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AUGUST 9–AUGUST 22, 2019 ■ VOL. 32, NO. 17

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Khamis among slate of endorsements announced by the Silicon Valley Organization's Political Action Committee

Johnny Khamis, a candidate for California State Senate District 15, has been endorsed by the Silicon Valley Organization's Political Action Committee. Khamis currently serves as San Jose City Councilmember, District 10, but he will term out in 2020.

In addition to Khamis, the organization announced two other early endorsements for candidates in key targeted races for the March 3, 2020 primary election including: Hon. Devora "Dev" Davis, Candidate for San Jose City Council District 6; and Hon. Lan Diep, Candidate for San Jose City Council District 4. There was no endorsement for City Council candidates for District 10.

The SVO PAC said they initiated early endorsements for each candidate because they all have a proven record of supporting public policies that facilitate job creation, promote business expansion and retention, and foster economic development.



Khamis

"As a former small businessman, Councilmember Khamis will serve as a fiscally responsible leader in our State legislature. He will also ensure California continues to focus on job creation and that regulations improve the business climate rather than stifle innovation" said SVO President & CEO Matt Mahood.

"Councilmembers Davis and Diep have consistently voted in support of pro-business policy solutions, such as removing hurdles to housing production, supporting public transit/road infrastructure projects, and making fiscally responsible decisions that ensure that every resident is better served by the City of San Jose. These leaders deserve re-election because San Jose residents will be better served with more experienced and pragmatic legislators on the City Council" said SVO PAC Chair Anil Babbar.

The SVO PAC is a committee of SVO member investors focused on supporting the election of business-friendly candidates to local and regional public office. The SVO PAC cultivates, recruits, endorses and supports those candidates for public office who understand the importance of sound public policy that promotes workforce development, job creation, and a positive business climate.

Underdogs to Champions!



Moments after winning the championship, the team hugged Jack Turner after he made the last out.
Photo courtesy of Jane Park.

Almaden Little League 9's All-Star Champs

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

With dogged determination, Almaden Little League's 9-year-olds bested their District 12 opponents to become All-Star tournament champions!

"This is especially noteworthy because this is the youngest age for All-Stars," says Almaden Little League Board Member Nick Blozan. "It is amazing that James Richards and his coaches were able to pull together this group of young players and guide them to an undefeated run against the best players from all the other little leagues in our district."

In all six games, the scores were close, keeping the tension and excitement mounting. None of the coaches expected the big win, but as each game progressed, the team's talent and perseverance became evident.

"They were a resilient team," says Coach James Richards. "The kids did a really good job of staying motivated and not letting any setbacks hold them back. They didn't have the lead through the majority of the games, yet they came back and won four out of the six

See CHAMPS, page 16

Republican businesswoman enters District 10 San Jose council race

By Ramona Giwargis

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The fight for San Jose's District 10 City Council seat — being vacated by outgoing Councilmember Johnny Khamis — just got a little more crowded.

Helen Wang, a longtime business owner and registered nurse, told San José Spotlight she's running for the Almaden Valley seat to "protect and enhance" the district's safety, public services and "quality of life in terms of its property values and open spaces." The only Republican in the race, Wang joins Democrats Jenny Higgins Bradanini, a longtime organizer, and Matt Mahan, Brigade CEO and co-founder.

Wang has endorsed Khamis in his race for state Senate, raising questions about whether the former Republican lawmaker will support her. While speculation swirled earlier this year that Wang was running to succeed Khamis, she officially launched her website and made the announcement this week.

"I believe in supply and demand, free market economics," Wang said. "I believe the city is going the wrong direction in terms of fiscal sustainability, including pension issues, and someone needs to start looking into some of the issues like permitting that have been going on for far too long."



Helen Wang is running for San Jose City Council District 10. Wang is pictured here with her husband John Longwell, MD.

According to her biography, Wang worked in the medical field for more than 30 years, with experience as an RN Midwife and an administrator running an urgent care center in San Jose for more than 25 years. Wang also served on San Jose's Small Business Task Force, the Tenant Protection Task Force in Milpitas and

See RACE, page 6

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WICKED returns to the Center for the Performing Arts

WICKED, San Jose's most popular musical, will return to the Center for the Performing Arts (255 S. Almaden Blvd., San Jose) August 14-September 8, 2019.

The Broadway sensation WICKED looks at what happened in the Land of Oz... but from a different angle. Long before Dorothy arrives, there is another young woman, born with emerald-green skin, who is smart, fiery, misunderstood, and possessing an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikely of friendships...until the world decides to call one "good," and the other one "wicked."

Tickets for the return engagement are on-sale now at www.broadwaysanjose.com, in-person at the City National Civic Box Office (150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose), or by calling 800-982-ARTS (2787).

Group orders of 15 or more may be placed by calling 669-242-8559. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice. The performance schedule for WICKED is as follows: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. There is an added matinee performance on Thursday, August 15 at 2 p.m.

Almaden Times

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Valley Currents

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

The Italian Flag Throwers are coming to the Italian Family FESTA

The Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF) will feature the internationally renowned and award winning Sbandieratori E Musici Fornovo Taro, flag throwers and musicians from Fornovo di Taro Italy at the 39th Annual Italian Family FESTA August 24 and 25.

During the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the flag was flown for the purpose of reporting, even at long distances, military maneuvers. This communication to the troops was entrusted to the flag thrower; the drums that accompanied the battles had a similar effect, in addition to coordinating movements of troops and to provoke their opponents.

The group keeps alive this ancient tradition with passion and professionalism, performing throughout Italy and abroad. They have participated in over 700 shows in 16 years, taking part in the most significant medieval and renaissance events in Austria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland. They have also performed in China, India and Hong Kong.

