Almaden library by visiting. almaden-friends.com

Or contact: Joan Wagner at 408-268-2920.

Almaden Library Upcoming events:

Funding provided by Friends of the Almaden Library Thursday, July 19 - 2 p.m.

Move and Sing with Eric Rubin Thursday, July 26 – 2 p.m.

For Goodness Snakes

San Jose tops list of most million \$ homes

LendingTree released its study on the cities with the highest share of million-dollar homes.

The findings were not surprising as West Coast cities having the highest million-dollar home concentrations, while million-dollar homes in Northeastern cities are much less popular.

San Jose and San Francisco top the list for highest share of million-dollar homes. Key Findings

- California is home to the top three places in our ranking. San Jose, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego are also four of the only five metros where more than 10% of homes are valued at over \$1 million.
- Most cities in the top 10 are on the coasts, with the exception of Denver, which is the farthest inland.
- The cities in the top 10 are known for having expensive housing markets in general. They all have median values above \$300,000, except for Miami.
- Rust Belt cities dominate the 10 places with the smallest concentration of million-dollar homes. These are also generally more affordable cities and have median values below \$200,000, with the exception of Hartford, Conn.
- Buffalo, N.Y. has the lowest share of homes over \$1 million with only one out of every 1,000 homes passing the threshold.





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Help keep our neighborhood clean! Report illegal dumping: 408-535-3500



Press day: July 25, 2018 Deadline: July 23, 2018

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

We'd love to hear from you!

Almaden Times

NEWS BRIEFS

Assessor Larry Stone Warns Homeowners to 'Beware of Scam'

Assessor Larry Stone is warning homeowners of a recent deceptive mailer from a private company designed to look like an official government document.

The solicitation comes from a misleadingly named company, "Local Property Office", and offers to provide a copy of a property owner's deed and assessment information for \$89. Assessment information is free for homeowners at www.sccassessor.org and deeds are available online for as little as \$6 from the County Recorder's Office.

"It's simply outrageous," said Assessor Larry Stone, "No homeowner should pay \$89 for assessment information that is available for FREE on the Assessor's website." The Assessor noted that property owners were mailed their official Annual Notification Letter on June 29. This notice was mailed to 490,146 property owners and provides each property's 2018-2019 assessed value. The notice serves as the basis for the property tax bill mailed in the fall. "Don't be confused. Letters from the Assessor's Office have the County Seal and never demand payment," said Stone.

Property owners who question the assessed value printed on their notice are encouraged to take advantage of the Assessor's FREE "online tool," available 24/7, enabling property owners to review

the sale of comparable properties the Assessor uses to determine their assessment. An interactive service modeled after online banking, the Opt-In Tool, allows taxpayers to securely receive assessment notices, in addition to interacting with the Assessor's Office electronically rather than by mail, telephone, or in person. To access the data, a property owner must have a user name and password, or the PIN listed in the annual assessment notice.

In addition, copies of the Official Deed are available for \$6 online from the County Recorder. The County Recorder offers a variety of services and information online, by mail, or at their office. "Property owners should never pay an outrageous fee to a third party when the information is readily available for free or for a nominal charge from the County," said Stone.

"Throughout California and the nation, these hucksters have preyed on trusting homeowners and have been the subject of consumer alerts. My bottom line to homeowners, never pay a third party for a service the government makes available for free or for a nominal fee," said Stone.

If homeowners have questions, they are encouraged to contact the Assessor's Public Service Desk through our website athttps://www.sccassessor.org/index.php/about-us/about-our-accessor/email-the-assessor-s-office, by email at assessor@asr.sccgov.org, or by phone at 408-299-5500.

REVERY Second Friday of the Month at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
February 9 | March 9 | April 13 | May 11 | June 8 | July 13
August 10 | September 14 | October 12 | November 9 | December 14

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

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For more information, please contact (408) 268-1133.

Public Notice

Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project



You are invited!

Who: Santa Clara Valley Water District

What: Scoping meeting for Environmental Impact Report

When: Wednesday, July 18, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Where: Santa Clara Valley Water District,

5750 Almaden Expressway, CA 95118,

Administration Building, Conference Room B108.

The project would consist of activities associated with remedying seismic, flood passage and long-term operations at Calero Dam. The project goals and objectives are to:

- Stabilize the Calero Dam embankment to withstand a maximum credible earthquake.
- Implement improvements as necessary for the dam system to safely pass the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF).
- Ensure that outlet works and hydraulic control system meet the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requirements.
- Replace and modernize the spillway to increase freeboard.
- Breach Fellow's Dike, an older and smaller dam located on the southern-most section of the reservoir that is severely deteriorated.
- Incorporate other measures to address seismic and other dam safety deficiencies identified through the project delivery process.

