City goes all in for preserving 937 acres of Coyote Valley open space SEE PAGE 4



## Helping, not alienating

Santa Clara County approves Laura's Law referral, youth e-cigarette ban SEE PAGE 12

Pioneer High's men's varsity water polo team gaining momentum SEE PAGE 11



NOV. 15-NOV. 28, 2019 ■ VOL. 32, NO. 24



# AlmadenTines

## **Vinh Do enters race** for San Jose City **Council District 10**

istrict 10 voters in the primary election on March 3, 2020 now have four candidates to choose from as another San Jose City Council candidate has entered the race to replace soon-to-be-termed-out Councilman Johnny Khamis.

Financial advisor Vinh Do says he wants to be the next representative for the Almaden Valley area. Do is facing a tight race against ex-Brigade CEO Matt Mahan, former Bay Area Women's March President Jenny Higgins

Bradanini and local businesswoman Helen Wang.

Do, who grew up in District 2, moved to District 10 about 10 years ago. He said he believes he can deal with the many issues in District 10 and focus on solutions that he experienced growing up in District 2.



Vinh Do

Do works at the headquarters for MW Wealth Advisors located in Almaden. He says he enjoys serving the  $needs\, of\, many\, residents\, with\, financial\, services\, and\, feels$ he can make a difference in District 10. "I plan on raising my family here," Do said.

Do says there is an advantage to being new to politics..."my voice will be unfiltered and I will rely on my abilities to build good relationships quickly with the constituents so that I can truly represent their voice in city hall," he told San Jose Inside.

Do set up a gofundme page to raise money for his campaign. So far, he has raised \$750 on the site, including his own donation of \$100.

On his gofundme page, Do said, "There are approximately 100,000 people living in San Jose's District 10 yet in the last city council election in 2016, only 21,000 voters voted. That's 1 vote for every 5 individuals! I find it hard for 5 people to agree on where to eat lunch let alone 5 people agreeing on how to spend hard earned tax dollars. On March 3, 2020, vote for whoever you feel represents your voice best. Regardless of the outcome, let's make sure the person sitting in the city council seat knows that they are held accountable to the constituents of District 10 and not the special interest groups that endorsed them."



A Mamma Mia! production meeting with "Sophie" (Alisabeth Bacon), "Donna" (Valerie Doyle) and Asst. Dir. Diane Zlotziver. Photo by Jane Johnson

## Pioneer High School secures rights to 'Mamma Mia!'

Returning director Steve Dini takes the helm of the 128 performers spanning in age from 14 to over 70 years old; 'Mamma Mia!' debuts Dec. 4 running through Dec. 7

By Jane Johnson Special to the Times ights have finally been released for "Mamma Mia!" and luckily, Pioneer High School was able to

The community has come to trust Pioneer to deliver topnotch entertainment in a family-friendly manner and that's just what you'll get with this production.

secure them.

Every year Pioneer High

fundraising arm, The Glue Factory, comes together - now with the Advanced Drama students, too - volunteering countless hours and effort towards their fundraising goal. That goal exists to raise much needed (and nowhere else to be found) funds allowing production of top-rate future shows by the PHS kids

"Tanya" (Tanya Summers) and "Pepper" (Jordan Spalding) in "Does School Drama Department's Your Mother Know." Photo by Jane Johnson

themselves. This year "Mamma Mia!" with songs by Abba will have you "feeling the beat from the tambourine" and tapping your toes right along with the

The Swedish pop/dance band Abba is known well to any child or adult of the '70s. Their music is some of the

most recognizable from that era. Teens today know Abba well as they've adopted their music, as with many older melodic groups, too. Multi-generational, much of it upbeat, toe-tapping "boogie down" music serves as the backdrop to the "Mamma Mia!" story bringing you a fun night out, all while doing good in your com-

If you haven't seen either the 1999 London opening, the 2000 San Francisco premiere, the 2001 See MAMMA MIA, page 16

#### Yost Group Seller Represented

6914 Bret Harte Dr 751 Swanswood Ct 1042 Kristen Court 7020 Elmsdale Dr 1039 Nightfall Court 7209 Silver Lode Lane 6659 Mount Pakron Drive 6293 Via De Adrianna 791 Spicewood Court 6464 Cranbrook Court 975 Hurlstone Lane 7075 Brooktre 7094 Brooktree 6648 Mount Hope Drive 1015 Nightfall Ct 7012 Elmsdale Drive 7100 Royal Ridge Dr 987 Hampswood Wa 7151 Martwood 996 Burlwood Dr 7012 Burnside Dr

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1054 Minoru Dr 1068 Minoru Dr 6524 Whispering Pines Dr 6687 Charter Oak Pl 6867 Queenswood Wy

6828 Eldridge Dr 1522 Ivan PI

7008 Shearwater Dr 6908 Bret Harte Dr

6792 Bret Harte Dr 1547 Oak Canyon Dr 6702 Elwood Rd

1016 Burlwood Dr 6987 Starling Valley Dr 6725 Bret Harte Dr

995 Hampswood Wy 6032 Thorntree Dr

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1113 Mallard Ridge Ci 1160 Mallard Ridge Loop

6830 Shearwater Dr 7175 Echo Ridge Dr

1334 Nancarrow Ct 6640 Mount Wellington Dr

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#### OP ED

# **Ending PG&E** reign of error

**By Greg Palast** 

nvestigative reporter and economist Greg Palast, who has advised 26 state governments on the power industry, wrote the United Nation's guide for governing utilities, "Democracy and Regulation."

Here's how to put an end to PG&E's reign of error.

The answer: make this so-called "public utility" into a true public system—a customer-owned power cooperative, a plan proposed by the City of San Jose. Currently, the only thing "public" about this "public utility" are the bills the public pays and the charred homes and bodies this bankrupt beast leaves behind.

But how, without busting government coffers?

New Yorkers already led the way: For fifteen years, Long Island Lighting Company, LILCO, which, like PG&E left millions of customers in the dark, endangered their safety and emptied pockets with monstrously high electric bills. Then, in 1989, the customers seized ownership of the renegade utility—at low cost, belowits book value. The result: the new publicly owned system cut electric bills, increased system reliability and safety, boosted green energy programs and even shut and dismantled a dangerous nuclear plant.

I can tell you all about it because I drafted that original law that allowed the low-cost takeover. In 1981, as Executive Director of the state legislature's Science and Technology Commission, I was approached by politicians representing LILCO's three million desperate customers to come up with a solution to a company officially deemed incompetent by regulators. Our solution was inventive. LILCO's stock, like PG&E's, was in the toilet, trading at a fraction of its book See PG&E, page 6

## Almaden **Times**

Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU williamb@timesmediainc.com

SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: **BRIGITTE JONES** brigitte@timesmediainc.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: LORRAINE GABBERT, FRANK SHORTT, GINA TSOURIS, NIRBAN SINGH, SEAN EASTWOOD,

ART DIRECTOR: **JEFF BAHAM** 

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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# Valley Currents

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

# City goes all in for preserving Coyote Valley

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

A bout 937 acres of North Coyote Valley will remain open space for generations to come due to a landmark land acquisition agreement.

"Today we've announced a gift to future generations," says Mayor Sam Liccardo, "a gift in the preservation of Coyote Valley for their delight and their inspiration."

In a unanimous vote on Nov. 6, the San Jose City Council approved allocating \$46 million in city funds to purchase the land from Brandenburg Properties and the Sobrato Organization. Peninsula Open Space Trust contributed \$42 million and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority added \$5 million more to make the \$93 million purchase possible.

