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Willow GlenTimes

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Opera San José presents "Il trovatore," February 15 through March 1, 2020 at the California Theatre, San Jose. (Shown here are Cecilia Violetta López as Leonora begging for mercy at the feet of Zachary Altman as Count di Luna from Opera San José's 2013 production.) Photo Credit: Pat Kirk

Opera San José presents 'Il trovatore' Feb. 15-March 1

Opera San José presents "Il trovatore," February 15 through March 1, 2020 at the California Theatre, now one of the most intimate opera houses in the world located in downtown San Jose.

Verdi's *Il trovatore* has long been a staple of opera houses all over the world, and Opera San Jose has produced it only rarely, as it requires rare voices. This is an opera that helped make Irene Dalis one of the most celebrated dramatic mezzo sopranos in the world.

Opera San José will highlight the raw emotions that drive Giuseppe Verdi's turbulent tale of love and revenge. The opera features an emotional, heart-stopping score with a mesmerizing story of filled with romance, obsession, and retribution.

Based on the play *El trovador* by

Spanish playwright Antonio García Gutiérrez, *Il trovatore* is known for its most famous choral melodies ever written, the "Anvil Chorus." This classic four-act Italian opera has become a beloved favorite of audiences around the world.

Larry Hancock presents an engaging free 45-minute talk about the opera to ticket holders before every performance of *Il trovatore*. The talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances, and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. Open to all ticket holders; no reservations required.

Il trovatore will be sung in Italian with English supertitles with a run time of three hours, including intermission at the California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street, San José. For tickets (\$55-\$195) or more information, visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450.

DIRIDON STATION TRACKS THROUGH SAN JOSE

Option of putting a viaduct over Interstate 280 will result in running tracks through North Willow Glen

By William Bellou
Publisher

Pleas from residents in San Jose's North Willow Glen and Gardner neighborhoods have fallen on deaf ears as new tracks set to serve the massive redevelopment of the city's transit hub Diridon Station will cut through their neighborhoods, parks and even some backyards.

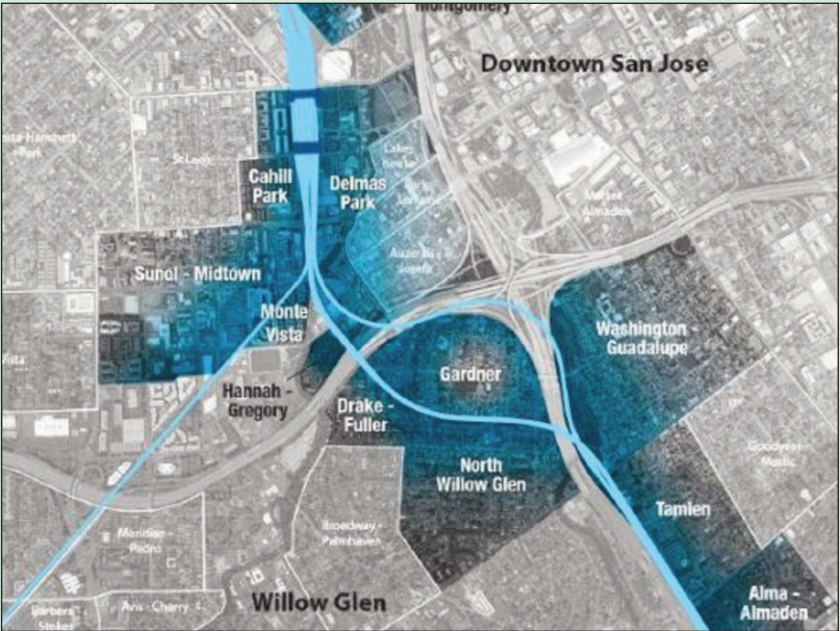
The critical decisions, years in the making, are a culmination of input from the city of San Jose, Caltrain, Valley Transportation Authority and California High-Speed Rail. Diridon Station is expected to eventually rival that of San Francisco International Airport.

Once finalized, the expansion could affect 13 residential properties and two commercial properties, reduce the size of Fuller Park in the Gardner neighborhood by at as much as 30 percent and run through a current portion of a church adjacent to the park.

