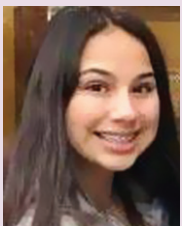


Local high school sophomore meets members of Congress in virtual leadership program **SEE PAGE 4**



Wildfires: how to help
As the fires are slowly brought under control, relief becomes more important
SEE PAGE 9

World Central Kitchen connects food to frontline firefighters battling local wildfires
SEE PAGE 15



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Almaden Times

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SEPT. 18 – OCTOBER 1, 2020 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 19

County of Santa Clara moves to the red tier on state's new Covid-19 framework

Additional businesses, activities will be allowed to resume

Santa Clara County has been moved from the Purple Tier (Tier 1) to the Red Tier (Tier 2) on the State's new COVID-19 blueprint.

Although counties assigned to the Red Tier are still experiencing "substantial spread" of COVID-19, the State's framework allows counties moving from the Purple to Red Tier to reopen indoor operations at some additional businesses and allows certain activities to resume. Appropriate protocols and protective measures must be strictly followed.

The following businesses and activities are now allowed to resume under the State's framework as well as the County's Risk Reduction Order. Businesses and activities must be in compliance with all industry-specific mandatory directives set forth by the County and State, including having a Social Distancing Protocol on file and displayed.

- Schools: K-12 schools can open after the County has been in the Red Tier for 14 days. All schools must follow mandatory guidance set by the County of Santa Clara and the State of California

- Personal care services: allowed to open indoors with modifications

- Museums, zoos, aquariums: allowed to open indoors at 25% capacity

- Gyms and fitness centers: allowed to open indoors at 10% capacity

- Shopping malls: allowed to

See TIER, page 6

Almaden student Adarsh Ambati wins the 2020 International Young Eco-Hero Award

Local teen receives top honor for contributions in solving environmental problems

Adarsh Ambati (inset) of Almaden is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action for Nature (AFN) as a 2020 International Young Eco-Hero.

Awarded annually, the Y.E.H. award recognizes eco-conscious youth for their creative initiatives aimed at tackling critical environmental challenges.

Young environmental activists from across the globe are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education.

For the past 17 years, the International Young Eco-Hero Awards have honored global youth in two categories – 8 to 12 years old and 13 to 16 years old – who are taking important steps to solve tough environmental prob-

lems. Since 2003, Action for Nature has recognized more than 275 young people from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

15-year-old Adarsh received the Innovator Award for his project, Smart Community Sprinkler System.

About Adarsh Ambati's Winning Project

Adarsh Ambati noticed that while harsh drought conditions have existed in his area for several years, many of his neighbors had automatic sprinklers dispersing precious and expensive water, regardless of weather conditions. In response, he developed a smart, low-cost, community sprinkler alert system that would conserve water that is often wasted during general-purpose landscape irrigation. Adarsh began working on his prototype in 2016, conducted a two-month pilot with

10 neighboring households, and found that these 10 homes had the potential to save 50,000 gallons of water over two months.

"Kids like Adarsh have shown that the next generation is refusing to simply stand on the sidelines and instead is turning its passion for helping the planet into projects that have tangible, positive impacts on the environment now," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature. "This international non-profit organization encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources

and to take personal action to better their environments. Young activists like Adarsh are shaping the world around them and inspiring other young people to take action to protect our Earth."



State ballot measures debated

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

State Ballot Measures, ranging from taxes to affirmative action, were strongly debated at a recent forum hosted by the Almaden Valley Community Association.

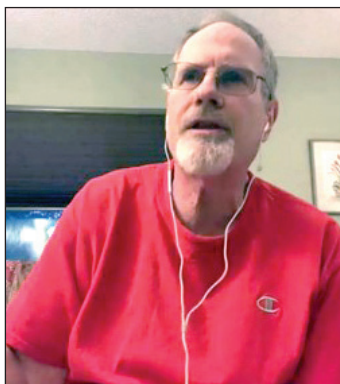
Prop. 15

California Proposition 15 would increase funding for public schools, community colleges and local governments. Local school districts, which would receive 40% of the generated revenue, would determine how to spend their funds. Local governments would receive the remaining 60%, which would go into their general funds.

If Prop. 15 passed, commercial and industrial properties valued at above \$3 million would be reassessed every three years based upon current market value, rather

than purchase price. Businesses with less than 50 employees would receive a \$500,000 tax exemption on personal property.

Brian O'Neill, a prior senior appraiser in the Santa Clara County assessor's office, spoke in favor
See MEASURES, page 20



Brian O'Neill said he supports Prop. 15 as a funding source for local schools and governments.



Orange in the sky

The sun image is a bright orange object with an orange-gray sky at 12:15 p. m. Wednesday, September 9 due to multiple layers of smoke high in the atmosphere. Ground level pollution is moderate with a temperature of only 67 degrees as a result of the smoke blocking the heat of the sun's rays. *Photo by Lou Alexander*

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER



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This magnificent custom smart home is one of four estates on an exclusive cul-de-sac adjacent to the Greystone Quarry in the Almaden Valley area of San Jose. Breathtaking views of large rock formations and Mount Umunhum.

Total privacy and tranquility yet just minutes to commute routes. The private property is a gallery of outdoor amenities including a custom kinetic sculpture, dramatic fountains and fire features, ironwork and a fire pit nestled amongst the trees, and more. *Remarkable setting!*

**For more photos and video go to
SiliconValleySmartHome.com**



Therese Swan

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The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 11 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2019 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home in 2020, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

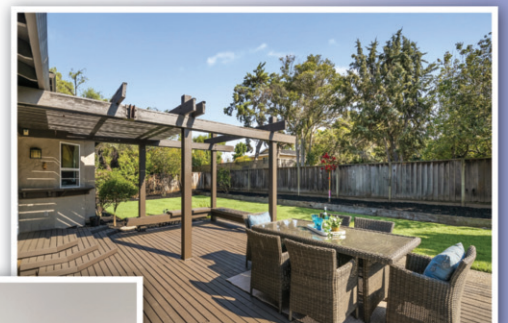


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Temporary eviction moratorium extended

The San Jose City Council has extended the temporary eviction moratorium to October 17, 2020, to align with the Proclamation of Local Emergency.