The proposed project would include excavation and construction of a downstream earthen buttress, mining of rock from nearby borrow areas, raising the dam crest by approximately four feet, constructing a new intake structure, a new spillway and constructing new outlet facilities to the creek below the left dam abutment.

The water district, acting as lead agency for the proposed project, has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to satisfy requirements cited in the California Environmental Quality Act. A draft EIR will evaluate the environmental conditions in and around the project area and analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the project.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared and circulated to local, state and federal agencies responsible for project approval or permitting for a 30-day review period to define the scope and content of the draft EIR. Copies of the NOP are available for review from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118, starting July 18, 2018. The NOP can also be accessed online at:

https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/public-review-documents.

The water district will hold a scoping meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5750 Almaden Expressway, 95118, Administration Building, Conference Room B108.

The scoping meeting will provide an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions and provide comments about the scope and content of the information to be addressed in the draft EIR.

If you are unable to attend the scoping meeting, you can still provide written comments for consideration during preparation of the draft EIR by sending comments no later than Monday, August 20, 2018 at 5 p.m. to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District Attention: Ryan Heacock 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 or rheacock@valleywater.org

For further information, please contact **Ryan Heacock** at **(408) 630-3202** or by e-mail.

07/2018 BA

THE GOSS REAL ESTATE GROUP PRESENTS





1 139 Carla Drive, Almaden Valley 3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,109 SF | 7,799 SF Lot \$1,495,000

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Times Cover Story





Above: **Denelle Fedor** and **Bob Vonderwerth** (photo by Mollie Tobias); above right: **Alberto Jr., Alberto Sr.** and **Cieylas** with their Home Depot projects (photo by Denelle Fedor); below: Clean Up Volunteers (photo by Denelle Fedor)







Above: **Rob Lindo** (Casino M8trix), **Cheyanne Segura** and two dedicated Letter to the Soldier writers (photo by Denelle Fedor); above right: **Councilmember Khamis** with D-10 intern **Peter Kuo** Cleaning Park (photo by Michelle DeOcampo)



Fireworks burned brightly over Almaden Lake. Photo: Amir Attia/Ready Proof Design

Fourth

Continued from page 1 families and children eagerly awaiting his act.

Dozens of booths were set up this year and included: Doris Dillion Cambodia School, Almaden Senior Association, VEP/ District 10 Leadership Coalition, Just Serve, Santa Clara County Water District, Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association; Vineland Library, Rocketship School, Almaden Tae Kwon Do; Mineta Int'l San Jose Airport; Legal Shield; Starship Technologies; Letters to the Soldiers and interactive children booths provided by Home Depot and Westfield Oakridge Mall, and San Jose's beloved holiday tradition, Christmas in the Park, was accompanied with a snow machine provided by Casino M8trix.

Event history

Five years ago, District 10 resident Bob Vonderwerth had an idea. As an avid enthusiast of fireworks, Bob wanted to produce a firework show at Almaden Lake Park, so he shared his thought with San Jose City District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis. True to his entrepreneurial spirit, the Councilmember said, "Let's do it!" and thus, the first Family Fun Festival and Firework Show FFF&FS took place.

FFF&FS is now a community tradition attracting thousands of residents to enjoy the spectacular fireworks show produced by Almaden Valley resident Craig Cutright, owner of Devastating Pyro. Craig's devotion to providing a safe and stunning fireworks show is unsurpassed.

This year's event was made

possible through donations provided by: Skip's Tires; Casino M8trix; Brandenburg Foundation; Millcreek Residential; Westfield Oakridge Mall; Naprotek; Republic Services; Hunter Properties; Schoennauer Company; Almaden Senior Association; CA Apartment Association; CORE Development; San Jose Earthquakes; Garden City Construction; County of Santa Clara; City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs. City of San Jose general fund monies are not used to fund the FFF&FS event.

Community partners provide on-going unconditional support and guidance for this event: City of San Jose Parks and Recreation; City of San Jose Department of Transportation; San Jose Police Department; San Jose Fire Department; City of San Jose Public Works; City of San Jose Environmental Services; City of San Jose Special Outdoor Events Team; City of San Jose Park Rangers; City of San Jose City Clerk's Office; City of San Jose Attorney's Office; VTA; Rapid Waste Response Team; County of Santa Clara; County of Department of Health; Carina Beal and the Almaden Valley Women's Club; M&R Services Security; Almaden Times; and the Vonderwerth Family.

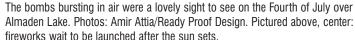
A grant was provided by the Office of Cultural Affairs, which provides event grants from monies collected through the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) which is a tax proposed by and for hotels.