The San Jose City Council has unanimously decided to move ahead with plans to expand the existing rail corridor to the south of the

See TRACKS, page 3

The existing rail corridor sits (light blue) on the left side of the map. The light blue line that curves out to the right shows where a viaduct would have been built. Map courtesy of the City of San Jose.



OP ED

Two major reasons voters should defeat Measure E

By Pat Waite

Special to the Times

These days it's difficult to drive around San Jose without seeing evidence of our area's housing problems. Tents along the railroad tracks, people soliciting on street corners and parked cars full of personal belongings can be found all over our city. We feel sorry for our fellow residents who find themselves in such dire straits and want to do what we can to help.

Yet Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility (CFR) urges voters to vote no on San Jose's Measure E, the real property transfer tax, expected to raise around \$50 million per year. One issue that we have with the proposal is that there is no sunset clause. Even if we someday solve our housing problem, the tax will persist. But there are two major reasons we believe that voters should reject the measure.

First and most importantly, Measure E is a General Fund tax measure, which means the city council can spend the funds it generates on whatever they deem necessary. Today's council promises the proceeds will be used for subsidizing affordable housing and addressing homelessness. That's obviously well-intentioned and certainly money needs to be spent addressing those issues. The problem is that the use of the General Fund dollars by subsequent city councils cannot be restricted. When the next downturn hits, the tax receipts will most certainly be diverted to avoid layoffs and other cuts. Alternatively, a future council could determine that paying down the city's \$3.5 billion unfunded pension liability is a better use of the Measure E funds. The bottom line is that Measure E funds flow into the city's General Fund, and therefore can be used for whatever spending the city council chooses.

Second, the government bodies specifically tasked with addressing our homelessness and affordable housing issues are deploying major funds to do so. Voters passed 2018's Measure A, the Santa Clara County measure allocating \$950 million to solving our housing crisis. Thus far \$234 million has been committed for construction of about 1,600 units scheduled for completion by 2022. Voters also passed the \$4 billion California Proposition 1 and Governor Newsom has released \$1 billion of it. Additionally, the governor's 2020-21 budget includes \$1.4 billion to fight homelessness. To top it off, local companies recognize their role in helping solve the chronic problem and are stepping up big time. Apple, Facebook, Google and others have committed \$4.5 billion for area housing solutions and are already deploying funds through local non-profits.

Our city certainly should be part of the solution, but within the context of our city charter. San Jose should start by streamlining and reducing the cost of its construction processes, which are major impediments to driving up our supply of housing. Our city government leaders need to reduce planning, development and construction fees, which can add upwards of \$60,000 to the cost of building a home. They need to address the bureaucratic quagmire that creates an unreasonably long concept to completion of the construction cycle. The zoning philosophy must evolve from one favoring existing homeowners to one that facilitates increased density where appropriate to reduce the cost of land per residential unit. These actions will facilitate the construction of the affordable homes so badly needed in our city.

CFR encourages you to tell our city council how you believe they should address the area's housing problems by voting no on Measure E. We also urge you to consider supporting the non-profit organizations working to help solve the problems, a list of which can be found at our web site, www.cfr-sj.org.

Pat Waite is the President of Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility.

Support for reallocation of Measure B funds nixed by San Jose City Council

By William Bellou

Publisher

San Jose lawmakers have voted to send a clear message to the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to not shift money from Measure B to expanding bus routes.

The San Jose City Council voted 7-2-2 to send a letter to the VTA Board of Directors calling on their regional partners to keep their "commitment" to voters in a letter by preserving the 2016 transportation sales tax Measure B revenue for pre-approved projects, which include repaving roads and widening highways.

Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco, Lan Diep, Chappie Jones and Raul Perez serve as directors on the VTA board.

Climate and transportation activists have been rallying support to

divert the sales tax's funds — estimated to produce more than \$6.3 billion over the next 30 years. Dozens of advocates lobbied the VTA's board of directors last month to put more Measure B funding into expanding the county's bus routes and services. Out of the \$6.3 billion from measure B funds, \$3.25B will go to transit including \$500 million for buses and 250 bike trails, \$1B for Caltrain and \$1.5B for BART PHASE 2.