The moratorium prevents evictions based on non-payment of rent for tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Affected tenants must pay at least 50 percent of unpaid rent that accrues during the moratorium within 6 months of the end of the eviction moratorium. The remaining 50 percent must be paid within one year of the end of the moratorium.

Questions may be submitted to the Rent Stabilization Program at (408) 975-4480 or RSP@san-joseca.gov.



City of San Jose hiring Senior Park Ranger

The City of San José is hiring a full-time Senior Park Ranger.

Senior Park Rangers direct and organize personnel in day-to-day operations in the protection of parks, trails, recreation facilities and watersheds and to actively engage community members and neighborhoods within the City of San Jose.

The application deadline is September 28, 2020.

If you have questions, email: pam.helmke@sanjoseca.gov

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Valley Currents

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

Local high school sophomore meets members of Congress in virtual leadership program

Congressional Hispanic Caucus makes experience possible

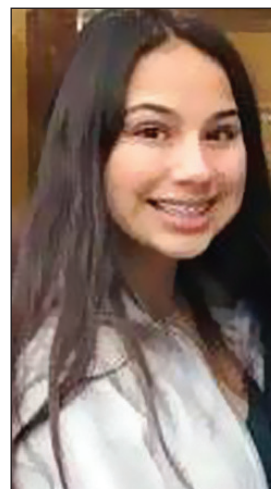
Paula Escobar, a high school sophomore from San Jose, was among 14 high school students from California to meet with members of Congress.

The meeting with Congress was made possible by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the nation's premiere Latino leadership development organization for its 10th annual R2L NextGen program.

Despite COVID-19 prohibiting students from traveling to Washington, D.C. for a weeklong program that focuses on civic engage-

ment, leadership, and college readiness, CHCI was able to offer students a transformational experience virtually.

Participants spent the month of July working on their personal and professional growth with a cohort of fellow young leaders. The virtual format allowed the inclusion of mentors, college recruiters, and speakers from across the country to share their stories and expertise with students. Participants also worked on a "census



President and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. The program participants

engagement" plan that will allow them to contribute to the census count in their community.

"I am grateful to our partner State Farm for supporting CHCI's mission to provide R2L NextGen participants with the tools, resources, and opportunities to help them attain their educational and leadership aspirations," said Marco Davis,

are eager, inspired, and excited to take on new challenges today that will help them create a better future for the nation."

The R2L NextGen program was created in partnership with founding sponsor State Farm™ in 2011. Over the past 10 years, State Farm has helped CHCI train 633 young Latino leaders.

Additional support is provided by Facebook; Bank of America; Edison International/Southern California Edison; Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company; The California Endowment; Phillips 66; and GEAR UP 4 LA.

Op Ed

Sixplexes coming to your neighborhood

The San Jose General Plan 2040 (GP2040) is the blueprint of how San Jose will grow in the future. One of the ambitious goals of GP2040 is to achieve financial solvency for the city by balancing job growth with housing growth.

For decades, San Jose has done the heavy lifting by building the majority of housing for the entire region, while neighboring cities enjoyed the benefits of this imbalance, and offered little in return. This created a significant inequity between San Jose and other cities in terms of tax dollars per resident, and produced a reality where San Jose struggles to provide basic city services while neighboring cities are able to provide superior services for their residents.

The current general plan has a smart growth strategy of locating new infill housing adjacent to transit and along major boulevards. San Jose consistently approves thousands of housing units, both market rate and low

income, designated for these strategic parcels. The other goal of the balanced equation, job creation, necessitates we reserve commercial and industrial parcels for future development, so San Jose has a sufficient tax base without having to constantly raise taxes every two years (or in the case of 2020, twice in the same year).

While GP2040 allows for higher density development in strategic locations, it also pledges to protect single-family home neighborhoods. When I served on the GP2040 task force for five years, I advocated for protecting established neighborhoods so higher density housing would be created where it most made sense, namely, along densely populated transit corridors. This policy was supported by the former planning director Joe Horwedel.

No community meetings or hearings are now required

The current GP2040 taskforce has decided to renege on this pledge, however, and voted on August 20 to start the process of converting single-family houses into fourplexes "by right," meaning, no community meetings or hearings would be required, and a house could simply be demolished and a fourplex could be constructed in its place. This proposal would be citywide and encompass all San Jose neighborhoods. Taken a step further, allowing a four unit complex to replace a single-family home could have an even broader impact on neighborhoods, as the same property may also have two ADU's

on site, creating six units instead of one.

Access to these units will be car dependent, since the bus system will never reach far-flung cul-de-sacs. State law does not allow cities to limit the number of cars per dwelling, thus automobiles associated with these six units would be competing for available street parking. Density where it was not planned creates chaos and conflict. Once implemented, how would we fix it? Answer: the impact would be irreversible.

When a family saved up to buy a single-family home, there was a promise made by the city in the zoning that their block would remain intact, even if San Jose continued to grow around them. These buyers did their due diligence, prior to purchase, and should not be forced to swallow such a drastic change to their neighborhood. This policy would result in a family being outbid on a house by a profit-motivated buyer who would stand to make significantly more money with 4 or 6 units than with a single-family house.

Instead of flipping the bird to approximately 180,000 San Jose homeowners, we should stick with the existing GP2040 which will produce housing units at a lower per unit cost and not denigrate the unique character of single-family home neighborhoods. If proponents are confident that this is truly beneficial for a majority of city residents, then the issue should appear on a future ballot for a citywide vote.