Previously earmarked for housing and industrial jobs, the future of Coyote Valley has been debated for decades, vying between preservation and development.

"Today, we...start a new chapter," says San Jose City Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, whose district includes Coyote Valley. "A chapter that finally recognizes the inherent value of our land and the importance of protecting it."

Andrea Mackenzie, general manager of Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, considers the land purchase one of the most complex and consequential conservation projects of our time. "We have a once in a generation opportunity to protect and preserve one of the Bay Area's most significant natural landscapes to benefit nature and people," she says, "using nature-based solutions to build resilience to a changing climate. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to preserve this last chance landscape, and we are seizing it."

"Is there a political will to do anything but preserve the land?" says Councilmember Johnny Khamis. "The discussions that are being had are to keep this available for wildlife, open space, recreation, and things like that."

In September 2019, Governor Newsom signed AB 948, introduced by Assemblymember Ash Kalra, which recognizes Coyote Valley as an area of statewide significance and authorizes the Open Space Authority to "undertake projects to conserve, protect, and restore the natural and working land aspects of Coyote Valley and the multiple benefits these lands



Coyote Valley—the 7,400 acres of land between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo range—is a remarkable place for people, wildlife, and the environment. *Photo courtesy of Andrea Mackenzie* 

provide

Kalra views Coyote Valley—the 7,400 acres of land between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo range—as a remarkable place for people, wildlife, and the environment. "What Coyote Valley offers is irreplaceable," he says. "Vibrant wetlands, an essential wildlife habitat and migratory area, active farmlands, a resource to fight climate change, and open space for all to enjoy."

Coyote Valley forms an essential wildlife corridor between the mountain ranges and is home to deer, mountain lions, gray foxes, bobcats, badgers, hawks, and tri-colored blackbirds. Endangered species include the western burrowing owl, red-legged frog, tiger salamander, and bay checkerspot butterfly.

Key to the council's decision to preserving the land was the success of Measure T, a \$650 million disaster preparedness, public safety, and infrastructure bond. The bond, which passed with 71 percent of voter approval, includes a \$50 million allocation for environmental protection, including the acquisition of land and construction of improvements asso-



ciated with water quality and flood protection.

"There's a public outcry for protecting Coyote valley," says Craige Edgerton, former land manager at the Land Trust of Santa Clara Valley. "I feel that the support for Coyote Valley helped drag Measure T through."

"It seems to me that things never go in reverse from heavily built industry to open space," says Jiminez. "We need to be super careful about how we go about building, because once it's built over, it's gone."

However, not everyone is in favor of the land purchase, including landowners who had plans to develop or sell their land. Some raised concerns with the loss of housing and jobs that were slated for the area in the city's General Plans.

"By not allowing development in Coyote Valley, all you've done is push people further and further south, forcing them to commute two to three hours a day," says Coyote Valley property owner Ken Saso.

According to the city's General Plan, North Coyote Valley, which is zoned for light industry, can accommodate up to 35,000 jobs.

In the 1980s, Apple and Tandem Computers considered building their headquarters in Coyote Valley but faced environmental concerns. In 1999, Cisco Systems planned to build a 6.6 million-square-foot facility for up to 20,000 employees but abandoned their plan in 2001 following the dot-com bust. The 2005 Coyote Valley Specific Plan proposed 50,000 jobs and 25,000 homes in North and Mid Coyote Valley but was defeated in 2008, following environmental and residential opposition. In 2016, the Panattoni Company proposed a 30-acre warehouse and distribution center in North Coyote See COYOTE VALLEY, page 18

## **LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!**

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S&P 500 at record high this week. Up 21% year-to-date.

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#### Times Features



#### **BUSINESS PROCLAMATION**

The San Jose City Council has proclaimed November 30th as Small Business Saturday. "Small business provides San Jose with 157,000 jobs and a lot of our tax revenue, so let's shop local," said Councilman Johnny Khamis.

## County vows to house 100 college students in 100 days

A re more and more students giving up on their college dreams because of the housing crisis which has resulted in many of them becoming homeless?

"The 100-Day Challenge focuses our community to step up and house the increasing number of homeless college students in Silicon Valley," said Sparky Harlan, Bill Wilson Center CEO.

The goal of this effort is to house 100 college students experiencing homelessness in 100 days by working with a multitude of stakeholders and service providers to connect students with available resources.

The 100-student, 100-day pledge coincides with the publication of a biennial survey by the Bill Wilson Center—a nonprofit service provider for at-risk youth—which found that 22 percent of the region's homeless teen and young adult population attend college. That's up from 18 percent two years prior.

Along with Bill Wilson Center, the County of Santa Clara's District 4, West Valley-Mission Community College District, San Jose State University, County Office of Sup-

portive Housing, Community Solutions, and Foothill College will also be collaborating to house these college students.

"No student should live in a car, on someone's couch, or under an overpass, especially when they're working toward their dreams and careers," said County of Santa Clara Supervisor Susan Ellenberg. "I am proud to see all these stakeholders step up and come together to put these students first and find them stable housing." "Homelessness is a regional challenge shared by the entire Bay Area, one that cries out for meaningful solutions," said Mary A. Papazian, President of San Jose State University. "Long-term answers can only emerge through joint efforts between government, civic organization and the broader community, and the 100 Day Challenge checks all the right boxes. At SJSU, addressing student housing is a critical part of meeting our students' overall basic needs, so we are pleased to be part of this important initiative."

Along with the kick-off of the 100-Day Challenge, the County is proclaiming the month of November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month" in the County of Santa Clara and Bill Wilson Center is unveiling a new report focused on homeless youth in Santa Clara County. According to the 2019 Homeless Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, 22% of the homeless respondents (ages 18-25) are currently enrolled in college. Of those currently experiencing homelessness, 14% of respondents noted they are living outside and 10% are living in their car.

### PG&E

Continued from page 4

value, that is, way less than the cost of its lines and equipment. So, we drafted, and the legislature passed a law permitting the state to make a hostile tender offer for LILCO's stock. If corporate raiders can take over companies cheap to reap giant profits, why can't the state do a hostile takeover to keep the public safe and reduce electric bills.

To keep the utility's stock from soaring on the takeover offer, I drafted civil racketeering charges for the government to file against the power company. A jury awarded the beleaguered customers \$4 billion in damages. The company, now effectively bankrupted like PG&E, sold to the state's newly created Long Island Power Authority at cost low enough to cut power rates and rebuild the system. (Two decades later, after the public paid for the system's re-building, Governor Andrew Cuomo sold the system to new privateers, reversing the pro-consumer action of his father, Governor Mario Cuomo. But that's another story.)

San Jose has the right idea: consumer ownership. But to keep the cost low and move quickly, local and state governments should take advantage of PG&E's stock selling for a mere \$4 a share. That, combined with legal action to seek compensation for system maintenance paid by customers but pocketed by PG&E investors, should force this un-public utility into the public's hands.





## 1147 Reed Avenue #A

### **Ideal Sunnyvale Location**

Adorable first floor end unit in desirable Sunny Meadow complex. This home is ready to move in with freshly painted interior and new carpeting. 1,084 square feet of open living space offers, three bedrooms and one and one-half baths. The spacious living room with glass sliding door to patio flows easily to dining area. Bright galley kitchen with tile floors, and white cabinetry with solid surface counters. The master bedroom features a walk-in closet and attached full bath. Plus, an additional hall powder room for guests. Spacious patio with extra storage is perfect for year-round California outdoor dining.