The majority of the council members are worried that shifting the Measure B funding priorities would tarnish their reputation with voters, especially with Measure E which will appear on the March 2020 ballot. If passed, the real estate property transfer tax measure will raise tens of millions of dollars a year to fund affordable

housing projects in San Jose.

Two Councilmembers, Raul Perez and Sergio Jimenez dissented, siding with proponents of the reallocation to combat climate change and getting residents out of vehicles and onto buses and trains. Councilmembers Sylvia Arenas and Magdalena Carrasco were absent.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis spearheaded an effort to keep the funding as intended in a letter to VTA which he signed in Dec. along with Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and councilmembers Bev Davis and Pam Foley.

Khamis calls the shifting of funds "dishonest," stating that the move would undermine the will of the voters. "I think that it's dishonest, because it's not what we told the public that we would do," Khamis said.

Vaccines and pets

By Dr. Raj Singh

Special to the Times

Just like people, pets need vaccines too.

Pet vaccination schedules vary depending on age, overall health, state laws, and exposure factor. It is important knowing when and why your pet needs a particular vaccine. Recommendations from your family vet are the best way to stay on schedule with vaccinations for your pet.

Vaccines are divided into two groups:

1. Core pet vaccines. These are the vaccines that are recommended for every pet.
2. Non-core vaccines are the ones that depend on your pet's lifestyle like pet boarding or for outdoor pets.

There are many reasons to vaccinate your pet:

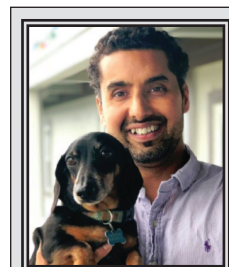
- Your pet's lifestyle which can be you taking your pet to dog parks or pet boarding places or going to pet daycare centers.
- You have moved to a different area where your pet might be exposed to wildlife or contaminated water. Certain regions have different dog and cat vaccine requirements as compared to where you currently live. Some regions have more prevalence of certain diseases.
- Travelling to a different country with your pet where they are more susceptible to certain diseases.

Health issues as your pet ages

Younger pets like puppies and kittens need vaccines more frequently whereas adult pet's vaccine schedules may change due to age, illness or disease. If a pet falls in any situation described above then your veterinarian can recommend additional vaccines or change vaccination schedules to make sure that your pet is protected. Making a preventive vaccination schedule which includes vaccines that your pet needs is one of the best things you can do to keep your pet healthy for many years.

Vaccines for puppies

Puppies need several sets of vaccine boosters to give



Your Pet and You

By Dr. Raj Singh
Veterinarian



them as much protection as possible whereas adult dogs need yearly vaccines. To keep your puppy happy and healthy following a vaccine schedule is imperative.

Distemper/parvo vaccine protects against many potentially fatal diseases. Rabies is a fatal disease that affects all animals and humans. Rabies vaccines are highly recommended. Bordetella: this vaccine is used to prevent kennel cough which can cause respiratory infection and even lead to pneumonia.

Vaccines for cats/kittens

The following vaccines are necessary for cats. Health-distemper/upper respiratory is a combination vaccine which protects against many diseases. Rabies: just like dogs, cats need rabies vaccine too. Feline leukemia: This vaccine is for cats that come in contact with stray cats outdoors. Just like puppies, young kittens need several vaccination boosters.

Many factors need to be weighed when deciding on a vaccination plan that is tailor-made for your pet. Your family veterinarian can help you decide which yearly vaccinations are best for your pet based on these factors.

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

Times **Feature**

Tracks

Continued from page 1

station, which cuts through the city's Gardner and North Willow Glen neighborhoods, rather than move forward with the construction of a viaduct. The viaduct would have carried some of the trains over Interstate 280 and Highway 87 interchange.

Willow Glen residents in North Willow Glen and Gardner neighborhoods spent most of last year lobbying the city to pursue the viaduct to minimize the destructive encroachment into their communities. San Jose Leaders along with regional transit officials concluded that building a viaduct would result in noise and visual impacts and the construction costs would be more than double than expanding the rail lines through the existing corridor.