"We are honored to host Sbandieratori E Musici Fornovo Taro and watch the group parade through the 'streets' of the Italian Family FESTA. They will end with an astonishing flag throwing performance, accompanied by the sound of drums and trumpets," said Nancy Morreale, FESTA Director. Adding the flags and costumes are red, blue and white, as the coat of arms of the city of Fornovo, inspired by the late middle ages and early renaissance period. The Group links the present with the past, giving revival to old cultural traditions that cannot be lost.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Sbandieratori E Musici Fornovo Taro group or would like to assist with the group while they are visiting please



Sbandieratori E Musici Fornovo Taro, flag throwers and musicians from Fornovo di Taro Italy, will perform at the 39th Annual Italian Family Festa, August 24 and 25.

contact Nancy Morreale, Festa Director at sponsors@italianfamilyfestasj.org.

About Italian Family FESTA

The Italian Family FESTA is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). The FESTA brings to the Santa Clara Valley all things Italian. Through our food, music, crafts, bocce, grape stomp, cultural offerings and wine tasting garden we share our Italian culture and heritage. We welcome everyone to share a bit of Italy with us. All proceeds support the preservation of Italian culture and the Italian American Heritage Foun-

ation Scholarship Program. Admission is free.

August 24 and 25, 2019

Saturday, August 24: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday, August 25: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112 Free Admission. www.ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org

About Italian American Heritage Foundation

The Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Italian heritage and culture in the Santa Clara Valley.

OP ED

Significant improvement to San Jose's financial situation

By Pat Waite

Special to the Times

San Jose's financial situation has improved significantly since the double whammy of the pension crisis and the Great Recession.

A historically long economic expansion has increased tax receipts. Between 2014 and 2018 four tax measures passed, increasing tax revenue by about \$100 million annually. On the surface, things look pretty good: police academy classes are full, libraries are open six days a week, our roads are being repaved and our City is judiciously building reserves for the next downturn.

However, the future is not all that rosy. As Mayor Liccardo warned in March, "this Budget Message triggers the foghorn to prepare for the dangers in the misty months ahead." His not so

subtle warning: San Jose could see a return to the dark days of 2009-2012, with debilitating cuts to core services required for maintaining a balanced budget.

Indeed, San Jose is not only poorly prepared for the next economic downturn, it is in a worse position than it was prior to the 2008 downturn. During the Great Recession, San Jose diverted money from libraries and street paving, among other services, to protect public safety spending. Today those options are off the table, as special funds dedicated to specific spending were set up as part of the

tax initiatives. Combined with the near certainty of the need for significant increases to pension contributions yet again, this portends a very bleak future for our City. Lacking immediate action, we may face crushing reductions to our core servic-

es such as public safety and parks.

There are two reasons for this. The most obvious is that any economic downturn will reduce tax payments. While the City is establishing reserves to mitigate the effects of a decline in revenues, even a minor downturn will strain the ability to maintain these services at a level that we desire. I suspect that employees and the Council will find a way to ride out a downturn with minimal cuts, and virtually none to public safety programs...except for one additional and very substantial problem.

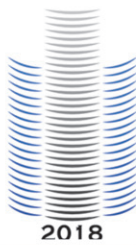
That problem, and the second reason for pessimism, is the strain the City's pension program places on the budget. In 2008 an unfunded pension liability of \$1 billion in the City's two largest plans, covering over 11,000 current and former employees, triggered then-Mayor Reed's call for reform. In response, the City quintupled its annual payments into the pension funds and voters overwhelmingly passed several pension reform

See SAN JOSE, page 8

"However, the future is not all that rosy. As Mayor Liccardo warned in March, 'this Budget Message triggers the foghorn to prepare for the dangers in the misty months ahead.'"

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Times **Community**



US Stock market is up 17% so far this year⁽ⁱ⁾

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Sean and his family have lived in Almaden for 10 years. He has an MBA from Berkeley, is a CPA and has over 20 years of finance experience. Prior to starting Hathaway Financial he led the Global Treasury team at Netflix charged with forecasting and managing Cash, Investments, Insurance and Risk Management. He also chaired the 401k committee and administered the Stock Plan and all employee benefit programs.

Race

Continued from page 1
 as president of the Silicon Valley Chinese Technology and Business Association (SVCTBA). She also served on the Small Business Committee Transition Team under former San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed.

Wang said her larger goals for San Jose are to promote transparency, especially when it comes to new taxes and bond measures, promote fiscal responsibility and sustainability and a "business friendly and entrepreneurial environment" for small businesses and landlords.

"I hope to cut waste, look for efficiencies and be transparent with citizens in terms of our real bonds and measures costs," Wang added.

Wang is arguably the most conservative candidate in the race, while Bradanini is considered the labor-friendly progressive and Mahan is positioning himself as a business-aligned moderate. Labor leaders have already endorsed Bradanini while the business lobby has not yet endorsed in the race.

"I anticipated Helen's entrance in the race when her name was mentioned a few months ago, but haven't heard anything since," Bradanini said. "I am a bit surprised she jumped in this late. I have been actively out in the community since last year, so much has been going on in the D10 race already."

Bradinini said she doesn't believe residents of District 10 are "ready to play extreme partisan politics as this is a nonpartisan seat."

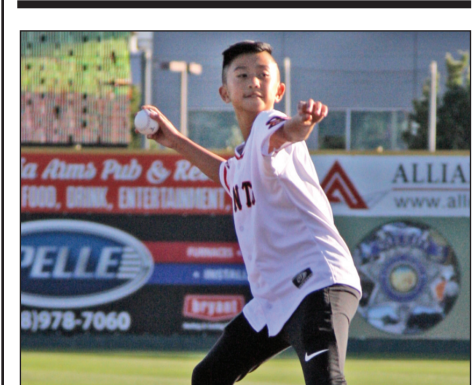
Khamis said he would not endorse in the race for his successor until after the March

primary election.

"I'm not going to endorse not because I'm not aligned with her, because I am. But she got a late start," Khamis said. "I have a lot of respect for Helen, she's worked in the community for many years and she's a very level-headed person and well involved in getting good people elected in the city."

"I think she's very qualified. I think she would make a good councilmember," Khamis added. "But she got a late start and people like Matt have been out there in the community for more than a year."