A special thanks to the community for their continuous support of the FFF&FS.

Times Cover Story









The rockets' red glare over Almaden Lake





Above: The Home Depot Children's Activity Booth was the place to be; above right: Joe Noolan with Christmas in the Park and Cherrie Chen with Westfield Oakridge (Photos by Denelle Fedor)







Above: Layla and Anya Segura with Councilmember Johnny Khamis at the District 10 Leadership Booth; above center: Joseph and Dong, Volunteers (photos by Denelle Fedor); above right: Cheyanne Segura and the mailbox she made for Letters to the Soldiers (photo by Michelle DeOcampo)



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Times Cover Story

Screenplay

Continued from page 1

their returning soldier victims. Yet that larger loss is what our national identity has carried, and it still can be seen in the eyes of those who served.

Overcoming that defeat, even in a small way, is the driving theme behind "Jungleball." In 1970, the war was all but lost, and the guys still stationed in Vietnam tried desperately to avoid getting killed so they could return to loved ones stateside. Amongst them a young MP, Kevin, finds himself within a company needing positive distraction. So he and a coincidental fellow San Jose State University theater department grad decide besides entertaining the troops with renditions of show tunes, they need a pastime to keep them connected to home and have some fun amongst the rotten circumstances.

A softball team is born and they begin to practice and play to blow off steam. They find other companies to play against and continue to perfect their game. Soon the rally cry starts "if we can't win this war then we'll win this game" every time they play.

The Green Berets more than 100 miles away catch wind of their reputation and their commander challenges the team to a game. The 100 miles are stocked full of enemy combatants and the team realizes the futility in making the trek and declines the offer. The Green Berets then offend one of the team's players. No respectable company would stand for that, so they reverse decision, accept the challenge, and combatants be damned plan the trek. Crazy, youthful men driven by a desire to win at all costs in lost circumstances go for it, and the rest is yours to find out.

We can only hope this screenplay is made into the movie for which it's destined. It's already placed in the top 50 out of 2000 as a LA Screenwriter's quarter finalist, and the top 8 out of 1,000 as a semifinalist in the Nashville Screenwriters competition. Alcon Entertainment showed interest, but the cost to produce it correctly

deterred them so far as the nation seems caught up in super hero movies. Rather than super heroes who are make-believe, wouldn't it be helpful to find heroes in true life scenarios? It's something our nation needs right now.

Steve Dini

After years in entertainment, either in front of us onstage, on mic, or in the newsroom, or behind the scenes producing and directing, the screenwriter, Steve Dini, wrote "Jungleball" to get the idea he's had percolating out and onto paper. He knew it must be professional and properly formatted from the get-go, as Hollywood production companies only look at scripts written and presented in correct format, and first impressions are everything.

Steve hired Glenn Benest, a successful screenwriter with eight produced movies and many more in the works, who mentored with motivation and encouragement, while applying a critical eye. The results speak for themselves, as to place so high in first competitions with a large production company like Alcon seriously entertaining production thoughts is encouraging; now only if someone will see it and take it on.

It's fun to daydream about the characters and who'd best fit the parts. Names like Ryan Gosling with his athleticism and voice, Luke Cage with his presence and Marisa Tomei with her versatility all seem good candidates, according to Steve.

Steve's first thought as always is how to give back to his communities. If this were to hit it big, asked what he'd do with the proceeds, he'd immediately philanthropically give to schools and programs. It's not the prospect of financial gain driving him forward. It's a story that needed to be told. In the end, even if it's not produced, it's fulfilled a lifetime desire. He's an acclaimed screenwriter now. And the story's been told. Asked if he'd consider converting it to a book down the line he replied "maybe!"

"Even in a world where defeat and loss loom, it's the little victories that count," Steve shared.

It seems applicable then as now... never give up.

Akoma Arts group to perform at Foothill Presbyterian July 14

Their message is positive, informative and promotes healing and unity.

Akoma Arts is a multi-ethnic group of musicians, singers, dancers and visual artists whose mission is to help bring together various South Bay communities through performance.

The group takes their audiences through several stages of the African and African American experience by utilizing African American and Praise songs and African American Folk Songs and Spirituals.

Founded in May of 2011 by Keith Hames, Akoma Arts is a collective of fifteen Musicians, Singers, Dancers and Spoken Word Artist, whose mission it is to enhance community and personal healing as well as promoting community unification through interactive performance. Our audiences are taken through several stages of the African and African American experience by utilizing African Drum, Dance and Praise songs, African



American Folk Songs and Spirituals, Storytelling and Spoken Word. Our message is positive, informative and affirming.

Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.foothillpc.org/fccs. Tickets at the advance sale price are available up to 48 hours prior to concert start. Tickets purchased online will be waiting for you at the door.

Saturday, July 14th, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose. Admission: \$15.00 advance / \$17.50 door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Admission includes a post-concert reception with a chance to meet the artists.

For additional Akoma Arts Information, visit: www.akomaarts.org

Times **Features**

ASK THE LAWYER

Is my elderly parent being taken advantage of?

Ask the

Lawyer

By Steven R. Roeser, Esq. Special to the Times

This week's question:

Dear Steve, my father passed away a decade ago and my poor mother has been lonely since. She has a new "friend" in her life that has accepted some cash to fix up her home. Mom is very fond of him. The rest of us are not so fond of him. Our concern is she is giving him access to money and resources out of misplaced trust. How do we know if or when financial elder abuse has occurred?

Jack T., San Jose

The situation you find yourself in is all too common, with many different dynamics involved in such situations. To be frank with you, sometimes the adult children simply do not like their elderly mother hanging out with new gentlemen, while others are worried about their own inheritance. Then you have the majority of adult children facing this scenario with nothing but love for their elderly single parent, with the sole pure intent being protec-

tion. Perhaps it is a relative protecting the elderly individual. However, in the end, the motive of the adult child investigating potential elder abuse is irrelevant from a legal perspective. The legal keys are the intent and conduct of the new friend and alleged perpetrator, and the evidence of the wrongful conduct you can obtain.

First, let us take a look at the law surrounding financial elder abuse in California, and the requirements to prove financial elder abuse. California Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.30 provides that "Financial abuse" of an elder or dependent adult occurs when a person or entity does any of the following: (i) takes, secretes, appropriates, obtains, or retains real or personal property of an elder (age 65 or older) or dependent adult for a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both; (ii) assists in taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult for a wrongful cause or with intent to defraud or both; or (iii) takes, secretes, appropriates, obtains, or retains, or assists in taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining, real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult by undue influence, as defined in Section 1575 of the Civil Code.'

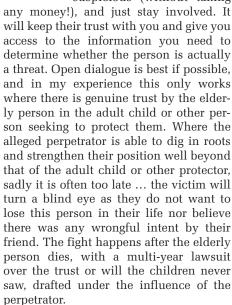
Therefore, in a nutshell, financial elder abuse occurs when a person (1) takes, secretes, appropriates, obtains or retains; (2) the real or personal property; (3) of an elder or dependent adult; (4) for a wrongful use, or with intent to defraud, or both. A person is also liable for financial elder abuse if the "assist" another in doing any of the above. The "wrongful use" may be demonstrated by showing that the person knew, or should have known, that this

conduct was likely to be harmful to the elder. Winning or losing all comes down to the evidence supporting the wrongful conduct and wrongful taking of or retention of assets.

Of course, financial elder abuse is not limited to a new friend or companion. Home improvement contractors, service providers, and other seemingly legitimate businesses, as well as an army of morally and spiritually devoid predators, that we can all simply call ball people, can and do

regularly commit elder abuse. After all, no one ever thought Eric Madoff was committing elder abuse in taking financial investments from the elderly ... and we all know how that story ended.

This writer's simple advice: Stay alert and stay involved. Your best protection is your relationship with the elderly person you seek to protect. If you genuinely care about them, visit them often, keep an eye on the people around them, help with their finances to monitor expenditures for anything suspicious (without taking



Again, proactivity in protecting your elderly loved one is your best approach. Keep them close. If you truly suspect something is wrong, consult with legal counsel. In this writer's humble opinion, other than one's personal faith, what is more important than family?

Until next time ... and have a great day! Kindest Regards,

Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at info@almadenvalley-lawyers.com, with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, or by telephone at (650) 300-5778. Your real name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles, and any information in this article does not constitute legal advice and is not to be relied upon. For more information on our practice, please visit www.almadenvalleylawyers.com

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Evergreen Times



Times News Briefs



Anjali Sadarangani (center), a senior at Basis Independent, is founder of the nonprofit organization Building Brains. She is posing with some children learning about the basics in neuroscience.

Basis Independent senior teaches underprivileged students about neuroscience

A njali Sadarangani, a senior at Basis Independent, is founder of the non-profit organization, Building Brains, aimed at teaching underrepresented children about the basics in neuroscience.

Born and raised in Evergreen Valley, the idea came to Anjali after she took AP Psychology in eighth grade, and realized that she had a passion for neuroscience. After pursuing neuroscience through various extracurricular activities, she wanted

to ignite a passion in this subject for students with limited opportunities. In her freshman year, Building Brains was launched with the intent of teaching neuroscience in a hands-on way to students from low-income families.