Mayor Sam Liccardo and four other councilmembers wrote in a memo. "Opting for a viaduct option would also divert already limited resources from quality future mitigations in the existing corridor, such as sound walls."

The City Council has asked city staff to work with the other transportation agencies to create a committee of local residents and stakeholders who will help offer feedback and reduce negative impacts and

ensure safety and implement noise and vibration reducing measures during the development of the project.

Harvey Darnell, vice president of the North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association, told the Mercury News that he was concerned that the councilmembers were making promises that they won't be around to ensure are enacted.

"This could take 10, 20, 30 years," Darnell said. "So I'm disappointed that they

Mayor Sam Liccardo and four other councilmembers wrote in a memo. "Opting for a viaduct option would also divert already limited resources from quality future mitigations in the existing corridor, such as sound walls."

didn't keep the viaduct around the neighborhood as an option for later when they really have a better handle on where the funding would come from and they could do a much more in-depth analysis on the real impacts to the neighborhood."

Councilmember Dev Davis, representing Willow Glen, said that the development was far from complete and the public will have many opportunities in the coming years to offer their feedback.

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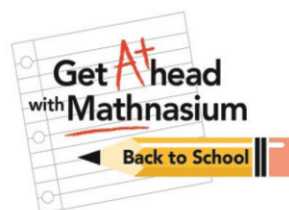
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California rated the 32nd State for cyber-bullying among young people

A new study by SocialCatfish.com found California is the No. 32 state when it comes to young people experiencing cyberbullying, with 1,757 reported victims. The national average is 4,300 cyberbullying victims per state.

Victims of cyberbullying are twice as likely to commit suicide. As revenge porn, catfishing and online shaming increase, adults must find solutions to this new threat to American youth.

The study on Cyberbullying Youth Victims by State used the latest data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the number of youths age 13-17 who reported being cyberbullied in 2017, the most recent year for the data.

Here are key national findings:

- 23% of youth are bullied with 15% being victims of cyberbullying
- Females were the most bullied, at 24%, followed by male students, at 20%. White and black students were bullied equally, at 23%. Hispanic students, 16%. Asian students, 7%.
- Top 10 states are: Maryland, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Florida, Hawaii, New Mexico, Illinois and Montana.
- Louisiana had the lowest number of reported victims of cyberbullying (1,215), followed by South Dakota with 1,293.

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PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU
willamb@timesmediainc.com

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

STAFF WRITERS: NEHA BANDARU,
ANKITA BHANOT, DIANE BLUM,
FRANK SHORTT, NIRBAN SINGH,
PANKAJ TYAGI, SRAVYA VOLETI

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Valley Currents

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

Silicon Valley Reads 2020 celebrates women with books, activities for all ages

By Diane McNutt
Special to the Times

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S., Silicon Valley Reads 2020 celebrates the achievements of women with books and events focused on the theme "Women-Making It Happen." Several of the 185 public events planned during February and March will be held at San Jose libraries.

Julian Guthrie, author of "Alpha Girls," the story of four extraordinary women who thrived in the high-stakes, male-dominated investment capital world of Silicon Valley, will speak at the Rose Garden Branch Library on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. Guthrie, a journalist for 20 years with the San Francisco Chronicle, is the author of four books, including two bestsellers.

Novelist Catherine Chung, author of "The Tenth Muse," the other featured book for Silicon Valley Reads 2020 adult and teen readers, will speak at the Vineland Branch Library on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. and at the Almaden Branch Library on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 5:30 p.m. Her critically acclaimed book focuses on a trailblazing female mathematician who research unearths her own surprising family history.

Showings of feature films and documentaries scheduled for Silicon Valley Reads 2020 include:

- "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story," the life of one of Hollywood's top leading ladies in the 1940s, who was also a talented inventor, at the Cambrian Branch Library on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m.
- "Miss Representation," an investigation of how mainstream media and culture contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America, at the Cambrian Branch Library on Wednes-



Author Julian Guthrie, right, poses with the four successful women venture capitalists she profiles in her book 'Alpha Girls': Mary Jane Elmore, Theresia Gouw, Sonja Hoel Perkins and Magdalena Yesil. Guthrie will discuss her book Feb. 12 at the Rose Garden Library as part of this year's Silicon Valley Reads, whose theme is 'Women-Making It Happen.' Photo courtesy of Silicon Valley Reads

day, Feb. 19, 6 p.m., and at the Rose Garden Branch Library on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m.