Pierluigi Oliverio

San Jose Planning Commissioner
Former San Jose Councilmember

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Back-to-school tips to help parents prepare

Back-to-school season, usually a time of exciting new beginnings, is evoking many different feelings for families this year: anxiety, uncertainty, and chaos, to name a few.

As schools are struggling to safely reopen, successfully hold fully virtual classes, and balance in-person and remote learning, parents have a lot more to prep for this year than ever before.

Brainly, the world's largest online learning and homework help community, has some back-to-school tips to help parents prepare for this unprecedented school year, regardless of their school or situation.

Back-to-school tips

1. Talk to your child about how this school year will be different. Be upfront about the situation and empower your child to make smart choices and do their part to help stop the spread. Things like handwashing, social distancing etiquette, and mask-wearing should be discussed. Having an open conversation and presenting all the facts will make both you and your child feel less anxious.

2. Create a learning command center. Spend some time creating a space in your home for your child to study or do homework. If you don't have a spare area, or if you have multiple children who want to work together, create a way to store school supplies in a cart or container that's portable and can be used at the

kitchen table or anywhere.

3. Build excitement and inspire positivity. While getting mentally prepared for this back-to-school season may be a particularly tough assignment for many people, it still deserves to be celebrated. Consider having a back-to-school themed TV marathon, creating an end-of-summer countdown with construction paper loops, or planning out a special breakfast for the first day.

4. Make face masks fun (and familiar). For those returning to in-person classes, have a mask for every day for your child, and make sure they like the mask and feel comfortable wearing it for extended periods of time. Cloth face masks come in countless patterns and colors, and kids can use them to express their personal style while staying safe. Pro tip: it's also smart to make sure kids have an extra mask in a plastic baggie every day just in case something happens to the first one.

5. Use tech tools to enhance learning. Students who are starting out the first part of their fall semester online may find themselves needing some extra help on assignments, and luckily there are plenty of safe online resources they can utilize. Brainly is a social online learning and homework help community that brings all the benefits of in-person study groups into a digital format. Dictionary.com is perfect for students needing

to look up definitions for vocabulary words, synonyms or antonyms, as well as wanting to expand their personal word bank with a word of the day. myHomework Student Planner app is a digital resource where students can input due dates of assignments, homework deadlines, and reminders for almost anything under the sun to help them stay on top of their work and feel confident in class.

6. Bake in time for social interactions and study breaks. Some students who are starting virtual classes may be feeling a little down about not getting to see their friends, but there are plenty of ways for them to still socialize with their friends. Encourage your kid to incorporate games into their Zoom calls. And during the school day at home, it's important to schedule regular breaks every hour or so.

7. Meal prep healthy lunches and snacks. Getting organized ahead of schedule makes all the difference in the world. There are tons of online resources for quick, easy, healthy snacks and lunch ideas for kids of all ages (and adults!) such as MealBoard, LaLa Lunchbox, or Cozi. Make things easier on yourself by prepping for the coming week on Sundays and having everything conveniently stored and ready-to-go in the fridge to help streamline school days.

Tier

Continued from page 1
open indoors at 50% capacity (previously open at 25% capacity)

Hair salons and barbershops were previously allowed to open indoors with reduced capacity as of August 31st. Indoor dining, indoor movie theaters, and indoor gatherings remain prohibited in Santa Clara County under the local Risk Reduction Order. Other activities that the County had previously allowed but the State had prohibited can now resume. The stricter of the State or local order always controls.

"We are pleased at this sign of progress in the fight against COVID-19, but we remind our residents that all local requirements involving the number of people who can enter a facility, face covering requirements, and social distancing protocols remain in effect," said James R. Williams, County Counsel for the County of Santa Clara. "It is critical that the businesses and activities that reopen today follow the public health directives so that we can maintain our community's progress in bringing down COVID-19 transmis-

sion."

Santa Clara County was originally placed in the most restrictive Purple Tier along with most other counties when the State switched from the monitoring list system to its current color-coded tier framework on August 28. The move to the Red Tier was based on daily case rates and test positivity. The State framework gives counties credit toward their case rate if they test more people than the state average. Using this calculation, the high number of tests performed in our area gave Santa Clara County a significant credit, allowing the County to move to the Red Tier.

If these metrics continue to improve, the County would be eligible to move forward in the framework to a less restrictive tier after three weeks. If these metrics worsen, the County would revert into a more restrictive tier as soon as two weeks from now. For more information about the State framework, visit covid19.ca.gov.

For more information on the local public health order and directives, visit www.scc.gov/coronavirus.

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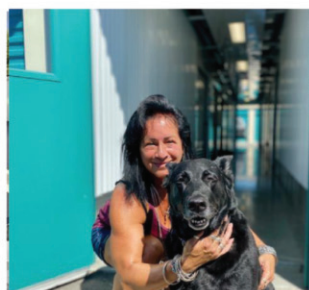
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DF-CD-NP-Q320

Times **Community News**

Wildfire relief: how you can help

San José Fire Department has received many generous offers of donations for firefighters combating the wildland fires and they are extremely grateful.

A friendly wave, smile, and thank you are great ways to show your support for our hardworking firefighters.

Firefighters recommend that residents consider donating to the victims of the fires.

Red Cross Donations

You can help fire victims through a monetary donation to the Red Cross, www.redcross.org/donate. The Red Cross cannot accept unsolicited material donations. Businesses wishing to make an in-kind donation of materials should go to: www.redcross.org/contact-us/in-kindform.html

www.redcross.org/contact-us/in-kindform.html

Red Cross Volunteer Opportunities: For those who wish to donate their time, visit the Red Cross website for information on how to become a volunteer: www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html.