Contact Ramona Giwargis at ramona@sanjosespotlight.com or follow @RamonaGiwargis on Twitter.



First pitch

Almaden resident **Eric-John Wong**, who attends Graystone Elementary, was honored recently at a San Jose Giants game and got to throw out the first pitch. Eric-John is the winner of the City of San Jose Safety Patroller of the Year.

Approval for distribution of these materials does not imply endorsement by the San Jose Unified School District.



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Times **Community**

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The Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival is supported, in part, by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose

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Valley Water's capital improvement and conservation work under way

By Santa Clara Valley Water District
 Director Linda J. LeZotte, District 4

Special to the Times

In January, when I became chair of the Valley Water Board of Directors, I said my priorities for the year were to continue the board's work to ensure a safe, secure supply of water for our community while protecting homes and businesses from flooding, as well as protecting our natural environment.

We have been working toward that end all year, and in May, we adopted the 5-year Capital Improvement Program, which we revisit every year. That plan describes the capital projects Valley Water has under way or plans to begin in the next five years.

The Fiscal Year 2020-2024 rolling Capital Improvement Program contains 67 capital projects, for an estimated cost of \$4.4 billion. Over the next five years, the total estimate for construction contracts to be awarded is approximately \$1 billion, which will generate or sustain between 10,000 and 20,000 jobs.

These projects run the gamut from the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project aimed at providing emergency water storage for Santa Clara County and benefitting fisheries in Pacheco Creek to flood protection projects along Coyote Creek. All the identified projects are investments that will maintain and improve our flood protection infrastructure and support Valley Water's mission of environmental stewardship.

They also provide a reliable water supply that Silicon Valley depends on for a healthy life, environment and economy. In addition to the Capital Improvement Program's identification of projects that help us achieve this mission, we also are cognizant of the importance of con-

servation.

We never know when the next drought is coming or how long it will last. That's why it's important to make conservation a way of life. During our most recent drought, the Valley Water Board of Directors asked the community to cut back on their water usage by 30 percent, and the community stepped up, saving as much as 28 percent over 2013 water use levels.

With community conservation efforts, Valley Water's management of our groundwater reserves and the help of a couple of wet winters, we have been able to bring our groundwater levels back up to the normal range, where we expect them to remain throughout the year. These efforts also helped us stave off subsidence, or the sinking of the land surface, which would be detrimental to infrastructure and our groundwater storage capacity. Our groundwater storage is important to help us weather dry times.

To help the community with conservation, we have a number of rebates we offer to residents and businesses, including rebates for converting lawns to drought-tolerant landscapes, for using water from your washing machine in your landscape, and irrigation system upgrades.

To learn more about how Valley Water can help you conserve, visit valleywater.org.

Submitted on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. As always, I am available for questions or comments as your District 4 representative for the City of Campbell, portions of Willow Glen and the Cambrian, North Almaden and Blossom Hill neighborhoods of San José. Feel free to contact me at (408) 265-2600.

San Jose

Continued from page 4

ballot measures. City employment plunged as unhappy employees retired, were laid off, or left for "greener pastures." Across the board cuts affecting every aspect of City services were made to maintain a balanced budget.

In the ten years since tackling pension obligations, we have seen positive economic growth and a strong stock market in addition to changes to city employees' pension plans. You would expect San Jose to be making progress on the unfunded pension liability. Sadly, that is not the case. As of the end of fiscal 2018, the unfunded liability for the City's two largest pension funds totaled about \$3 billion, triple the previous danger level. There are more than a few reasons for this; returns not meeting assumptions and significant adviser fees being two of the major ones.

According to Mayor Liccardo we must wait another eight years before pension payments, and hopefully the unfunded liability, begin declining, assuming the financial projections hold true.

But the financial projections will not hold true. "Retirement board experts have - with good reason - continued to advise the boards to reduce their discount rates," the Mayor states. Reducing the discount rate, which is also the target rate of return on the pension fund assets, will increase actual annual costs "by several tens of millions of dollars, cutting spending on everything from police to parks and potholes."

When adopted, that lower, realistic rate of return will increase the unfunded liability by another \$2 billion, requiring roughly \$140 million per year more in annual funding through either tax increases or budget cuts.

Mayor Liccardo calls for convening stakeholders, including taxpayers, to examine how to safeguard the benefits already earned by employees while also protecting the City's ability to deliver core services. He must go further.

For starters, delivering these services at reasonable cost must take priority during budgeting. All departments and every activity should be focused on providing these necessary services first. We need to ensure that the "3 Ps" (public safety, parks and pavement) are adequately funded before diverting money to non-essential spending.

Second, I believe that the next City Manager should come from outside our City's employee base. The last time San Jose hired a city manager with no San Jose experience was nearly 20 years ago. I greatly respect the employees who dedicate themselves to serving our residents, but we would benefit from a fresh set of eyes to drive new, more efficient methods for delivering city services.

Finally, our City Council needs to engage in the tough task of holding itself accountable for driving efficiencies, not politics. San Jose's internal auditor team routinely finds savings opportunities; as of December, 2018, there were \$10 million of budget savings recommendations awaiting implementation. Past recommendations for saving \$100+ million each year have

See SAN JOSE, page 10

AMY MCCAFFERTY

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Almaden Graffiti Night: Classic Car Show-n-Shine Sept. 6

The 4th Annual Graffiti Night: Classic Car Show-N-Shine will be presented on Friday, September 6 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join the fun with a family friendly event, with some music and food trucks while having a great time at the lake with more than 100 classic and custom cars from all models and makes, beauties from the 50's, 60's, 70's and beyond.

Admission is free for attendees who are not reserving a classic car space. Car display participants must include car information: Year, make, model, color and if applicable, your club affiliation in the notes/special accommodations section when registering. *Car spaces are first come- first serve.

You can register your pre-1980 classic car to reserve a space! Receive a Graffiti Night giveaway as well as entry to raffle drawings throughout the event.