- "On the Basis of Sex," a legal drama about the life and early years of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, on Monday, March 9, 5:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Branch Library; Wednesday, March 11, 6 p.m. at the Cambrian Branch Library; and Friday, March 27, 3:30 p.m., at the Willow Glen Branch Library.

- "Mulan," Walt Disney's popular animated film about a young Chinese woman who joins the Imperial Army accompanied by her guardian dragon, on Monday, Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Branch Library; Thursday, Feb. 6, 4 p.m. at the Cambrian Branch Library; and Tuesday, March 3, 3 p.m. at the Almaden

Branch Library.

All local public libraries will offer story times for young children and families, featuring "The Most Magnificent Thing" by Ashley Spires, the Silicon Valley Reads picture book pick for 2020. Some story times may feature celebrity readers and crafts activities. An animated short film version of the book, narrated by Whoopi Goldberg, will also be shown at libraries in February and March.

Another major event on the 2020 calendar is "Silicon Valley Reads Day at the Computer History Museum" on Saturday, March 28, which includes free admission to the Mountain View museum; a presentation by Claire L. Evans, author of "Broad Band: The Untold Story of the Women

Who Made the Internet," an excerpt performance of the world premiere of "Coded" by the City Lights Theater Company, and a showing of the film "Great Unsung Women of Computing." For free ticket reservations, email SVReads@aol.com.

Silicon Valley Reads, started in 2003, is presented by Santa Clara County Library, Santa Clara County Office of Education and San José Public Library. It selects books that reflect a theme relevant to the region and asks everyone in the community to read, think, discuss and share their diverse perspectives.

For more information, visit SiliconValleyReads.org.

Diane McNutt is coordinator of Silicon Valley Reads.

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Times **Community**

SOS AUTO REPAIR'S "Quick Tip" What's a serpentine belt?

Well, it won't keep your pants up, but it does transport power to your vital automotive components.

The serpentine belt is one long, snaking, winding belt that keeps your alternator, power steering pump, air conditioning and—in some cases—your water pump running smoothly and effectively. The belt may also be guided by an idler pulley and/or a belt tensioner to allow the belt to pass over more than three pulleys with a large enough wrap angle to avoid slipping. It's always recommended to replace the idler pulley and belt tensioner when replacing a serpentine belt. When one component wears, it puts your entire system at risk of failure.

Consider these consequences of a broken serpentine belt:

- A broken serpentine belt leads to a sudden loss of power assist for the steering system, where the steering wheel all-of-a-sudden becomes very hard to turn. Imagine that happening in the middle of a busy intersection!

- A broken serpentine belt stops the water pump from circulating coolant (antifreeze) through the cooling system, and the engine can overheat!

- A broken serpentine belt stops the alternator from generating power to operate the vehicle's electric (and electronic) systems and recharge the battery. The headlights will dim, the radio will not work, and the battery will go dead!

These things may not happen right away but can happen. Sometimes the belt falls off (rather than breaking) because the pulleys and tensioner are worn, damaged, or misaligned. In that case, simply replacing the belt will not fix the problem. The underlying issues will need to be addressed first. The belt may also fall off if it is improperly routed or if it is the wrong belt.

If this happens to you be sure to try and pull over to a safe place, turn on your hazard/emergency lights and call for a tow truck (we recommend Jose at Cruz Towing 408-648-7000, if you are local) to have you towed, hopefully to us ;) or to the nearest repair facility. Make sure you let him know SOS sent you!

When to replace a serpentine belt is a judgment call by a repair technician, and it's up to the vehicle's owner to decide if the time is right based on the technician's recommendation and/or the last time it was replaced. We would stay on the side of caution, which is why serpentine belts are something we inspect at every oil change (when accessible). But it is said to have it inspected every 60k miles and replaced every 90k miles.

If you're concerned about your vehicle for whatever reason stop by at: 3519 San Felipe Road in Evergreen. We'll be happy to assist you.