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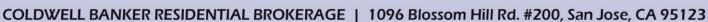


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Times News Briefs

# **Sacred Heart Community Service launches the 2019 Holiday Program**

Sacred Heart Community Service (SHCS) kicked off their annual 2019 Holiday Program on Nov. 1 with the arrival of their freezer.

From now until the holiday distribution, SHCS' team will work with the community to stock the freezer with turkeys. SHCS' goal is to distribute 7,900 holiday food boxes in November and December. That's 500 more turkeys than



last year! Through this program, SHCS will also distribute 18,600 toys, bikes, and books to children and families throughout Santa Clara County.

SHCS' holiday food boxes will each contain items like pop-top canned food, rice, pasta, dry beans or lentils, eggs, fresh produce, cooking oil, tortillas, bread, and a turkey. The goal of the food boxes is to ensure that each person has the opportunity to celebrate their holiday traditions.

This is particularly challenging in Silicon Valley, where families and individuals are dealing with skyrocketing rent prices. In a recent survey SHCS conducted, 56% of community members cited housing as the greatest challenge they are experiencing.

SHCS's November Food Box Distribution begins Monday, November 25th. SHCS will be taking turkey donations till November 20th. Learn more about SHCS's Holiday program by visiting www.sacredheartcs.org/holidays.

For those interested in registering for toys, you can learn more by visiting sacred-heartcs.org/toys2019

### Flamenco Society to host 'Holiday Juerga' Dec. 14

The Flamenco Society of San Jose will host "Holidays Juerga" (Flamenco Jam Session) at the Historic Hoover Theatre,1635 Park Av. San Jose, on Saturday Dec.14, 7 n.m.

Evolving from the interactions of many cultures, flamenco is an art form that grew from Andalusia, a province in southern Spain. Inhabiting the area for centuries, the unique interplay among Moors, Jews, Andalusians, and Gypsies has shaped this most expressive and culturally rich folkloric genre of song, music, and dance.

Featuring musical arrangements composed of dance, song, guitar, and percussion, highlighting the passion and beauty of flamencos. Showcasing from Sacramento a great cast of flamenco artists; Bianca Rodriguez, dance – Jimmie Kay Ramos, dance/singer – Gopal Slavonic, guitarist – Marlon Aldana, percussion. Special guests' appearance.

The admission charge for this event is I

only \$25 general admission, \$20 for students/senior citizens and \$15 for Children. Tickets online: holidaysjuerga.bpt.me; (800) 838-3006

### 'Handwork for Others' Holiday Boutique: November 16

The "Handwork for Others" class of more than 30 members will be holding its first Holiday Boutique of the year in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 n.m.

A variety of unique handmade gift items will be available for your gift-giving needs "Handywork for Others" donates hats and scarves to the homeless, chemo hats for cancer patients and quilts for veterans.

A large portion of the proceeds goes to the Almaden Advisory Council and the Almaden Senior Association. Cash or personal checks only.

The Almaden Community Center is located at: 6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120.

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### AMY'S TIP OF THE WEEK

Believe it or not, Thanksgiving is the single worst day for cooking fires in the United

States! Entertaining can distract the cooks in the kitchen.
Use these recommended precautions to have a safe and wonderful holiday!

Find more information at my blog:

amccafferty.com/blog



#### 301 WESTHILL DRIVE, LOS GATOS

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#### WOLFGANG ROETHIG Piano Recital

Saturday, December 7th, 2019 at 7:00 pm Admission: \$10.00 advance / \$15.00 door

Twice finalist in the Paris "Concours de Piano des Grandes Ecoles", Wolfgang now lives in San Jose, CA, and balances family life and work in the high tech industry with his passion for music.

For more information or tickets are visit us online at www.fcpcsanjose/fccs

**Times Community News** 

## **City leaders representing 5** million residents call on CPUC to make PG&E customer-owned

"This situation

comprehensive

effort to chart a

for the future of

and supervisors

wrote.

requires a full and

sustainable course

*PG&E,"* the mayors

Leaders write State's Public Utilities Commission urging to restructure PG&E into a customer-owned utility aligning PG&E with customer interests instead of investors

coalition of leaders from many of the largest California cities served by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) sent a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), urging exploration of restructuring the investor-owned utility into one owned by California customers. The coalition is led by San

The leaders endorsed a proposal for a customerowned utility ahead of a CPUC review of proposed plans for PG&E's reorganization under consideration in bankruptcy court. Federal bankruptcy code and state law require the CPUC to approve any such Plan of Reorganization for PG&E. The leaders argue that nei-

Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo.

ther of the two plans currently proposed concretely address a vision for a reorganized PG&E that will adequately protect the public's interest and ensure safety, reliability, and affordability over the long-term.

Together, the Mayors and Supervisors write, "what has dominated the proceedings so far is simply a battle being waged between Wall Street titans for control of the bankruptcy process, control of the company, and the ability to control exit financing. This is merely spectacle, without regard for what will be left behind when the financial players inevitably leave the scene."

"This situation requires a full and comprehensive effort to chart a sustainable course for the future of PG&E, one that will serve the interests of its customers, and position the company to meet the challenges we will face from a changing climate."

Collectively representing over 5 million Californians, the leaders are proposing a not-for-profit, customer-owned utility for the following reasons:

- 1. PG&E correctly estimates it must invest tens of billions of dollars over the next decade -- assets they do not have -- for system hardening, wildfire protection and cyber-security:
- a. A customer-owned PG&E can raise capital from a broad pool of debt financing at a much lower cost than a private investor-owned company.
- b. A customer-owned utility can operate without the burdens of paying dividends to shareholders, and is exempt from federal taxation. As a result, a customerowned financial structure will save ratepayers many billions of dollars in financing costs over this next decade.

c. A customer-owned PG&E will better focus its scarce dollars on long-neglected maintenance, repairs, and capital upgrade, and mitigating some part of the substantial upward pressure on utility rates.

On Friday, Governor Newsom called for a quick resolution to PG&E's bankruptcy process. Transforming PG&E's structure to a customer-owned utility can be accomplished now, while they are still in bankruptcy, with results far superior to those that would be seen from the two plans currently under consideration.

#### Excerpt from the letter to the State's **Public Utilities Commission**

The customer-owned structure would allow PG&E to begin the process of restoring public confidence, in part by allowing the public to have a greater role in determining decisions that increasingly have come to define matters of life and death. To the extent that the public continues to believe that an investor profit motive has dominated PG&E's decision making, the enterprise will never regain

the trust of its customers, its regulators, and public policy-makers. It is time to pass control of the company from geographically distant investors to its California customers.

#### The signatories of the letter

- Mayor Sam Liccardo, City of San José
- Mayor Darryl Steinberg, City of Sacra-
- Mayor Libby Schaaf, City of Oakland
- Mayor Michael Tubbs, City of Stockton
- Mayor Ted Brandvold, City of Modesto
- Mayor Steve Ly, City of Elk Grove
- Mayor Barbara Halliday, City of Hayward • Mayor Larry Klein, City of Sunnyvale
- Mayor Jesse Arreguin, City of Berkeley
- Mayor Tom Butt, City of Richmond
- Mayor Drew Bessinger, City of Clovis
- Mayor Randall Stone, City of Chico
- Mayor Julie Winter, City of Redding
- Mayor Ian Bain, City of Redwood City
- Mayor Brett Lee, City of Davis
- Mayor Martine Watkins, City of Santa
- President Carole Groom, San Mateo Coun-
- ty Board of Supervisors
- Chair Ryan Coonerty, Santa Cruz County **Board of Supervisors**
- Chair Kate Sears, Marin County Board of Supervisors
- Chair Don Saylor, Yolo County Board of Supervisors • Chair Mark Medina, San Benito County
- **Board of Supervisors**
- Mayor Teresa Barrett, City of Petaluma
- Mayor Heidi Harmon, City of San Luis Obispo
- Mayor Dominic Foppoli, City of Windsor
- Mayor Jack Dilles, City of Scotts Valley
- Mayor Amy Harrington, City of Sonoma
- Mayor John Dell'Osso, City of Cotati

#### **Times Community News**

## **Pioneer High School's** men's varsity water polo team gaining momentum

By Abbie Mcgarvey Special to the Times

ioneer High School's men's varsity water polo team came into their 2019 season as defending BVAL champions, but a lot has changed from their league winning team

After losing an entire coaching staff along with graduating a full starting line, this season appeared to be a rebuilding one. However, despite a slow start, the team began to gain momentum, especially during travel tournaments to both Clovis and Modesto.