Pre-register for \$20 before August 31 (after 8/31 the registration will be \$30). Space is limited and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. No refunds, event is rain or shine. Register online at www.sjregistration.com or at a local Community Center.

Public parking for the event will be at the east lot of the park (Winfield and Coleman Ave). The west lot will be closed only to those who register their classic car. The rate is \$6.

Groups and car clubs are welcomed! Make sure to come as a group if you want to be parked together! For more information, please



contact Yazmin Rios at yazmin.rios@san-joseca.gov or call Almaden Lake Park at (408) 927-0868.

San Jose

Continued from page 8

been largely ignored. The Council must focus on the mundane business of creating an organization that more efficiently serves our residents' basic requirements rather than reacting to each issue of the day.

If you made it this far, congratulations. You are truly concerned about the future of our City. I urge you to share your concern with your city council representative and Mayor Liccardo. Get involved with your neighborhood association. Residents must drive the change necessary to create a sustainable financial model for San Jose.

We thought that we had put an end to the problems created by our past pension promises. We are sadly mistaken. As Yogi Berra quipped, "it's déjà vu all over again."

Pat Waite is a long-time San Jose resident and the President of Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility (CFR). A more detailed analysis of the subject of this article can be found at the CFR web site, www.cfr-sj.org.

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9-22-2019

8:00AM - SUNDAY
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ENTERTAINMENT

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SJVRC a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization was established to promote running within our largest Vietnamese community and to raise funds for the less fortunate children in Vietnam. One mile for one Child!



SJVRC ORGANIZATION

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4th Annual Everyone Welcome Parade

Come to the Gurdwara on the Hill
Sunday, September 1, 2019, 11:00 a.m.

The way we say it and the way we believe it is this. Wherever the Holy Book (Guru Granth Sahib) goes the place becomes Holy. Annually, when we walk the neighborhood and sing prayers with the Holy Book in a flower-decorated float we give Holiness to all the community. We are blessing everyone with Peace and too, every day is a prayer for Peace and throughout the day and at the end of each day too. The Holy book contains the writings of ten Gurus who founded Sikhism from the 1400s to the 1700s. Sunday, September 1 honors the day when this book, The Guru Granth Sahib was given the title of being the eternal and final Sikh Guru for it contains and encompasses the prayers and writings of the ten human Gurus.



The Holy book is considered the final and last Eternal Living Guru. The writings are honored, cherished, protected and shared for the goodness of humanity for eternity. You will see baptized Sikh believers walk in front of the float to lead the way. The entire community is encouraged to join us walking behind the float on its journey through the neighborhood. We embrace and welcome people of all races, creeds, and colors for all religions are encouraged to walk with us on the parade route. Healthy complimentary snacks and refreshments are served along the way and too as the float carrying the Holy Book completes the journey around the neighborhood, all are invited to a truly wonderful celebration with complimentary food, good conversations, and camaraderie. We believe all people are brothers and sisters and God is one. We also honor women with equality to men. We do not try to change people's views to join our Sikh religion, instead, we welcome all to follow each religious path to God. As our founder of our religion stated "Before becoming a Sikh, a Muslim, a Hindu or a Christian, lets become a Human first." Please join us on Sunday, September 1 and walk with us and know we welcome you and your family and wish for all religions to join to promote Peace and wellbeing in our world. Our founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught all to encourage every person to delve deeper into their own faith and find the common truth of one creator.



Join us for complimentary food, refreshments and more. Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.
To get here take Quimby road up to the hills and turn right on Gurdwara Avenue.

Please mark your calendar, bring your family and be our guest. You are welcome to walk the parade route with us or join us as we complete the walk and have wonderful complimentary food and more.



The Sikh religion reaches out to the less fortunate and donations are always welcome and you can find information on our website below. The address is 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148. Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712; website: sanjosegurdwara.org. Stay connected by downloading the San Jose Gurdwara App.

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Mortgage Loan ³	No closing costs on your home purchase or refinance	Rates are the lowest since 2016. Now's the time to refinance and keep more cash in your pocket
Home Equity Line of Credit ⁴	Rate of Prime minus 1% for the first 12 months	With today's low rates and our generous offer , you won't need to put off your home remodel any longer

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Offers expire October 31, 2019.

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All offers below are limited time offers and subject to change without notice. Offers are limited to new members originating at the Almaden branch and are all subject to credit approval. For more information, visit the Almaden Branch at 5185 Cherry Ave, San Jose or call 408.723.0141. APR = Annual Percentage Rate

¹ Rate discount of 0.50% APR off current auto loan rates and valid on auto loan refinances only. Auto rates as low as 2.84% APR effective 7/1/19; subject to change without notice. Lowest rate quoted includes special Almaden branch discount. Patelco offers a range of base rates and discounts that depend on factors such as credit history, loan term, Patelco account, and loan balances, program designation and vehicle age. Actual rates are disclosed to approved applicants in writing prior to loan consummation and may be as high as 12.44% APR. To learn more about rates, terms, and available discounts, call 800.358.8228, visit patelco.org, or visit any Patelco branch.

² Rate discount of 0.50% APR off current personal loan rates. Personal Loan rates offered effective 7/1/2019 and lowest rate quoted includes special Almaden branch discount. Patelco offers a range of base rates and discounts based on factors including credit type, loan term, Commitment Household/ account relationship, and applicant credit worthiness/score. Loan terms are based on various factors, including the amount financed. Actual rates are disclosed to approved applicants in writing prior to loan consummation. Offered rates subject to change.

³ No Closing Costs offer available for owner occupied primary residential purchases and external (payoff of a non-Patelco originated lien) refinance only with loan amounts of \$1.5 million or less. Offer not available on new Patelco brokered FHA, VA or other government-insured loans. Subject to approval. Patelco Credit Union will pay customary closing costs including: lender's title insurance, title/escrow services, appraisal, tax service, credit report, flood certification, and recording fees. Paid closing costs do not include pre-paid interest, homeowners insurance, initial escrow deposit, owner's title insurance, or city and/or county transfer taxes. Borrower may select escrow and/or title company. Other restrictions apply.