Hundreds of volunteers participate at the municipal rose garden annual rose pruning

More than 300 volunteers spent their Saturday morning hand-pruning award-winning roses at the San José Municipal Rose Garden. With 17 local gardens—and one more on the way this spring—these volunteers ensure San José's roses bloom fragrant, colorful, and healthy each season for everyone to enjoy.

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—Dr. Donald Pepper, DDS



Dr. Donald Pepper, DDS (left) and Dr. Aman Bhullar, DDS.

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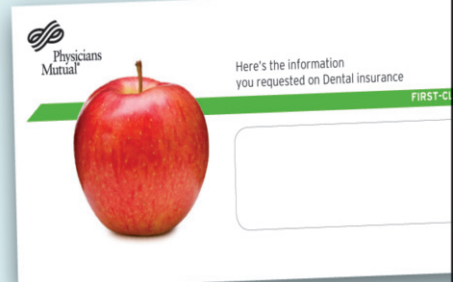
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Times **Community News**

San Jose public safety update

By **Johnny Khamis**
Special to the Times

This past week, I had the great honor of speaking to the 46 cadets of the San José Police Department (SJPd) as they became full-fledged SJPd Officers sworn to protect and serve the residents of San José.

These new officers will now move on to field training alongside seasoned officers, after which they will be fully trained and ready to take on their own assignments. Some of the new officers will join the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) and will bring that unit up to a total of 20 officers, which is important given the large number of complaints my office receives related to people speeding, ignoring traffic control devices, and driving recklessly. Be sure to continue to report traffic enforcement issues via the SJPd Traffic Enforcement Request form which is available online: www.jpdpd.org/_forms/teu_request_form.asp

In my most recent meeting with our Southern Division Captain, Gina Tibaldi, she informed me that in November – the latest period for which statistics were available – the TEU issued 266 citations in Southern Division for violations that included speeding, running red lights, and distracted driving.

Using funds budgeted for burglary prevention, the SJPd launched a foot patrol. In December, this foot patrol was focused on deterring burglaries around the busy Oakridge Mall shopping center. They are also being utilized to address hot spots when they arise, such as the recent string of car break-ins along Winfield Boulevard. The visibility of the foot patrols helps to

deter further incidents while allowing them to get an up-close look at any nefarious activity.

Something else the SJPd is doing to help keep us safe is conducting warrant checks on individuals living in homeless encampments. Many of those with outstanding warrants are in possession of methamphetamine, illegal weapons, stolen property, or are trespassing, and we – and people living in encampments – are made safer when these wanted individuals are back behind bars.

Finally, Chief Eddie Garcia and his team have been doing a fantastic job of taking illegal guns off of our streets with recent busts highlighted on the Chief's Twitter feed - @sjpdchief. California cannot be serious about gun crime until we get guns out of the hands of those criminals who have given up their right to have a gun. We must also reform our laws so that possessing a gun while committing a crime is punished like the terrible crime that it is – so I'll be getting you more information in future newsletters on a fix to Proposition 47 – the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020 – that will be on the November ballot for voters to approve.

Remember to call 9-1-1 if you feel a situation is dangerous or you require immediate attention and report non-emergencies via 3-1-1 or the SJPd's online report system. If your street hasn't had a Neighborhood Watch recently, be sure to reach out to my Chief of Staff, Shane Patrick Connolly, at district10@sanjoseca.gov. He can connect you with Crime Prevention to get one scheduled.



Bay Area home prices on upswing again Real Estate agents and economists expect a market rebound

After a slump in Bay Area home prices, the market appears poised to drive higher as buyers face low inventory and act on low interest rates, which the Federal Reserve Board left unchanged last week.

Low interest rates and a steady economy once again have stoked buying and selling across the region. December's median home price rose to \$871,500.

The median sale price for a single-family home in the Bay Area edged up 1.5% in December over the previous year; the first upswing since April 2019.

Real Estate agents and economists expect a market rebound after the December price upswing.



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Hammer Theatre presents National Geographic Live!

Hammer Theatre Center presents National Geographic Live!, an acclaimed speaker series bringing the world's best scientists, explorers, authors, photographers, and filmmakers to the stage in thought-provoking presentations by today's leading explorers.