San Mateo & Santa Clara County Fire Relief Fund

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation San Mateo & Santa Clara County Fire Relief Fund is another effort you may consider supporting. Donations to this fund will support nonprofit organizations based in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties that are working directly with individuals and families who have been harmed by this disaster.

For more information, visit: www.siliconvalleycf.org/san-mateo-santa-clara-fire-relief



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South Bay student pivots non-profit to assist local communities

Arun Mommileti harnesses flexibility and creativity to help save lives

By William Bellou
Publisher

Arun Mommileti, a rising senior at The King's Academy, is passionate about neuroscience, the medical field, and public health education as well as entrepreneurship.

In 2017, he launched a nonprofit known as United2Care to help spread hand sanitation awareness to rural communities around the world.

So far, United2Care has spearheaded several projects in India and Kenya, spreading their message to more than 30 schools and has grown to be a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Arun and his team were planning many hand sanitation projects through several schools with service trips this spring, but most of their plans were canceled due to COVID-19.

All of Arun's organizations' hard work fundraising, planning and organizing their summer projects were all down the drain. That got Arun thinking, "Is there any way I can change the focus of our projects this year and address the ongoing covid19 pandemic?"

Arun pivots non-profit to help local communities during pandemic

After careful research and planning, Arun decided to launch the STOP COVID19 AT HOME project (partnering with another local nonprofit, MiOra) and an array of other projects this summer that have made a substantial impact in the bay area.

United2Care's STOP COVID19 AT HOME project revolves around building and distributing COVID-19 prevention kits across the Bay area to testing sites. Each kit includes the following:

- Two adjustable clear face shields
- 10 FDA surgical masks
- a portable curtain
- a fillable contact tracer sheet with a link to the Department of Health contact tracing resources
- a multi-language COVID-19 infographic for home display
- CPR kits

So far, Arun and his team have distributed over 60 kits, with more than 1,000 contents valued at around \$2,500, to Oakland at Risk and Valley Medical Foundation, impacting more than 1,500 people.

Arun plans on expanding the project with MiOra this school year and hopes to launch it on a national level.

"So far, we have fundraised over \$5,000 through gofundme, and we are currently looking for company sponsorships to fund our second wave of COVID-19 prevention kits," Arun said.

Also, this summer, United2Care launched two more COVID-19 and hand sanitation awareness projects.

1) United2Care partnered with The Literacy Initiative, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, to host an e-camp course to younger children explaining the global importance of hand-washing to slow the spread of COVID-19.



Arun Mommileti founder of United2Care launches a hand sanitation project in Joska Kenya during a medical relief camp in 2019. The organization, founded in the South Bay, has more than 200 ambassadors globally. (Courtesy photo)

2) United2Care launched a webinar series on their Instagram where the organization talks in-depth to healthcare professionals about the growing COVID-19 pandemic for the high school audience. Recently, Arun interviewed Dr. Jacob Glannville, a world-renowned researcher who potentially has discovered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Katharine Miller, Dr. Ozlem Equils, Dr. Enoch Choi, and Dr. Maya Adam were also interviewed.

Kenya trip

Arun made a trip to Kenya in 2019 where he went with Jordan International Aid to a medical relief camp and spoke with residents about the importance of handwashing and distributed more than a thousand bars of soap.

"When I gave a soap bar to each of the children, seeing their faces delight in joy and take so much appreciation in it, it really spoke volumes to me and inspired me to try to make United2Care bigger," Arun said. "I know who I'm impacting now."

Early beginnings

Arun's global campaign began as a middle school project when his science teacher asked students to choose a social problem in the world to write about. At first Arun struggled with what to pick, but his research led him to a few places that mentioned the importance of hand sanitization which piqued his interest. Arun's dad also related several accounts of unsanitary conditions in parts of India. Arun's plan was to launch a few awareness projects to explain the importance of handwashing, "but when we launched this project, I really saw our potential and I wanted to expand," he said.

Arun says "In the future I hope to expand United2Care and bring it to new heights. I believe that as we grow we can eventually save thousands of lives!"

If you want you can help Arun and United2Care's STOP COVID19 AT HOME PROJECT through company partnerships and corporate sponsorships for a second wave of kit funding.

To check out United2Care's work follow their Instagram @united2care or check out their website united2care.org.

'What's up with all the weeds?'

By Johnny Khamis
City Councilmember

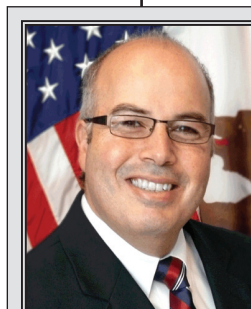
Many of you have written to our office asking about the landscape conditions as there is noticeable weed growth in many areas – "why do we have so many overgrown parcels of City land, and why it is taking so long for the City to address it, if it ever does?" is the gist of the questions.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) maintains nearly 40 million square feet of landscape City-wide. These parcels are divided into different categories based on their physical condition and how maintenance for specific areas are funded. The source of funding determines maintenance frequency and expectations.

In 2017, DOT, along with many jurisdictions, discontinued the use of glyphosate (the chemical found in Roundup brand weed control) due to publicized health and safety concerns. Glyphosate is a cost-effective pre-emergent (a substance which inhibits the growth of weeds) and alternative products have not yet proven to be as effective, although DOT continues to research

and investigate new products and methods.

The global pandemic and corresponding regional shelter-in-place (SIP) orders added further hurdles to the City's maintenance routine. In order to comply with the order, DOT's in-house landscape team and landscape contractors shifted from providing routine maintenance to only focusing on high priority and emergency service requests. While staff and contractors have returned to performing routine maintenance, they will need time to address backlogs. If you would like an update about a specific location, please contact Manuel Cota, Principal Construction Inspector with DOT, at Manuel.Cota@sanjoseca.gov.