⁴ The Introductory APR of Prime (5.50%) minus 1% and other terms as shown are accurate as of July 1, 2019 and apply to a HELOC for the most qualified applicant at CLTV up to 80% on applications. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. Rates vary based on property value, line amount and other factors, and will vary for second or vacation homes. The minimum periodic payment is interest-only for the first ten years ("draw period") followed by fully-amortizing payments to repay the balance over the final fifteen years. No draws will be allowed during the repayment period. Payments and rate can adjust monthly. Payments will increase if rates increase. The rate is calculated using an index plus a margin. The index used is the Prime Rate as published in The Wall Street Journal Western Edition on the last business day of the month prior to the change. The current prime index is 5.50%. Maximum interest rate is 17%. The variable Introductory APR is based upon The Wall Street Journal Prime Rate ("Prime"). Prime may change at any time and is subject to change without notice. If Prime increases or decreases during the Introductory Period, the variable Introductory APR and minimum required payment will correspondingly change. The Introductory Period begins on the date of account opening and lasts for the first twelve (12) billing cycles. After the Introductory Period ends, any and all remaining balances will automatically convert to the variable APR, and minimum required payment per the terms of the HELOC agreement. The variable APR is based on Prime plus a margin, and will vary with Prime. The minimum credit line amount is \$10,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Patelco Credit Union will pay customary closing costs on lines up to \$250,000 in second lien position. Borrower is responsible for closing costs on lines in first lien position or over \$250,000. Closing costs range from \$0 to \$2,500. This offer does not include escrow or recording fees that may result from changes in title or vesting.

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Times **Community**



Broadway San Jose Presents
Wicked
At the Center for Performing Arts
Thursday, August 15, 2019, 2:00 pm

San Jose's most popular musical, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz...but from a different angle. Long before Dorothy arrives, there is another girl born with emerald-green skin, smart, fiery, misunderstood, and possessing an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikeliest of friendships...until the world decides to call one "good", the other one Wicked.

Tickets on sale M, T, W 9:30-11:30 am
in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center
Price: \$80.00, cash or check

For questions call:
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Champs

Continued from page 1
games they played.”

Their first game against Lincoln Glen ended with a walk-off hit by Jack Turner. “That set us on the right path,” he says. “Lincoln Glen is notoriously one of stronger teams in the district.” The momentum carried them through the next couple of games. Then came the semi-finals against powerhouse Cambrian Park, who the 9-year-olds lost to the year before. In the last few innings, down by six, the team rallied to score ten runs, winning the game by four. “It showed a lot of fight and courage,” says Richards.

With the final game looming, the team and the coaches realized they could take it all, but it wouldn't be easy.

Los Gatos was poised to take the title after jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning but Almaden fought back, scoring five runs, capped by a two-run single by Cole Markos.



Pitcher **Wyatt Johnson** with **Ethan Richards** playing second base. Photo courtesy of Jane Park.

“The game was controlled by Almaden's Wyatt Johnson, who pitched five strong innings, only allowing one earned run, striking out five and not allowing a walk,” says Richards. “After the first inning, the next

three went scoreless for both teams; Los Gatos only allowed four walks, one error and a single, while Almaden allowed only one error and one single.”

However, Los Gatos wasn't about to cave. In the top of the fifth, momentum shifted with their team's leadoff double. Fortunately, with a strikeout and two putouts, Almaden's Ethan Richards quelled a larger inning. “In the bottom of the fifth,” says Richards, “Almaden responded with a hard single by Brendan Kim, a two-out double by Jack Turner, and a clutch two RBI single by Brody Griffith. Almaden was up by four.”

“In the last inning, Turner took to the mound determined to maintain the lead,” says Richards. “With runners on first and second, Turner struck out the next batter with three pitches. After a line out to Johnson at shortstop, Turner focused on the potential last batter. A ground ball hit to Turner's right and forced him to the ground. Turner knocked down
See CHAMPS, next page

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Hyundai Sonata Plug-In Hybrid Bonus Cash	-\$750
Hyundai Valued Owner Coupon*	-\$500

Why Buy Tesla?



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You're Invited!

Monday, August 12, 7:00 PM

We invite you to join us for a **fun** evening of getting to know your **neighbors**, engaging with **speakers** about local issues, and of course, eating a cookie or two!

Meetings begin with an update from our District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis.

Almaden Valley



Community Association

Our August speaker is

Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman

The County government is responsible for many services that affect our lives, directly or indirectly.

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Meeting location:

WestGate Church – South Hills Campus
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Times **Community**

Champs

Continued from previous page
the ball, then wisely made the force out at third base where Andrew Son's steady glove sealed the game." In the end, the Almaden 9's were triumphant, taking the championship by three runs.

"When they recorded that last out," says Richards, "they were jumping up and down, screaming and yelling. Gloves were flying and they were hugging and jumping on top of each other. As a coach, you step back and let them enjoy it."

Forging a winning team

The 9's All-Stars only had two weeks of practice to integrate players selected from various teams before the tournament began. Coached by James Richards, Chris Johnson and Rob Griffith, the Almaden 9's roster included: Brendan Kim, Ethan Richards, Wyatt Johnson, Jack Turner, Rihaan Patel, Brody Griffith, Brandon Park, Cole Markos, Luca Boucher, Ethan Soda, Andrew Son and Owen Park.

After the regular season ends with double-elimination playoff games, the coaches notify the players who made All-Stars. "As coaches, we don't really know many of the kids," says Coach Chris Johnson. "Some have more skills than others. We had two weeks to get everyone up to speed."

"We run the kids hard, practicing a lot," says Coach Rob Griffith. "A lot of the kids didn't have that kind of practicing or drills and had to turn a big corner. We factored in fun time as well. We got lucky. They seemed hungry to learn and step up. We had a short amount of time to get them to gel and understand what the expectations were. They all rose to the occasion."