The Mustangs' new head coach Abbie McGarvey is excited to work with a team of driven and talented players even if it was going to take some time for them to begin to gel.

Led by senior captain and set-defender Brendan Kurihara, the boys began to come together as a unit and were able to take second place at the Clovis West Golden Eagle Invitational. The Mustangs went 3 and 1, beating solid teams such as James Logan— who they had lost badly to just a few weeks prior. Outstanding performances from senior goalie Cruz Bradanini and junior attacker Jamison Cota have helped the boys win critical games all season long.

The following weekend, after finishing second, the Mustangs traveled to Modesto for the de Long Invitational where they went 4 and 0, winning their division! At this point in the season the boys had really begun to click and were playing as a team rather than as individuals; and it showed. The team had their final league game, which was senior day, against rivals Willow Glen. Pioneer had lost to Willow Glen in a tournament earlier in the season, but the Mustangs were peaking at exactly the right time and were confident in their abilities. Led by a phenomenal offensive performance from senior Ryan Edington, who put up 6 goals, and an ever solid goalkeeping show from Bradanini with 20 pivotal saves, the Mustangs never trailed and ended up beating their league rivals by a score of 9-7.

Heading into BVAL Playoffs, the Mustangs are confident and prepared that they can continue to surprise everybody with their aggressive, cohesive, and technically skilled style of play as they look to close out their season with a strong placement at league finals before they continue on to CCS.

## **States most vulnerable to** identity theft and fraud

With businesses such as WhatsApp, Quest Diagnostics, Microsoft, ASUS and Capital One experiencing data breaches this year, the free credit-monitoring website WalletHub has released its report on 2019's States Most Vulnerable to Identity Theft & Fraud.

To determine where Americans are most susceptible to such crimes, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 15 key metrics. The data set ranges from identity-theft complaints per capita to average loss amount due to fraud.

In addition, WalletHub offers an Identity Theft Guide and free credit monitoring to help consumers handle or prevent the damaging effects of cybercrimes.

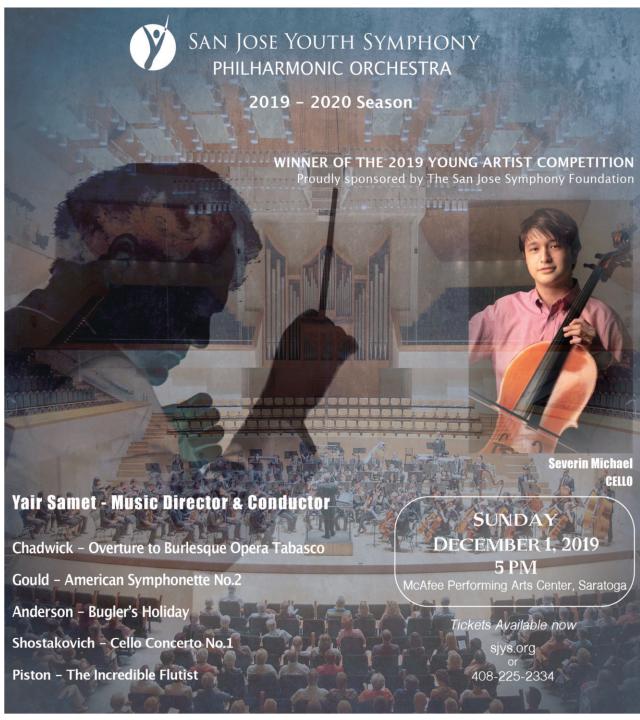
California's Vulnerability to Identity Theft & Fraud (1=Most Vulnerable; 25=Avg.)

- 1st Identity-Theft Complaints per Capita
- 1st Avg. Loss Amount Due to Online Identity Theft
- 18th Fraud & Other Complaints per Capita
- 6th Median Loss Amount Due to Fraud
- 18th State Security-Freeze Laws for Minors' Credit Reports
  - 1st Identity-Theft Passport Program
  - 5th Compliance with REAL ID Act

For the full report, please visit: wallethub.com/edu/stateswhere-identity-theft-and-fraud-are-worst/17549



Heading into BVAL Playoffs, the Mustangs are confident and prepared that they can continue to surprise everybody with their aggressive, cohesive, and technically skilled style of play.





SAN JOSE

















Times Local News

## Santa Clara County approves Laura's Law referral, youth e-cigarette ban

**By Katie Lauer** Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

n just six weeks, Santa Clara County could adopt Laura's Law, more than 17 years after the assisted outpatient treatment program was passed into state law.

The Board of Supervisors last week unanimously approved a referral for administration to consider options for adoption, which will come back to the dais Dec. 17. The law would allow a court to compel services to mentally unstable individuals who refuse treatment, but would only apply to a specific group of people who have formerly been hospitalized or incarcerated as a result of their mental illness.

Supervisors Cindy Chavez and Dave Cortese, who led the proposal, say they want to focus on helping this small population of residents – instead of alienating them. "We are not intending to criminal-

ize people who are mentally ill," Chavez said. "We're really intending to figure out what are the best tools to serve those very, very hard to serve populations."

While she supported exploring adoption of the law, Supervisor Susan Ellenberg reminded her colleagues of programs already in place within the county's Behavioral Health Department.

"I think it's critical to look at what we just put in place, and where we still have gaps and bottlenecks in accessing services," Ellenberg said.

Ellenberg added that she'd be interested in status reports on establishing a mental health triage center, as well as the feasibility of establishing a medical detox facility. Chavez agreed, thinking that a medical detox facility is still a missing link in services.

Earlier Tuesday morning, San Jose Councilmembers Johnny Khamis and Raul Peralez voiced their support for adopting Laura's



The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors met November 5. Photo by Katie Lauer

Law. They, along with other local leaders, sent a letter of their support to the county.

"Homeless individuals who lack capacity because of a severe mental illness to provide for their basic human needs cannot continue to fall victim to uninhabitable living conditions, drug and alcohol abuse, and risks of harm to themselves or others on the streets" the letter said. "It is imperative that we consider the benefits of Laura's Law and strengthened conservatorship in Santa Clara County."

Khamis has been vocally supportive of Laura's Law since 2015, and hopes the county now has the services, facilities and staff to successfully implement it after taking over O'Connor and St. Louise hospitals in March.

"I want them to implement it, period, so that they can have a tool to help get services for those who are severely mentally ill," Khamis told San José Spotlight Monday, even hoping for an expansion for those who are drug-addicted. "The

sad truth is, we can be helping these people, the mentally ill homeless people who are incapable of taking care of themselves – and it's a tragedy to keep them out there."