District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

Landscape services have traditionally faced budget challenges, which will be exacerbated due to COVID-19 and the accompanying economic turmoil and its impact on City tax revenues. DOT is committed to continuing to provide efficient and effective services given the resources available, and seeks opportunities to expand its services where possible.

AI SPECTRA BOOTCAMP

Taught by UC Berkeley AI4ALL alumni in partnership with the National Center for Women in Technology (NCWIT) and LITAS Learn for Girls.

Who can apply?: 6th - 9th grade girls/non-binary students in the US (Please only apply if you can attend both days)
Deadline to apply : September 20th
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/aispectraBootcamp>

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Designed specifically for young women, this virtual boot camp will explore applications of Artificial Intelligence at the cross-sections of the sciences and humanities. Our boot camp includes hands-on activities in the following areas (Introduction to AI, AI and Art/Music, AI and Fashion, and AI in the Environment) and a panel consisting of various speakers currently working in AI and STEM.

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley names Wymer President and CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley (BGCSV) will soon have a new CEO.

The organization conducted their search process with the assistance of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's CEO Search Team and following their work the BGCSV Board of Directors unanimously named Steve Wymer as the next President & CEO effective September 21.

As President & CEO, Steve will serve as the organization's primary ambassador, leading strategic direction, overseeing organizational operations, financials, programming, brand reputation, talent recruitment, resource development, and stakeholder relationships. In partnership with his team, Steve will oversee the organization's 14 locations and report to BGCSV Board Chair, Kathy Hevland.

"In the midst of unprecedented and challenging times, the programs and services the Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley offer are needed more than ever," said Kathy Hevland, Chair, Board of Directors, Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley. "After several months partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to find the next President and CEO of our organization, the Board unanimously concluded that Steve Wymer is the right leader to step into this critical leadership role as our entire region

seeks to serve those in need. Children and teens face ever-increasing challenges in Silicon Valley and I am excited to partner with Steve with a singular focus on growing our Clubs to have an even greater impact for those in need."

Wymer brings a diverse array of experiences to Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley. Prior to his tenure in technology, he served as a senior advisor to three Senators in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C., as well as time as an advisor on the staff of the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee. Steve was elected President of the bipartisan U.S. Senate Press Secretaries Association in 2010. During his time in Washington, he also served the U.S. Department of State on multiple occasions as a delegate to Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Albania where he spoke at universities, conducted workshops, and led trainings for political activists and journalists throughout each country.

In 2011, Steve left Washington, D.C. for Silicon Valley where he joined TiVo Inc. Through-



Steve Wymer

out his five years at TiVo, Steve lead corporate affairs and communications and immersed himself in the South Bay community. Upon leaving TiVo, Steve served in executive roles at Nextdoor.com where he led communications and policy, and eBay, where he led global communications and chaired the company's corporate foundation.

Steve graduated Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow College of Communication where he was a Thomas S. Foley Scholar. As undergraduate, Steve served an unprecedented three terms as student body president from 1998-2001, leveraging his tenure to drive a cadre of policy reforms and facility and service improvements that continue to benefit students to this day. In 2008, he completed graduate studies in business and political negotiations at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said, "I am thrilled to see a person as energetic, uplifting, and capable as Steve step into this role. Steve can take this critically important organization—

and the thousands of vulnerable children that Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley serves—to the next level. Steve has a long-standing passion and track record for helping children overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and his combination of integrity and extensive private-sector executive experience will make the Boys & Girls Clubs a powerful force for good."

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity for my job to meet my purpose. As a father of four young children, my commitment to helping shape responsible, kind, community leaders in my own home is the most important job I will ever have," Wymer said. "Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of young people in Silicon Valley face increasingly daunting challenges navigating access to equal opportunity, affordable housing, food insecurity, and more. I could not be more inspired to serve in this capacity, work with the incredible BGCSV team, and lead the charge in our Valley to serve our young people. I plan to humbly challenge our community leaders, my friends and colleagues in the business community, and myself on a daily basis to play an even bigger role in supporting BGCSV's mission to empower and equip young people in need. I've never been more fired up to make an impact."

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Times **Community News****Councilmember Khamis organizing multiple opportunities for residents to help clean up problem areas in District 10**

District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis is organizing multiple opportunities for residents to help clean up problem areas in the district.

Khamis' office is focusing on the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Highway 85, as well as other spots where illegal dumping is prevalent. He plans to announce details of the cleanups on his social media channels and via Nextdoor.

Refresher training available for Community Emergency Response Team graduates

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is reaching out to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduates to sign up for the up-coming virtual refresher training.

The 4-hour series CERT Refresher training will review Light Search and Rescue, CERT Organization, and Disaster Psychology.

The training will generally run 1.5 hours long, that will include utilization of our virtual training platform ZOOM and interactive Q&A.

1. Light Search and Rescue Wednesday, September 30 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
2. CERT Organization Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
3. Disaster Psychology Wednesday, October 7 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Those participating must register to participate in the CERT training and must receive an email confirmation with the virtual training instructions in order to attend classes.

For more information about the virtual refresher training, contact: SJCERT@san-joseca.gov.

Bureau of Automotive Repair adopts emergency regulations to increase assistance to consumers impacted by Covid-19

Eligible consumers may receive up to \$1,200 in emissions-related repairs

The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) has adopted emergency regulations updating the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) to increase assistance contributions available to consumers during the ongoing state of emergency in California.

The regulations increase the state's contribution toward emissions-related repairs from a maximum of \$500 to \$1,200 for eligible consumers.

"The effects of COVID-19 have created many challenges for consumers that may negatively impact their ability to pay for emissions-related repairs required to pass Smog Check and complete the Department of Motor Vehicles' registration renewal process," said BAR Chief Patrick Dorais. "BAR sought the emergency regulatory action to improve access to required repairs and ensure critical workers and individuals reentering the workforce have reliable and safe transportation."