"There was a group of kids who saw another level of baseball and were really excited about it," says Johnson. "What's amazing is how well they came together."

Johnson says that during practices, the coaches didn't have high expectations. "We just wanted to get them as ready as we could and have fun," he says. But once the tournament began, they were impressed with the team's fortitude.

"We had to win every game in a different way," says Johnson. "In our first game, we were down most of the game. We had a walk-off single to come from behind in the sixth inning and win. Most of the time, we were behind and had to come back. I think that helped in our championship game. Right off the bat, the other team scored two runs, but the All-Star 9's were unfazed, having come back from behind before. When they scored five runs, the other team was demoralized as they had been frontrunners in all of their games."

Johnson was amazed how well the boys did hitting up and down the lineup, especially by the end. "We were talking about how to play the kids," he says, "and we had a lot of options; it was how are we going to best put them in places to succeed."

"The kids were nervous facing the semi-final and final games," says Griffith. "They realized this was a big deal. Maybe this made them even better players. It was their last moment to shine."

During the championship game, Johnson says he was a wreck. "I almost passed out," he says. "I had butterflies in my stomach. I just wanted them to do so well so badly. Wyatt loves pitching and if he could do it every inning, he would. When he's pitching, he's all in. He doesn't get flustered; when kids get on base, he gets more determined. During the All-Star season, we were practicing five pitchers and had them all pitch. In the last game, we went with our best pitchers to get us our best chance. In the last game, we pitched Wyatt to his limit at 75. He really enjoyed that. Jack got to go in to finish the game. They both were amazing."

For the coaches, sharing this experience with their sons was its own reward.

"It's fun watching him do something he loves to do and something I grew up doing," says Richards. "It's nice having that kind of connection with him and watching him grow."

Johnson says it's about spending time with his sons, doing what they love.

"It was extra special to share,"
See CHAMPS. page 21

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State Legislators propose impediments to parking enforcement via AB 516

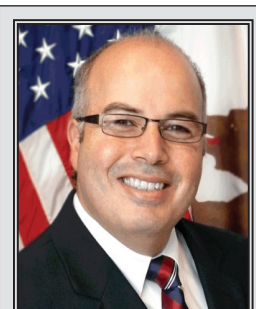
By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

My office has fielded numerous complaints of vehicles stored or abandoned on City streets, plus occupied motor homes settling into neighborhoods for stays that exceed the 72-hour limit.

It's not just an issue in District 10, but throughout the City of San Jose (bit.ly/SJParking). DOT personnel responded to 55,000 vehicle abatement requests in the one-year period from July 2017 to June 2018 alone - over 150 per day, every day of the year!

Those who have contacted the City or used their MySanJose app to report offending vehicles know that some people game the sys-

tem and are able to stay one step ahead of parking enforcement which is stretched thin covering our 180.5 square miles. The system already has big loopholes that make it difficult to prevent people from using streets as public storage for their vehicles, making it hard for residents and visitors to find parking in some neighborhoods. Now, the State Legislature is proposing to make enforcement even more difficult for our Department of Transportation's parking enforce-



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

ment personnel and the SJPD by passing AB 516.

Two troublesome features of the bill that was passed by the State Assembly and is now waiting to be voted on in the State Senate are: 1) the 72-hour rule will be extended to a 5-business day rule (which can mean 7 or more days); and, 2) law enforcement would no longer be allowed to tow the vehicles of people who have received FIVE citations - even though they have not made any effort to resolve these citations. The

official City position on this bill remains "Oppose unless Amended." To read the bill, visit bit.ly/AB516text.

As I told the San Jose Spotlight in a recent interview (bit.ly/SJSNoTow), it will make the City less effective at handling things like stolen or abandoned vehicles, increase blight, and make our citizens more frustrated than they already are.

What do you think of this new policy? If you are as concerned as I am, please contact your state representatives, which you may find at eservices.sccgov.org/rov?tab=dt. The State Senator for District 10 residents is Jim Beall (Senate District 15), and you may contact his office via email at sd15.senate.ca.gov/send-e-mail.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Farewell

By Joshua Kim
Special to the Times

One of last year's surprise critical and commercial hits was Crazy Rich Asians, which was praised for its minority cast and exploring themes and stories that

are rarely explored in mainstream Hollywood movies.

Following in its footsteps is this year's The Farewell which also has a minority cast and explores similar themes, albeit in a more nuanced and less-flashy manner than Crazy Rich Asians.

The film centers around Billi (played by Awkwafina), who is a struggling Chinese immigrant millennial who lives in New York City.

Despite having a not so ideal relationship with her parents, Billi maintains a strong relationship with her Nai Nai (Chinese for grandmother) who lives in China and talks to her regularly on the phone. Billi is then dismayed to learn that her Nai Nai is diagnosed with terminal cancer but is even more surprised to learn that her family has decided to keep this fact from her Nai Nai, a practice that would be



Awkwafina has a sad leading role in Lulu Wang's The Farewell.

considered unusual in the United States. It is also revealed that Billi's extended family has planned a fake wedding in China for Billi's cousin; an excuse for them to all return to China and spend the last fading moments of Nai Nai's life with her. Billi is told explicitly not to attend this family gathering in China, due to fears that she might show too much emotion and give away the family's secret to Nai Nai, but she decides to take a plane to be with her Nai Nai anyway. While spending time with her Nai Nai and extended family in China, Billi grapples with important themes such as familial responsibility, the differences between East and West, and her identity as a Chinese American.

The Farewell is one of the best films I have seen this year. The script is smart, and the performances are excellent, especially that of Awkwafina. The film also explores its poignant themes and questions in a nuanced way that doesn't push the audience into any

particular viewpoint, but rather lets the audience come to their own conclusion. There is also quite a lot of humor in the film, mostly which derived from recognizable family situations and interactions that you could genuinely see occurring with your own family. The most shining aspect of film to me, however, was its authenticity. Never during its run time did I feel that there was a scene or storyline that was mandated by a Hollywood studio. Every interaction and emotion expressed by the characters felt genuine, as if you were watching the occurrences of a real family.