"Building Brains bridges the gap in understanding a complex subject in science with activities as simple as modeling neurons with candy" said Anjali. "This

Continued on next page



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Times News Briefs

Basis, continued

organization is rewarding in that it allows me to foster my love for neuroscience while sparking a passion for this subject in other students. What surprises me most, is how excited the students are to learn more about this complex subject and how many questions they ask."

Through working with Boys and Girls Clubs in Alum Rock, East Palo Alto, and Hayward, Anjali has reached out to several students with a self-designed curriculum. Most notably, she has worked with the Alum Rock Boys and Girls Club for over six weeks, and recently received recognition for her work from city council member Mr. Sachin Radhakrishnan.

Anjali began her senior citizen project in Evergreen, conducting presentations for four weeks at Sunnyside Living. "During these presentations, I handed out handmade booklets that included brain stimulating games and tips on how to prevent neurodegeneration, she said. "During my time at the center, I talked about the importance of exercise, sleep, diet, and healthy lifestyle choices in relation to neuroscience and preserving the aging brain. I also presented at the Evergreen Community Center in which I gave a presentation that also covered similar topics as those at Sunnyside Living."

"What I enjoy most about Evergreen is how open the community is to learning, said Anjali. "The enthusiasm to learn about neuroscience was most evident in all the questions I received."

Anjali hopes to continue to empower

youth and spread her love for neuro-science.

For more information about Building Brains, visit https://buildingbrain.org.

Almaden Valley homes are about to start beeping

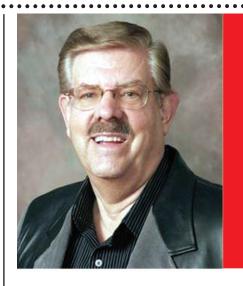
The state of California passed legislation requiring all California homeowners to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in all single-family homes in 2011 and now they are about to start beeping.

Because the sensors in CO alarms have a limited lifespan, a majority of alarms purchased throughout the Bay Area will start sounding an end-of-life warning beep at some point this year. And the sounds can be really annoying, especially to anyone with sensitive ears every 30 seconds reaching the end of their usefulness.

Battery replacement won't do the trick and the entire device will have to be replaced.

Kidde, a manufacturer of home safety products has launched a Beat the Beep campaign about the need to replace the carbon monoxide detectors. It says it is also working with local and statewide fire associations and departments to get the word out.

CO alarms will not detect the presence of carbon monoxide in end-of-life mode.



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Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday -Friday, Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by

calling 408-997-5106.

and is located at 1198

Redmond Avenue. You

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4

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11:00 AM

11:00 AM

11:00 AM

11:00AM

12th grade):

PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY

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dren's religious education

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HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose 95120 Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800. or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor

SAN JOSE GURDWARA 3636 Gurdwara Ave.



God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

San Jose, CA 95148 The

"disciple" or "student " A

word Sikh (see-kh) means

Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Puniab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves comple mentary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website: http://www. SanJoseGurdwara.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562 www.stfrancisofassisi. com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.org

We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose, Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel. Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations

St. Francis of Assisi

Chapel Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM. 10:30 AM. 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM. Sunday11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM For more information. please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.250.5242

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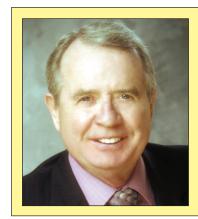
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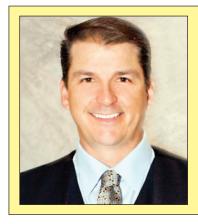
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Reunions



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Singles

Almaden Valley Singles:
The organization that
brings together single residents of Almaden Valley
(95120) over age 55 to
enjoy a social life close to
home and participate in
community service.
Monthly breakfast meetings are held on the third
Tuesday of each month, 9
a.m. Cup and Saucer,
Princeton Plaza Mall,
1375 Blossom Hill Road.

Class of '68 50 Year Golden Reunion



Are you ready for

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September 28, 2018 - Mixer September 29, 2018 - Reunion

Check out the class website for further information on:

- Event details, RSVP, Tickets, Lodging
- Alumni Jam Band
- Photos of the 40th Reunion (this was an amazing heart & soul event!)
- Update your online bio
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{Help} \ \mathsf{us} \ \mathsf{find} \ \mathsf{missing} \ \mathsf{classmates} \\$

www.willowglenclassof68.myevent.com



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Swan has been Almaden Valley's #1
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been recognized by Wall Street Journal/
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Nation by Dollar Volume. She is consistently
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