CAP offers eligible consumers repair assis-

tance and vehicle retirement options to help improve California's air quality. The repair assistance option offers income-eligible consumers assistance towards emissions-related repairs at a STAR test-and-repair station if their vehicle fails its Smog Check inspection.

In addition to the increased state contribution, the regulations modify the consumer copay structure and relax some vehicle registration related eligibility requirements.

For more information, visit the Consumer Assistance Program page at www.bar.ca.gov.

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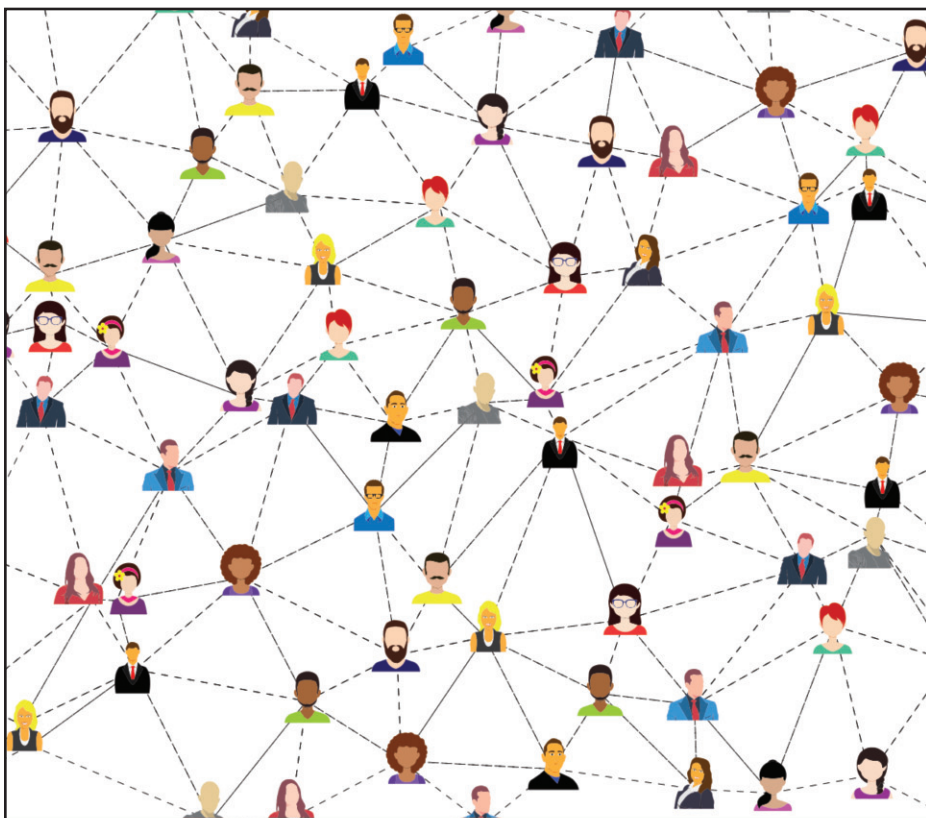
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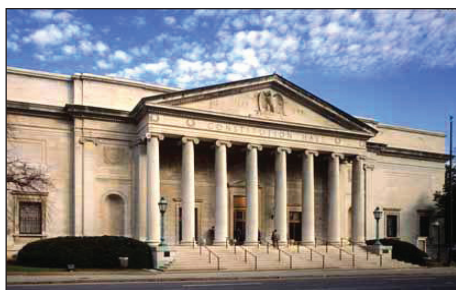


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Times **Community News**



DAR Constitution Hall welcomes more than a half a million patrons each year. The Hall was designated a National Historic Landmark Building in 1985.

CELEBRATE THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA DAR promotes Constitution Week: Sept. 17-23

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution urges Americans to reflect on the United States Constitution during this month's annual observance in honor this foundational document of national governance.

"There are two documents of paramount importance to American history: the Declaration of Independence, which forged our national identity, and the United States Constitution, which set forth the framework for the federal government that functions to this day," said DAR President General Denise Doring VanBuren. "While Independence Day is a well-recognized and beloved national holiday, fewer people know about Constitution Week, an annual commemoration of the living document that upholds and protects the freedoms central to our American way of life."

The DAR initiated the observance in 1955, when the service organization petitioned the U.S. Congress to dedicate September 17–23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. Congress adopted the resolution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915. The celebration's goals are threefold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America's great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens' responsibility to protect, defend and preserve the U.S. Constitution.

DAR has been the foremost advocate for the awareness, promotion and celebration of Constitution Week. The annual observance provides innumerable opportunities for educational initiatives and community outreach, two mission areas of crucial importance to the National Society. By fostering knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Constitution and the inalienable rights it affords to all Americans, DAR helps to keep alive the memory of the men and women who secured our nation's foundational liberties.

"In communities across America, Daughters will erect hundreds of community displays, sponsor municipal proclamations, ring bells and stage programs to raise awareness of the Constitution's tenets and importance.

We invite everyone to join us in celebrating this powerful document, which has enabled our democracy within a republic for more than two centuries. We hope that all Americans will learn more about the Constitution and its immense impact on our nation," VanBuren said.

One of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, DAR has more than 185,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more.

For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit www.dar.org.

EVC, SJCC faculty among most diverse in nation

Students returning to virtual classrooms at Evergreen Valley College (EVC) and San José City College (SJCC) are being taught by some of the most diverse faculty in the nation, according to new data from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Chronicle's "Diversity Index," which was published recently, ranks "colleges with the greatest racial and ethnic diversity among faculty members." EVC ranks No. 4 and SJCC No. 5 nationally among all two-year public institutions. This marks the second straight year that both colleges ranked among the top seven.