While some might have misgivings about watching this film because of its heavily immigrant and Asian themes, I feel that the universality of the themes discussed makes this film relatable to everyone on some level. I highly recommend everyone seek this movie out. It is currently in limited release, but there are new screens being added weekly.

Score: 9/10

2019 - 20 SYMPHONY SEASON

SYMPHONY SILICON VALLEY

SET #1:
Peacock Variations & Tchaikovsky
October 5-6, 2019
Conductor: **Carlos Vieu**
◆ Kodaly: Variations on a Hungarian Theme - Peacock Variations
◆ Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6 - Pathétique

SET #2:
Partners & Dances
October 26-27, 2019
Conductor: **JoAnn Falletta**
Soloists: **Robin Mayforth & Evan Kahn**
◆ Liu Boulanger: D'un soir triste
◆ Liu Boulanger: D'un matin de printemps
◆ David Amram: Partners: Violin & Cello Double Concerto (SSV co-commission)
◆ Rachmaninoff: Symphonic Dances

SET #3:
Khachaturian & Brahms
December 7-8, 2019
Conductor: **Pietro Rizzo**
Soloist: **Nareh Arghamanyan, piano**
◆ Glunka: Russian and Ludmilla Overture
◆ Khachaturian: Piano Concerto
◆ Brahms: Symphony No. 2

SET #4:
Film with Full Score The Red Violin
January 24-26, 2020
Conductor: **Shih-Hung Young**
Soloist: **Lara St. John, violin**
◆ Corigliano: The Red Violin

SET #5:
Nakamatsu Plays Beethoven
March 21-22, 2020
Conductor: **John Nelson**
Soloist: **Jon Nakamatsu, piano**
◆ Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2
◆ Beethoven: Choral Fantasy
◆ Schumann: Symphony No. 4

SET #6:
Mozart, Lutoslawski & Brahms
May 9-10, 2020
Conductor: **Tito Muñoz**
Soloist: **Giora Schmidt, violin**
◆ Mozart: Symphony No. 35 - Haffner
◆ Lutoslawski: Concerto for Orchestra
◆ Brahms: Violin Concerto

SET #7:
Schubert & A Sea Symphony
June 6-7, 2020
Conductor: **Tatsuya Shimono**
Soloists:
◆ Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale
◆ Schubert: Symphony No. 8 - Unfinished
◆ Vaughan Williams: A Sea Symphony

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- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

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**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
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- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater productions, informative lectures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment.
- Our facilities also provide rental space for community based groups that promote

understanding, wholeness, growth, and education. Some of these include the Old Orchard School, Orchard City Indivisible, AA, etc.
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Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

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Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion
 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.
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 We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

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Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org
 At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

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 Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

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the point.church

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 St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
 Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, 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!

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Times **Community News**

Clothes dryer duct cleaning: luxury or necessity?

By Jennifer Kelley
Special to the Times

I was born and raised in our lovely Santa Clara Valley. My mom grew up as an Air Force kid. She had every appliance or home maintenance action and chore smartly listed on daily, weekly, monthly and annual checklists.

Our home was always well maintained, clean and safe. So, recently when I conducted a survey of friends to see when they last had their clothes dryer ducts cleaned, I was surprised to discover that 9 out of 10 of my closest friends had never had their dryer duct cleaned. In fact, they didn't even know this is a basic action that should be done once every couple of years depending on usage!

While nothing feels better than cozy, warm clothing fresh out of the dryer, there are other reasons one should make sure dryer ducts are cleaned periodically. It's not just a matter of damp clothes or wasted energy.

When dryer ducts and vents aren't cleaned regularly, the accumulation of lint, hair, and stray items collected from the wash will begin to build. Even though these items start out wet, like the rest of your items in the dryer, they will also dry and heat up during the drying cycle. When these items become too hot, they become a potential fire hazard. This is especially true in gas powered dryers.

In fact, failing to clean dryer vents accounts for more than 34 percent of dryer fires and there are more than 15,000 dryer caused fires annually in the U.S. This makes clogged dryer vents one of the leading causes for dryer fires throughout the United States. The next time you consider skipping your dryer duct cleaning, think again.

One symptom that it's time for a cleaning is dry times taking more than 45 minutes for a load or not drying at all. It might be



because of clogged vents. If your dryer ducts and vents are clogged with debris, the moist air from your dryer will have no room to escape. This will cause a build-up of moisture, leading to your dryer heating but not drying your clothes and textiles.

When your dryer is unable to perform its primary function, you're throwing money down the drain all while having laundry that's still damp. Moisture can also lead to mold and mold is a major concern for dryers that aren't regularly cleaned. Because the moisture of your dryer is unable to escape, these humid conditions provide an ideal environment for mold growth and other fungi to form in your dryer ducts. This means that your clothes won't dry, but worst of all, they can put your health in jeopardy. Should this mold problem grow worse, it runs the risk of contaminating the air throughout your home. Don't put your family at risk.

Editor's note: For professional dryer duct cleaning services or more information feel free contact the professionals at (408) 265-1051 or visit the website at www.dryerduct-co.com

Champs

Continued from page 17

says Griffith. On the way to the semi-final game, Griffith asked his son, Brody, how he was feeling. "I really want to win," Brody said, "because I want our names up on that banner."

"That banner's up there forever," says Griffith. "If Brody stays in the area, he can bring his kids to the field and say, 'My dad and I did that.' That feels good."

Griffith believes all the boys walked away feeling like better players and having had success, will have more confidence moving forward. "You want to win, but you want the kids to have fun at the same time," he says. "It's a delicate balance. We're fortunate the kids got to have both. They've learned that to have success, you have to focus a little bit more and work a little bit harder to get there. I think they felt it was worth the work."

"They had to learn to persevere and come back," says Johnson. "If you don't give up and persevere you can still win."

"In the semifinal and championship games,"

says Richards, "from the top down, we had huge hits from all of the kids. They all showed up. We wouldn't have been able to do it without that."