The spring 2020 lineup for National Geographic Live! includes wildlife cinematographer Shannon Wild, bioengineer Kakani Katija, award-winning photographer David Guttenfelder, and Egyptologist Kara Cooney. Shows will be held at the Hammer Theatre Center, 101 Paseo De San Antonio, San Jose.

For more information and tickets (\$30-\$45), the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com or call (408) 924-8501.

Extras needed for new 'Matrix 4' movie

Almaden residents who have ever dreamed of appearing in a Hollywood blockbuster featuring simulated gunfire, pyrotechnics, helicopters flying under 500 feet, here's your opportunity!

A "major" film, Matrix 4 under the code name of "Project Ice Cream" has begun filming in the Bay Area and will conclude shooting on March 1.

Casting is looking for a lot of extras of no particular look or type, and that extras with cars they're willing to bring to the shoot are welcome as well. If you're interested in becoming an extra on "Project Ice Cream" or other films and TV shows, you can create a profile and apply online at mycastingfile.com.

Extras must be available to work up to 12 hours or longer per day at the rate of \$124.72 per eight hours and must be over the age of 18 who have authorization to work in the U.S. You will be required to bring a photo ID, social security card, or passport to the movie set.

Bulb flowers are good gifts for your Valentine

Valentine's Day means flowers - and lots of them!

After all, nothing comes close to flowers as a declaration of love. Go ahead: be extravagant with your choice of dazzling tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and many more enchanting spring flowers. Celebrate love!

The colors of love

Red isn't the only color associated with love anymore. Today's flower trends are much more inclusive so there's no reason to limit your choice. Pick what you like. Or even better: listen to your heart! Choose from the season's most luscious flowers: from tulips to hyacinths, from daffodils to grape hyacinths. It's the perfect way to create the most personal gift of flowers you could imagine. And including one or more red tulips could never be wrong!



Pure love

Anything's possible - even when you keep it simple. What about a great big bunch of tulips in your sweetheart's favorite color? That's what we'd call pure love! A large vase filled with one or more kinds of daffodils would also make the perfect gift. Or choose beautiful bulb flowers all in a single color: blue irises, hyacinths and grape hyacinths. Stylish to say the least.

Make your love last

These spring flowers are also available as ready-potted bulbs. This makes it easy to fill up a big container. It's like giving a garden full of flowers. Fun to give and fun to receive. And your Valentine will enjoy them even longer. If you'd like to make something yourself, fill some little jars or mugs with a single ready-potted tulip and give them to your favorite friends and relatives. A small gesture, but one that says a lot! More flower gift ideas are available at: www.ilsaysays.com.

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Leadership lessons learned from Kobe

By Gino Blefari

Special to the Times

On the subject of sports, the biggest news as you know was the tragic passing of Lakers legend Kobe Bryant.

As the news outlets widely reported, Kobe died suddenly along with his daughter Gianna Bryant and seven other passengers aboard a helicopter that crashed on a Sunday morning into a hillside in Calabasas, California.

As the world mourns all those lives lost in the crash. And while we collectively grieve, there are patches of hope to be found in the important leadership lessons the basketball luminary left behind.

Kobe was an undeniable master of his sport. He was a five-time NBA Champion and the youngest player to ever start an NBA game at 18 years and 158 days old. At 18 years of age, Kobe was also the youngest Slam Dunk Contest winner when he took first place in the 1997 competition during All-Star Weekend. In his final NBA game, Kobe scored an incredible 60 points. He was also an 18-time NBA All-Star and a two-time Olympic gold medalist.

But even with his massive accomplishments, he made just as profound an impact off the court, especially through the development of his unique approach to sports, business and life. After watching Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill*, Kobe coined his own nickname, Black Mamba, which was code in the movie for the world's deadliest assassin. Inspired by the nickname, Kobe developed a mindset called "Mamba Mentality," applicable to any situation and every leader. Speaking with Amazon Book Review, Kobe defined the term: "Mamba Mentality is all about focusing on the process and trusting in the hard work when it matters most. It's the ultimate mantra for the competitive spirit."