Board President Joe Simitian was supportive of Laura's Law while in the state Legislature, but he had concerns about individual civil liberties and a lack of county services earlier this year, though he voted in favor of studying the issue Tuesday.

#### E-cigarette ban approved

Hoping to reduce youth use of ecigarettes, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a ban of the sale and distribution of all vaping products for anyone under 21 years old in the unincorporated areas of the county.

"We have a vaping crisis on our hands," said Chavez, who first led the initiative with Cortese. "Most of our teens are not old enough to drive, but they are getting their hands on tobacco, and they're smoking e-cigarettes in record numbers, getting sick and in some cases dying."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, middle and high school student e-cigarette use has increased by 78 percent nationally between 2017 and 2018. In Santa Clara County alone, the Public Health Department reported one in three teens has tried vaping.

Lincoln High School Senior Charlie Lockwood said Monday he was

addicted to vaping for more than a year before lung problems drove the 17-year-old to quit. Now 89 days vape-free, he thinks Chavez's proposal will send an important message to his peers who still vape.

"I think that if teens see that something as small as vaping is getting such a ban, I think that that'll definitely send a message to them," Lockwood said during a news conference Monday.

Smoke shop owner Rithwan Dobashi said Tuesday he's concerned the ban will not only fail to reduce e-cigarette use, but simply lead users to standard cigarettes.

Dobashi – whose shop, Stuff n Puff, is one of only two that will be be affected by this ban – said his 13-year-old son was the one who showed him how easy it is for youth to obtain vapes.

#### PG&E shutoff costs

County leaders on Tuesday ordered a report of the estimated financial costs of the PG&E power shutoffs within the next 30 days to seek reimbursement. Officials said hundreds of county and emergency staff worked overtime to keep residents safe during the shutoffs.

"I'm very frustrated in how PG&E handled this situation," Supervisor Mike Wasserman said. "County emergency services were stretched thin, and PG&E owes the people of California better service."

Contact Katie Lauer at klauer 77@ gmail.com or follow @\_katielauer on Twitter.



From left, Supervisor **Cindy Chavez** joined Lincoln High School students **Charlie Lockwood** and **Amber LaFranboise** Monday to discuss a proposed e-cigarette ban in unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. *Photo by Katie Lauer* 

BE A PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!

## **Auditions**

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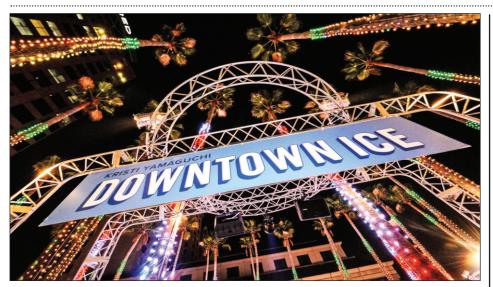
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#### Times Welcoming the Holidays



#### Kristi Yamaguchi Downtown Ice returns for 24th season

Iconic outdoor ice rink open daily Nov. 15, 2019 - Jan. 12, 2020

Rristi Yamaguchi Downtown Ice will be front and center among downtown San Jose holiday attractions Nov. 15, 2019 through Jan. 12, 2020.

Yamaguchi adds her name to support the rink for the ninth time, and her Always Dream Foundation will again be a rink beneficiary.

This will be Downtown Ice's 16th year in the Circle of Palms and 24th year overall. More than 50,000 skaters and 120,000 of their friends are expected to visit the ice this season. The rink generates more than \$4 million in economic impact to San Jose.

As usual, the palms of the Circle of Palms, 120 S. Market St., San Jose, will be lit with thousands of color-changing LED lights for skaters who pay one fee for unlimited skating time and skate rental.

Admission costs \$18 for adults and \$15 for children 10 years and younger and military. Bring your own skates: \$10. Cash, Paypal, Visa, Mastercard and Discover Card accepted. Admission includes ice time and rental skates (skate sizes range from toddler 8 to men's 15). Skate all you want (no in-and-out privileges). Firstcome, first-serve.

Downtown Ice is presented by Alaska Airlines in association with Google, First Tech Credit Union and Swenson. Proceeds from the Dec. 16 Santa Run Silicon Valley help support Downtown Ice.

During November, early December and after the holidays in January, Downtown Ice is open 5-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5 p.m.-midnight on Friday; noon-midnight on Saturday; and noon-9 p.m. on Sunday. During the winter break, the rink is open 11 a.m.-midnight daily. Special hours apply to the holidays.

Sign up at santarunsv.com. The rink phone number is (408) 610-4055. Details are at down-townicesj.com. Parking information is at http://parksj.org

## 2019 Holiday parcel shipping deadlines

What are the last days to send packages for the holidays?

#### **USPS® Domestic Shipping Deadlines**

When sending thoughtful holiday cards or gifts to clients, it makes more of an impact when it is sent out on time! Make the right impression this season and keep your costs low by

using one of the USPS services.

Note: If you are shipping on a budget, check out using Priority Mail® flat rate boxes.

- Retail Ground: Dec. 14
- First-Class Mail: Dec. 20
- Priority Mail®: Dec. 21
- Priority Mail Express: Dec. 23

#### FedEx® Shipping Deadlines

FedEx waived the holiday surcharge this year for residential deliveries, which will help cut down on shipping costs. You can manage your costs even more by shipping early and using FedEx Smart Post® or FedEx Ground® for your deliveries.

Note: FedEx SmartPost is a cost-efficient way to deliver light-weight packages domestically because it uses the USPS delivery network.

- FedEx Smart Post®: Dec. 9
- FedEx Ground: Dec. 16
- FedEx Home Delivery®: Dec. 16
- FedEx 2Day: Dec. 20
- FedEx Same Day®: Dec. 25

#### **UPS® Shipping Deadlines**

Like FedEx, UPS also waived their holiday shipping surcharges on residential deliveries, which can help lower your shipping costs. The UPS has compiled some tips for shippers this holiday season that should make the holidays less stressful for you and your recipients!

Note: UPS has UPS Access Points® at certain locations that can cut down on shipping costs and ensure packages are safe from porch pirates.

- UPS Ground: Dec. 13
- 3-Day Select: Dec. 19
- UPS 2nd Day Air: Dec. 20
- UPS Next Day Air: Dec. 23

#### Four tips for flu season

By Greg Frank, Ph.D.

Special to the Times

You know the signs. The thunderous cough. The pounding headache. The full-body fatigue. It's the flu. Last fall and winter, influenza sickened roughly 40 million Americans and killed 60,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This year's flu season is nearly upon us. Here are four tips to stay healthy.

1. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. People should get the flu vaccine early. Every year, this shot prevents up to 6.7 million flu cases, 87,000 hospitalizations, and 10,000 deaths. The vaccine also helps makes the flu less severe for those who do catch it.

The CDC recommends obtaining a flu shot no later than the end of October. The treatment takes around two weeks to become fully effective, so there's no time to waste.

2. Your mom was right: If you do fall ill, remember your mother's advice. Drink lots of fluids. Juice, Gatorade, herbal teas, and chick-

en soup can help fight dehydration. Menthol ointments and humidifiers break up mucus and make it easier to breathe. These treatments aren't fancy, but they provide real relief.

3. Remember that antibiotics won't help. Influenza is caused by a virus. Antibiotics, which only treat bacterial infections, are completely useless against viruses. Not all patients realize this. Many clamor for antibiotics at the first sign of flu-like symptoms.