"I enjoyed coaching them because they were such a great group of young men," says Johnson. "The way they approached the game and practiced inspires me. In the future, they should keep that same attitude in whatever they do. I think in a lot of teams you'll have three or four kids who do the lion's share of the work. On this team, every kid contributed with some kind of play to get us through this journey. It was a lot of fun because they were really a good group of kids. They all tried their best."

Scores:

1. vs. Lincoln Glen. 6-5 (walk off hit by Jack Turner)
2. vs. Saratoga. 11-0
3. vs. Union. 6-2
4. vs. San Jose American. 15-6
5. vs. Cambrian Park. 13-9 (10 runs in the last half of the game to come back and win).
6. vs. Los Gatos. 7-4

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1375 Blossom Hill Road.

Reunion

The Willow Glen High School Class of 1969 is holding its 50th (Golden) Reunion on September 14, 2019, Saratoga Springs, 5:00-10:00. For information go to wghsclassof69reunion.com or contact Maureen Resz @ gomoe@aol.com, (408) 891-1162.

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Employment

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POSITION DESCRIPTION MUSEUM EDUCATOR

About the Position

Are you an engaging storyteller with a passion for history? Do you have a thirst for knowledge and a flair for interacting with school children and museum audiences of all ages?

If so, you may be eligible to join our dedicated and lively team of Museum Educators. The primary responsibilities of the Museum Educators are to assist in preparing and presenting hands-on, interactive school programs at History Park (Kelley Park, San Jose) and the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site (downtown San Jose). The Museum Educators are responsible for delivering inquiry-based interpretive programs for 2nd-6th graders that encourage meaningful connections with the past, as well as planning and participating in hands-on history family programs occurring on select weekends.

The position is a part-time, working weekday mornings (8:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.); and occasional weekends for History San Jose. The education programs presented are aligned with and support the Common Core State Standards and new College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies. HSJ serves over 20,000 students each year. Topics addressed in our school programs include: immigration, the westward movement, and the rancho era.

A full job description is on History San Jose's website, www.historysanjose.org. Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to:

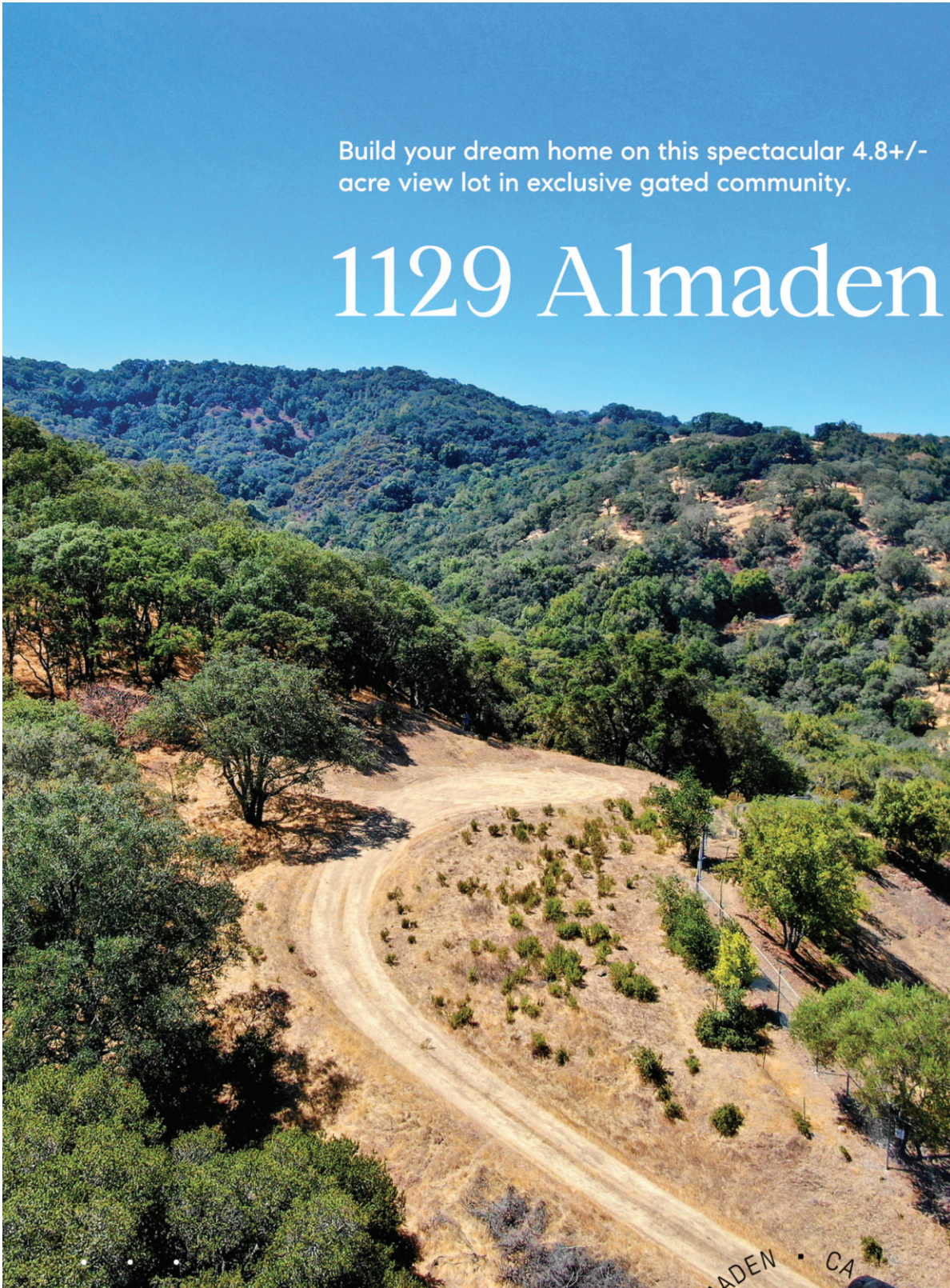
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