Here are a few examples of Kobe's unrelenting Mamba Mindset:

1. He was a fierce competitor. Even during Kobe's high school years playing at Lower Merion in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, he would show up to practice at 5 a.m. and stay on the court for a solid two hours. He'd also play one-on-one games with his teammates ... to 100 points. (During his worst match-up, Business Insider says he still won 100-12.)

2. He never let anything—even injury—sideline him in the execution of his goals. During his years as a Lakers player, Kobe was always the first player in the gym, even when he was hurt. He once played left-handed because he had an injury to



his right hand and was determined not to let it keep him off the court.

3. He combined physical practice with mental motivation. He was a proponent of the mental aspect of the game; former Lakers teammate Shaquille O'Neill wrote in his book that Kobe would often practice dribbling and shooting without a ball and exhibit the same physical intensity as if he had a ball in his hands.

4. He was a student of continuous improvement. According to *Sports Illustrated*, in 2008 he requested Nike shave a few millimeters off the soles of his sneakers to get "a hundredth of a second better reaction time."

5. He believed in authenticity and the power of personal storytelling. "Be yourself," he once said to Bloomberg. "That's it. Be you. There's no gimmick. You don't have to contrive anything. Who are you? Where are you today? What is your story? And all you're doing is communicating that story to the public."

6. He was committed to accountability in leadership. Speaking with NBA TV, Kobe said in February of 2015: "There's a big misconception where people winning or success comes from everybody putting their arms around each other and singing 'Kumbaya' and patting them on the back when they mess up, and that's just not the reality. If you are going to be a leader, you are not going to please everybody. You have to hold people accountable, even if you have that moment of being uncomfortable."

7. He programmed the non-conscious portion of his brain to reject failure. To Showtime, Kobe explained: "When we are saying, 'This cannot be accomplished, this cannot be done,' then we are short-changing ourselves. My brain, it cannot process failure. It will not process failure. Because if I have to sit there and face myself and tell myself, 'You're a failure,' I think that is ... almost worse than death."

Gino Blefari is Chairman, HSF Affiliates LLC. ginoblefari@hsfranchise.com



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Hearing scheduled for the October 10, 2019 Evergreen School District Board of Trustees Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at 3188 Quimby Road, San Jose Re: THE AVAILABILITY OF TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS -2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR.

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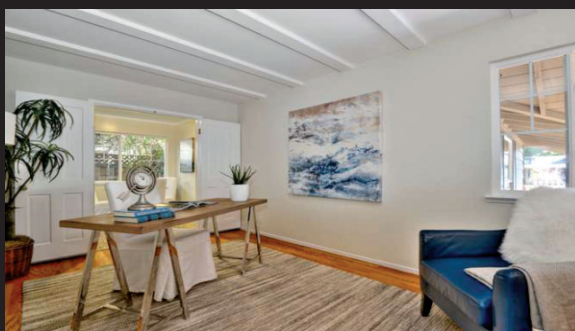
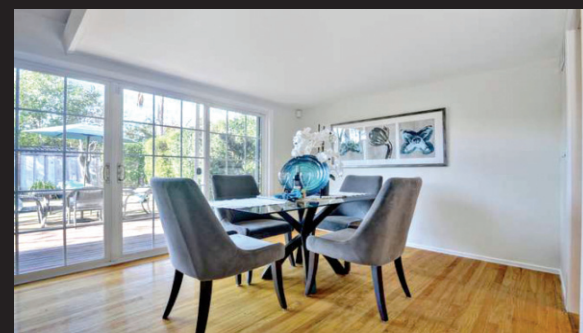
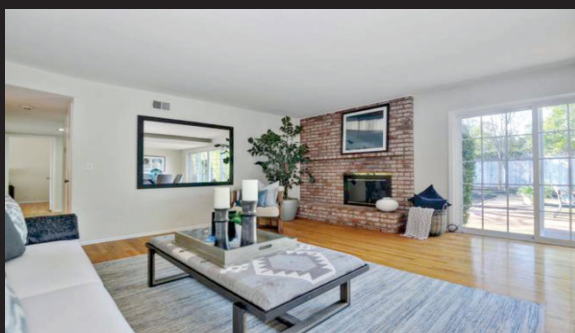
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