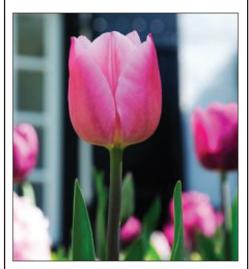
Such antibiotics won't make people feel any better. In fact, needlessly taking antibiotics increases people's risk of future infections. It gives bacteria an opportunity to evolve and become immune to treatments -- a phenomenon known as "antimicrobial resistance."

4. Antibiotics come with risks. Antibiotic overuse accelerates the spread of drug-resistant bacteria known as "superbugs," which already kill over 160,000 Americans every year.

To fight these superbugs, Congress is currently considering the Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms Act, or DISARM. This bill would incentivize hospitals to use antibiotics appropriately and sparingly. It would also encourage researchers to develop new antibiotics. Along with a package of market incentives for new treatments, the DISARM Act could save thousands of lives.

So remember -- get your shots early, follow your mother's advice, and don't jeopardize your health by needlessly taking antibiotics.

Greg Frank, Ph.D., is the director of infectious disease policy at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization.



Tulipa Christmas Dream

# Which trend color will you choose for your flower bulbs?

Which flower colors will be sparkling in your garden next year?

Why not be inspired by flower bulbs that will bloom in the most beautiful trendy colors as based on the garden trends for 2020? Planting now means enjoying them early next spring.

#### **Color range**

It's a really stunning sight: flower bulbs that start bringing us spring so early in the year. The most gorgeous colors and the sweetest of fragrances cheer up your garden - and you. The most popular spring-flowering bulbs are tulips, crocuses, hyacinths and daffodils. Flower bulbs are available in practically every possible color, so you know you can find ones to match the color palettes for the 2020 garden trends. Would you like to be reveling in the trendiest display of colors in the spring? Then choose flower bulbs in your personally favorite color palette and plant them this fall.



Tulipa Lady Jane

#### **Restoring balance**

There's so much going on around us every day. It's enough to overstimulate anyone! So many decisions, so many things we have to do. It's all because we're constantly tuned in. We're deluged with information, and woe be to anyone who makes a mistake. To find our way through this chaotic world, we have to 'destimulate' ourselves. Flowers like tulips, daffodils and hyacinths actually serve as soft pillows that cushion us from the busy demanding outside world and restore a feeling of calm. Their light pastel flowers help us relax and recharge our batteries. Even the sight and buzz of insects that visit the flowers contribute to this relaxing effect.

#### Escaping the bubble

Feeling a bit trapped? As if you're being stuffed into a much too cramped and limiting pigeonhole? Like many of us, you'd like to escape from the digital bubble and expand your horizons. More transparency and diversity to let the boundaries between, say, generations, genders and backgrounds merge and overlap. The garden trend derived from this modern-day experience combines various cultural influences. Multicolored, country-style flower borders introduce an informal happy look. When it comes to these flower bulb collections, you can choose from soft toned-down colors, bright colors, or more natural colors.

#### Craving what's real

In today's world, we can change anything; with Photoshop, only perfection will do. Society is so focused on perfection, that we're all starting to look the same. The result is a huge craving for what's real. What we want is imperfection and freedom. This garden trend results in an unorthodox planting, as if the borders are going a bit wild. But combining flower bulbs in powerful colors with concrete grey, natural beige and industrial black is a deliberate choice that reflects our letting go of unwritten laws and rules.

More information about flower bulbs is available at www.flowerbulbs.com.



Fritillaria imperialis Rubra

Times Local News

# **County Supervisor reacts to PG&E power shutoffs**

By Mike Wasserman

Special to the Times

ike you, I am frustrated with how PG&E has been handling power shutoffs in our County. PG&E's decision to execute power

shutoffs are very costly, both to local governments and to our residents, who understandably feel ignored, scared and angry.

A utility company has a responsibility to provide safe, reliable services. They can't simply turn off power to people who rely on such things as medical equipment like breathing machines, or for children who can't go to school. And businesses need to be open each day to sell products and employ people. If regular sustained power outages are the "new normal," I fear that a significant negative economic impact could ensue, resulting in employees facing layoffs from businesses that can't absorb the losses.

While the County can't control what PG&E does, we are making it clear to Sacramento leaders who regulate PG&E that their actions have consequences for our residents. Entire neighborhoods have gone dark for several days (including my own), which is a huge public safety concern, particularly in rural areas. County and city resources have been stretched thin in order to help keep people safe during these

outages.

Santa Clara County declared an emergency during the outage to ensure that resources are available to continue critical operations and to minimize impact to the community. The emer-

gency declaration allows the County to coordinate with a large network of public and private partner agencies when circumstances are beyond the capacity of local services and personnel. The County is also supporting other jurisdictions (cities and counties) that are severely impacted by the power shutoff.

We know that fire danger is real and we need to hear from PG&E on what they plan to do to ensure that ongoing shutoffs aren't the new normal. As County Supervisor and Chair of the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee, I've requested PG&E representa-

tives appear before our next Committee meeting to answer questions. I am more than willing to detail the effects of their actions on our residents, and to help them plan better. We need real solutions and those usually happen by working together.

To contact County Supervisor Mike Wasserman's office, visit: www.supervisorwasserman.org or email him at: district1@bos.sccgov.org or call (408) 299-5010.





Want to submit a news item for the Almaden Times?

Almaden Senior Association Presents

A Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 7th, 2019

11:00 am -1:00 pm

Menu by the Almaden Senior Chefs

Omelet Ranchero, Canadian Bacon,

Potatoes O'Brien, Berry Yogurt Parfait.

Mimosa, Orange Juice, Coffee.

\$12.00 members, \$15.00 non-members.

Music by Merrie Olde Christmas Carolers

Tickets sales begin November 18th

MWF 8:40-10 am, in the lobby of the

Almaden Community Center

Cash or checks only

For More information call 408 268-1133

Press day: November 27, 2019 Deadline: November 23, 2019

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Almaden **Times** 

## **Symphony Silicon Valley presents Khachaturian & Brahms, December 7 and 8 at California Theatre**

Symphony Silicon Valley presents Khachaturian & Brahms on Saturday, December 7 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose.

Celebrated throughout Europe, Maestro Pietro Rizzo comes from Italy to make his first appearance with Symphony Silicon Valley.

Armenian-born pianist Nareh Arghamanyan, described by Musical America Magazine as a "major, major, major talent," is especially renowned for Khachaturian's fiery, expressive piano concerto, based in part on Armenian folk music.

Brahms's second (and favorite) symphony provides a dramatic contrast to close... a warm, richly textured, serenely happy work by the German master.

#### **Program**

Glinka: Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture Khachaturian: Piano Concerto Brahms: Symphony No. 2 Conductor: Pietro Rizzo Soloist: Nareh Arghamanyan, piano

Conductor Pietro Rizzo: One of the most talented young Italian conductors, Pietro Rizzo is a frequent guest conductor of some among the world's great opera houses including the New York Metropolitan, Dallas Opera, New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv, New National Theatre of Tokyo, Deutsche Oper in Berlin,

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence, Finnish National Opera of Helsinki, Royal Swedish Opera of Stockholm, Volksoper in Wien, Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, Savonlinna Festival and Baden-Baden Festival, just to name a few.



Soloist: Nareh Arghamanyan (pictured): Highly acclaimed for her "unique sensual narrative tone", "precise stylistic approach and dazzling technique", "charismatic stage presence", and described as a "major, major, major talent...potential superstar" by Musical America Magazine, sensational pianist Nareh Arghamanyan has shaken the music world and has been praised worldwide by various critics, concert presenters, conductors, and audiences alike.

Tickets: \$50 - \$98. Call 408.286.2600 or www.symphonysiliconvalley.org. Discounts available for seniors and students. Photo courtesy of Symphony Silicon Valley.

#### Times Local News



# San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra to present its Season Opener Concert: Dec. 1

he San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2019-2020 Season Opener Concert to be held on Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m. at the McAfee Performing Arts Center, 20300 Herriman Avenue, Saratoga, CA.

The orchestra will perform works by American composers, opening with Chadwick's lively and comical Overture to the Burlesque Opera Tabasco, and will conclude with Piston's The Incredible Flutist. This concert will also feature a winner from the 2019 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation. Outstanding young soloist, Severin Michael, cellist, will perform Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1.

For further information and to purchase tickets, please go to www.sjys.org, or contact the SJYS Office at (408) 225-2334, or sjys@sjys.org

Admission Prices: \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$5 for children under 13.

#### **PROGRAM**

Chadwick – Overture to the Burlesque Opera Tabasco

Gould – American Symphonette No. 2 Anderson – Bugler's Holiday Shostakovich – Cello Concerto No. 1 Severin Michael, cello

Piston – The Incredible Flutist

#### **Severin Michael**

Severin Michael, 17, is a senior at Sarato-

ga High School. He has been playing cello for 10 years, studying privately with Adelle-Akiko Kearns, and is hoping to pursue a degree in cello performance. He has been invited to perform as a participant in a masterclass held by Mark Kosower, principal cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra, for the past two summers, has twice been named finalist in the United States International Music Competition (USIMC), and has won both the VOCE Competition and the United States Open Music Competition



Severin Michael

(USOMC). He is very proud of his past nine years as a member musician in SJYS, four of which were spent in the Philharmonic Orchestra, and has participated in both the 2017 International Tour to Eastern and Central Europe, as well as the 2019 International Tour to South America.

#### **Yair Samet**

Versatile and highly acclaimed conductor Yair Samet enjoys a widespread international career spanning three continents. He is consistently praised for his high level of artistry and exceptional knowledge of the repertoire.

Mr. Samet has conducted the famed Sinfonia Varsovia on tour in Germany, the Belgrade Philharmonic in Serbia, the Saarländisches Staatsorchester in Saarbrücken, Germany, the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in China, Orquestra Sinfónica de Chile in Santiago, and the Sarajevo Philharmonic in Bosnia. In Israel, he conducted the Haifa Symphony, the Rishon Le-Zion Symphony Orchestra, and the Israel Sinfonietta. He has conducted performances in the Rudolfinum Concert Hall in Prague, the Mozarteum Hall in Salzburg, the National Symphony Hall in Dublin, Teatro el Círculo in Rosario, Argentina, the Granada International Music Festival in Spain, among many other performances world-wide. In addition, he conducted the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra and the St. Petersburg Glinka Capella at Finland's Tampere International Music Festival.

#### San Jose Youth Symphony

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on

the West Coast of the U.S. Founded over six decades ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

The mission of SJYS is to give young people a foundation for life through orchestral music by creating programs that assure young musicians achieve technical proficiency, musical knowledge and an emotional connection to music. Each performance for the community is uplifting, spirited and exciting.

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy...

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;



- · 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**

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com



Saturday, November 23, 2019 1:00-3:00 pm

Enjoy a delicious holiday dinner catered by Golden Harvest Catering

Menu

Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls, green salad, 3 bean salad, pumpkin pie and cider.

\$14.00 members, \$17.00 non-members.

Cash or check only.

ket sales begin November 1st in the lobby of

Ticket sales begin November 1st in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center M, W, F, 8:40 am-10:00 am

If you have questions call: 408-268-1133



#### **Times Community News**



"Sophie" (Alisabeth Bacon) & "Sam" (Mike Hanlon) Photo by Jane Johnson

#### **Mamma Mia**

Continued from page 1

Broadway smash hit, or the 2008 movie adaptation with Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth and Pierce Brosnan of "Mamma Mia!" then you're in for a treat. The story begins with soonto-be-wed Sophie pining after a father to walk her down the aisle. Raised by single mother, Donna, she's never been told the identity of her father. But she's discovered a journal of Donna's secrets and thinks she's on to who it might be. She sends secret letters to the three likely candidates and invites them to her wedding unbeknownst to Donna. The journey through "Mamma Mia" extends from their arrival on the Greek island and you end up with a musical filled with comedic and dramatic flair, with plenty of twists to keep it interesting.

When he first heard "Mamma Mia!" was chosen for The Glue Factory production, Mike Hanlon, who plays one of the potential fathers, Sam Carmichael, was skeptical that he'd find a pop music genre interesting to perform on stage. He thought it might be too easy, without the depth of some of the more traditional musicals he's been involved with. But "once I dug into the music I found it was surprisingly difficult even though it is pop music-it's not as easy as it appears and I liked that challenge."

Valerie Doyle, debuting in her first lead role as "Donna," always gets a smile on her face and a spring in her step when she thinks about or talks about The Glue Factory. "It's such a great group of people who come together into a real "family", even all these years later for many of us, and support the fantastic drama program here at Pioneer." Doyle's excited that she's been given this opportunity, knowing she's worked up to it and "it's been a dream of mine (to lead a production)." She especially loves that she gets to be a mother to Sophie in this production. "I raised two boys so it's really special to have this opportunity to have a daughter - and not only just a daughter, but a daughter who's having a wedding! I get to be the mother of the bride - something I won't get to experience in real life."

Returning in a leading role, PHS teacher Ms. Alisabeth Bacon lends her vocal and acting prowess to "Sophie." Many will remember her last year as "Annie" although many may not realize she's on staff and not one of the students at Pioneer. "I love I get to show my students a different side of me and give back to a program that gave so much to me"

Mrs. Ashley Coleman, producer and choreographer, shed light on why "Mamma Mia!" was chosen this year. "It's a very popular and favored musical by many - especially parents at Pioneer" as she discovered after it was announced this past spring. Parents and others flooded her with emails espousing a love for this musical, excitement for its production and, in many cases, asking to get involved. One thing Coleman shed light on that won't be obvious in the final  $production\,is\,the\,unique\,challenge$ she faces in working separately with the students during the day, then the adults at night, ultimately bringing the two together and synthesizing them into a cohesive, polished and professional-looking company.

Returning as Director, Steve Dini takes the helm of the 128 performers spanning in age from 14 years to over 70 years old. "I think the audience will be surprised what a professional show this ishow polished it looks - especially when they realize most of (The Glue Factory) cast have never done this before...it's obvious the cast and crew are putting in literally hundreds of hours" shared Dini. "The sheer energy and enthusiasm from the combination of adults and kids will lift up anyone's night."

One of those kids/students, high school senior Emily Nguyen, shared "it takes a lot of time and brain space when balancing not only school/homework/ family/jobs/social commitments, but

#### **Times Community News**



The 128 member cast of "Mamma Mia!" rehearsal. Photo by Dan Johnson

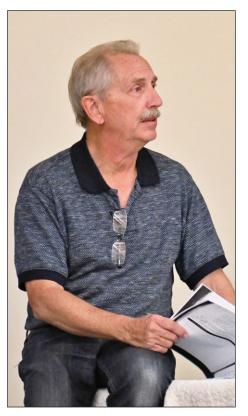
also keeping the several shows we're working on all spinning along at the same time. But it's worth it in the end, as it's really fun and we all (adults and students) come together as a family and put on an amazing show." Always one to look on the bright side, Nguyen commented "it definitely helps those who aren't good at time management get better at that quick!" She also noted the new challenge for her in singing harmonies - a reward given to the high school seniors in this production - as she's always sung the melodies. Nguyen shared students and audience members will get a kick out of "seeing teachers groovin' out, adults you're not used to seeing groovin' and singing, and family members literally dancing and singing with one another." One of the things she's most grateful for is "feeling the support behind you, literally, by the over 50 adults." She commented "it's such an amazing show, and the music is amazing. "Mamma Mia!" holds a special place in my heart as...it's such a danceable, feelgood-show, you can't feel bad when you're in that space."

In addition to the production and direction by famed Dini and Coleman, a dedicated team exists alongside that bring "Mamma Mia!" to life behind the scenes. Without the keen ear of musical director, Marissa Bacon; the beautiful sets built by Jim Wolk and bedecked by Lorie Biviano; the critical-eyed costuming of Jan Vincent; the technical acumen of tech lead Chris Raimondi (who also

happens to be Sophie's fiancé, "Sky"), the assistant direction by Diane Zlotziver, and the assistant musical direction by Mike Hanlon - not to mention the multitude of volunteers supporting all of them - this production would not be the polished finished product you'll see. And per Dini "all of them have been very impressed with the cast and how hard they've all been working" to make this a great show.

Musically you'll be transported back to Abba's 1970s heyday. "If you've seen the movie, you'll like the play even more! The play is really all about the music. The story supports the music... and it's just plain fun to be involved with whether an audience member or an actor on stage," shared Hanlon. Doyle reflected, "it might not be one of those deep stories, but the storyline probably rings true to a lot of people. Audience members will be able to relate to the story on many different levels."

Now that you have the "skinny" on this fun night out, we'll "catch you on the flip side" when you "do the program solid" by coming out and supporting excellent local theater! "Mamma Mia!" debuts 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 4 running through Saturday, December 7 at Pioneer High School, 1220 Blossom Hill Road. Tickets on sale now at phsdrama.ludus.com - \$15 adults, \$10 seniors 62+ years and \$7 student/child - or at the door starting 6:30 p.m. each night.





"Sam" (Mike Hanlon) & "Donna" (Valerie Doyle) in "Winner Takes It All". Photo by Jane Johnson



"Bill" (Mike Rainville) & "Donna" (Valerie Doyle). Photo by Jane Johnson

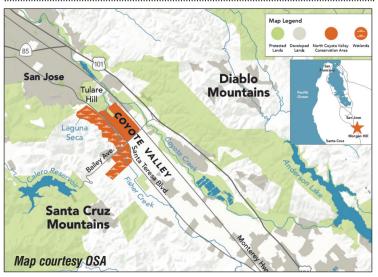


Questions? Please email us at info@almadenll.org





#### **Times Community**



## **Coyote Valley**

Continued from page 4

Valley. Stiff opposition by environmental groups, combined with the city realizing that they would only employ a small workforce, led to Panattoni selling their land to Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Khamis says that building an industrial plant in the region is no longer on the table and that jobs need to be found elsewhere to stimulate the region's economy.

"Our General Plan calls for 35,000 jobs. Where do we move those 35,000 jobs?" asks Councilmember Lan Diep. "The only way to right our finances and be sustainable as a city is to pull more jobs into San Jose. We need to resolve that."

"We are making a very large decision affecting tens of thousands of jobs," says Khamis, "When we say that this land is no longer going to be job producing land, we have to find job producing lands elsewhere in the city. We've been rezoning industrial to housing and becoming solidly a bedroom community. Jobs provide revenue for the city, not housing."

"Google downtown is more than making up for the jobs lost in Coyote Valley," says former San Jose Planning Director Gary Schoennauer.



Although the city would like the revenue jobs provide, councilmembers acknowledge the ongoing housing crisis the Bay Area faces. They aim to restrain further urban sprawl, instead creating urban villages and increasing density downtown.

Schoennauer says he is wary of supporting large developments in Coyote Valley as they could impact the water table. "That's the water my family and your family drinks," he says. He also noted that the city already struggles with providing necessary services such as police, fire, and water and expanding them to Coyote Valley would take

"How we envision Coyote Valley has fundamentally changed with the way we want to grow as a city," says Jimenez, "with smart growth near transportation... building up and not out."

Schoennauer said that in the 1970s, the city and county agreed that the county would stop allow-

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#### **Times Community**



ing urban development. "That was radical, because San Jose had already committed to extending a sewer line to Oceanic California, who bought the land around Lake Anderson for development," he says. "Property owners along Monterey Highway were talked into annexing their property. There were plans to build 3,000 housing units in the area, but the new policy stopped that."

Saso, whose property was annexed to the city and zoned for residential use, expressed his frustration with the city's decision not to develop the land. He claims that the city held back development so it could depress the land's value and that he's been excluded from planning.

"Before you remove jobs and housing, which I think everybody needs in Coyote Valley," he told the council before their vote, "I think you need to deal with people like us. How will the city treat landowners? What we're looking for is equity and justice."

Jimenez says that Coyote Valley landowners desire to be heard, treated with respect, and treated fairly. "I'm open and willing, and want to continue to have conversations with you," he told Saso.

Bill Baron, Partner, Brandenburg Properties, told the council that like the Sobratos, they had purchased land in North Coyote Valley with the understanding that jobs would be developed there, as outlined in four of the city's General Plans.

"Today, however, the Brandenburg family, along with the Sobratos, stand before you as collaborative partners in a historic once in a lifetime preservation opportunity," he said. "What's before you...is the culmination of years of focused energy, time, and resources. We believe that with thoughtful purpose, paired with respectful and intelligent interaction, good people can accomplish great things."

"We're preserving this land for generations to come," says Khamis. "It took a Herculean effort to bring this across the finish line and so quickly. I've been delighted to support this effort."

"We do a lot of things in this city," says Liccardo. "But today, we can say we're doing something that is truly going to be treasured by our children and our grandchildren."











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11:15am Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open!

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Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvallevchurch com We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworld-

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

wide.org

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. 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 out-

reach, 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 fol-

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#### FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

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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

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#### thepoint.church

#### THE POINT CHURCH

3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148 (408) 270-7646 English Service Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM Spanish Service: 11:00 AM

Cambodian Service:

11:00 AM Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM Mandarin Service: 11:00AM Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

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#### **SAN JOSE GURDWARA**

3636 Gurdwara Ave San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A 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

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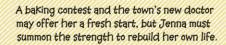
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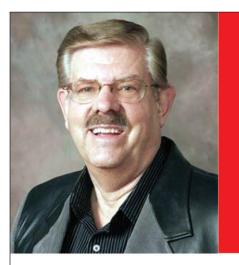


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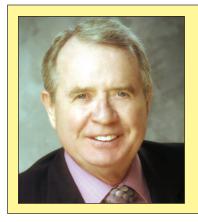
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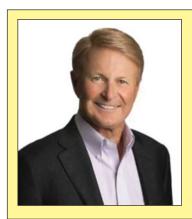




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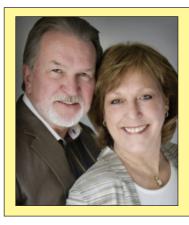
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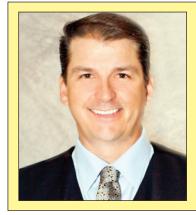
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Since 1965 the Almaden Valley Women's Club has served the needs of the community by providing funds to local area non-profit organizations and educational institutions through grants. Grant applications are available October 15 - November 30. For more information on the application scoring criteria, eligibility, funding and deadlines, please visit:

https://www.almadenwomen.org

#### **Employment**

#### history / san josé

#### **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

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