"While we certainly benefit from being located in one of the most diverse regions in the country, we have also been very intentional with our faculty recruitment process in order to ensure that we are identifying the most highly qualified and talented faculty possible to fill our available positions," said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, San José – Evergreen Community College District chancellor. "By taking steps to ensure we recruit diverse applicant pools, we are able to hire the best and brightest faculty from throughout the nation and world."

According to research, having a faculty comprised of instructors who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the students they teach is beneficial for multiple reasons. One study of more than 1,000 college students conducted for the PhD Project found that more than 90 percent of minority students indicated that studying under a minority professor had a positive impact on their education. A more recent study published in 2018 concluded that graduation rates for minority students are positively affected by increased diversity of their faculty.

"Representation matters," Chancellor Breland said. "It's important that our students have educational role models and an opportunity to learn from faculty from a variety of backgrounds."

The Chronicle of Higher Education's Diversity Index measures "the probability that any two full-time instructional faculty members at an institution are from different racial or ethnic groups."

Times **Community News**

Community Heroes: World Central Kitchen connects food to frontline firefighters battling local wildfires

World Central Kitchen (WCK) uses the power of food to heal communities and strengthen economies in times of crisis and beyond, including providing food for frontline firefighters battling local wildfires.

"It's truly an honor to be able to serve firefighters during this difficult time. Being able to provide hot and ready meals to folks who have been working 24 hours a day to battle wildfires makes me happy to be doing my part" says Sam Chapple-Sokol, who has been activated to help serve meals through World Central Kitchens (WCK) disaster relief work in California.

When disaster strikes, WCK's Chef Relief Team mobilizes to the frontlines with the urgency of now to start cooking and provide meals to people in need. Through different partnerships, WCK has developed across the nation; their teams have been able to jump into action to respond to multiple disasters at once. Currently, WCK is providing support to California's wildfires while preparing to shift their disaster relief workers to aid the Texas/Louisiana areas with hurricane relief.

However, their presence helping others in this area isn't ending. WCK also provides foods to our local vulnerable communities through the Great Plates Delivered (GPD) program. GPD provides meals to those in



need with the coordination of local restaurants. Through this program, Santa Clara County has helped vulnerable populations and introduced new economic opportunities to local establishments.

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) uses food to connect and help communities during times of need. WCK is currently providing food for

frontline firefighters battling local wildfires.

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen uses food to connect and help communities during times of need. "With food, our team is providing hope and comfort to people in times of crisis. We will continue to support communities throughout the nation with much-needed meals," Chapple-Sokol said.

Additional information about World Central Kitchen, can be found at wck.org/programs, or email info@wck.org.

For information on how you can access and find food resources in your neighborhood, visit bit.ly/SCCFoodMap. You can also visit siliconvalleystrong.org, call 2-1-1, a 24-hour multilingual service or text your zip code to 898211.

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Times **Community News**



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'Daily Scouter' app created for Scouts by Scout

Dhruv Agarwal, a Life Scout from Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council's Troop 296, has developed an app called the Daily Scouter.

The new app can be used by Scouts and their parents for scheduling and registering for events such as campouts, service projects, troop meetings, and making announcements to the troop. Additionally, it tracks merit badges, ranks, meeting attendance, service hours, and camping nights.

Dhruv decided to create this app as the troop had traditionally used paper sheets to sign up for events, making it challenging to track event signups in real-time. Furthermore, the scouts had no easy way to track their service hours or camping nights. Working with his Scoutmaster Mr. Richard Sanow, Dhruv brainstormed the key features that would help the scouts and parents in the troop, and then implemented those requirements into the app.

Troop 296 has been using this app over the past few months, and helped further fine-tune the app's interface and implementation. The troop has been very pleased with the benefits of having an app for tracking their events, signups and progress. With the successful use of the app by Troop 296, the app is now available for wider use by all Troops.

The app is developed using enhanced security provided by Google's Flutter and Firebase platforms along with Amazon Web Services (AWS) for sending emails. It is available for both iOS and Android platforms.

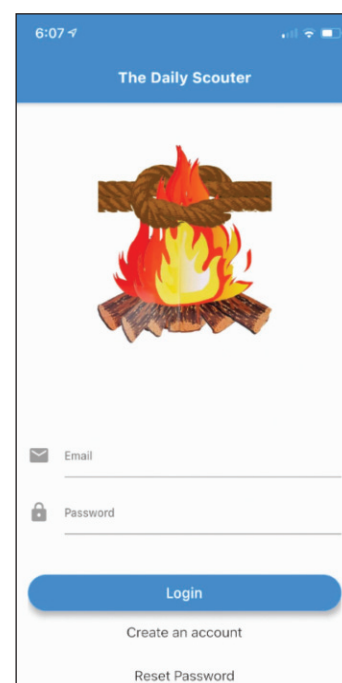
To download the app, search for "Daily



Life Scout **Dhruv Agarwal**

Scouter" on Apple's App Store or Google's Play Store.

The app can be seen in action at dailyscouter.com. To get your troop added to the app, send an email to dailyscouter@gmail.com with your council name, troop # and scoutmaster's email.



Tech Jargon of the week Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this "techie" word – and even after you've broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there's no need to sweat it. Let us teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words: Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

Let's start with understanding Virtual Reality (VR). There are high chances that you will probably never be able to go to the Moon, run with the cheetahs, witness all the Seven Wonders of the World etc. What if I told you that you shall be able to do all these things plus visit some impossible places without leaving your home! Surprised? That's the beauty of Virtual Reality or simply VR. VR is a way to immerse users in an entirely virtual world.

The new technology in VR uses closed visors or goggles to block out the room and put your presence somewhere else, either in a place in the real world or some imaginary computer-created world. Putting a VR headset over your eyes will leave you blind to the

current world, but will expand your senses with experiences within. The immersion is actually quite dramatic, with some users reporting feelings of movement as they ascend a staircase or ride a rollercoaster within the virtual environment.

Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR, Google cardboard etc. are some of the common examples of VR these days.

So what is Augmented Reality then? Augmented Reality or simple AR is a live, direct view of your own physical environment with elements augmented by computer-generated sensory input such as sound, video, graphics or GPS data. A real life example is a table being developed by IKEA that would suggest recipes based on the ingredients kept on the table. Augmented reality takes our current reality and adds something to it. It does not move us elsewhere. It simply "augments" our current state of presence, often with clear visors.

Augmented and virtual reality have one big thing in common. They both have the remarkable ability to alter our perception of the world. Where they differ, is the perception of our presence. For example, with VR you can swim with the sharks. And with AR, you can watch a shark pop out of your business card.

Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.

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Times **Community News****IN MEMORY****Jamileh Saad Shaheen**

August 27, 1929 –
September 7, 2020
Resident of Almaden

Jamileh, also known by many as Julie, was born and raised in Birzeit, Palestine (in the occupied West Bank); the Holy Land. She was born to loving parents, Suliman and Aziza, and was the 6th of 7 children.

Jamileh was sent to Ein Arik, a nearby village, to teach elementary school and it was there that she met her late husband Peter Essa Shaheen at the church where he played the organ and led the choir. Jamileh and Peter were married, moved to Jerusalem where they had three of their four children, and eventually moved to Jericho for Peter's work with the United Nations.

Peter and Jamileh immigrated to Pittsburgh, PA in 1955, where they had their fourth child and Jamileh worked with Peter in their grocery store. They ultimately settled in San Jose, CA in 1970, where they enjoyed the beautiful weather and the abundance of fruit trees in their Almaden Valley home, reminiscent of the old country. They raised four children and doted on their seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. They were married for 57 years before Peter passed away in 2008.

Jamileh was a talented seamstress/tailor and worked at Sear's for several years. She was also known for her delicious home cook-

ing and baking. Her home was always open for parties, meals, and card games with her immediate and very large extended family spread around the world and her many friends. No one could leave Jamileh's house feeling hungry or without a package of food to go!

Jamileh was a brilliant storyteller and you would hear laughter and love spilling from her home while she rolled countless pots of stuffed grape leaves. She was truly a force to be reckoned with, fiercely loyal and always passionately giving sage advice. Jamileh was a legend – anyone connected to the Shaheen family considered her their "Tata Julie". Her generosity, wisdom, and unconditional love for her

family will never be forgotten. Jamileh's strong faith was her guiding light and she was a devoted parishioner of Holy Spirit Catholic Church for over 40 years.

Jamileh is survived by her children, daughter Victoria (Bill-deceased), sons Victor (Amal), Henry (Mary-deceased), and Richard; grandchildren Andrea (Greg), Peter (Jamie), Chris, Nicole (Jens), Jaclyn (Tom), Jami (Mathew), and Jordan; and great-grandchildren William, Sara, Nikolaus, Breanna, Noah, Austin, Jaxon, Eliana, George, Mathew, and Sophie. She is also survived by her brothers-in-law Paul (Kay) Shahin and John (Nora) Shahin, sisters-in-law Tarez (Issa-deceased) Saad Shahin and Mary (David) David, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Private viewing and funeral services for the immediate family will be held at Lima-Campagna-Alameda Mission Chapel and Holy Spirit church with burial to follow at Santa Clara mission cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Loaves & Fishes in San Jose.

**Report: States with most at-risk youth**

With about one in nine young Americans today neither working nor in school, exposing them to greater risk of poverty and violence, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2020's States with the Most At-Risk Youth, as well as accompanying videos.

To determine where young Americans are not faring as well as others in their age group, especially in a year made extremely stressful by the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 16 key indicators of youth risk. The data set ranges from share of disconnected youth to labor force participation rate among youth to youth poverty rate.

At-Risk Youth in California (1=Most at Risk; 25=Avg.):

- 20th – % of Disconnected Youth
 - 35th – % of Youth Without a High School Diploma
 - 30th – % of Overweight & Obese Youth
 - 16th – % of Youth Drug Users
 - 4th – Youth Labor Force Participation Rate
 - 38th – Youth Poverty Rate
 - 1st – % of Homeless Youth
- For the full report, please visit:
<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-most-at-risk-youth/37280>

First U.S. study of COVID-19

New research from Houston Methodist has concluded that plasma transfusions from recovered COVID-19 patients are a safe and somewhat effective treatment option for people dealing with coronavirus symptoms.

The study, published in The American Journal of Pathology, shows that out of 25 patients given a transfusion, 19 saw their condition improve and 11 were discharged.

This was the first U.S. convalescent plasma transfusion trial, and participating patients saw no negative or adverse side effects after receiving plasma. Some smaller studies conducted on blood plasma transfusions for COVID-19 patients have all come to similar conclusions.

This treatment approach for viral diseases certainly isn't new; blood transfusions were used in the same way during the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918, and more recently during the 2003 SARS pandemic, the 2009 influenza H1N1 outbreak, and the 2015 Ebola outbreak in Africa.

All of the plasma transfusions given for this trial were done on an emergency basis for patients in critical condition. With that in mind, the study's authors say much more research is needed before the therapeutic effects of convalescent serum therapy can be determined.

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Times **Feature**

MOVIE REVIEW



Alex Winter and **Keanu Reeves** return for a new rocking adventure in *Bill & Ted Face the Music*.
Source: Orion Pictures

Bill and Ted's Most Triumphant Return: Bill and Ted Face the Music

By **Joshua Kim**
Special to the Times

Be excellent to each other! These immortal words from 1989's *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* seem as relevant as ever in the troubled times we are living in.

Since its release 30 years ago *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* has continued to be watched and re-watched by old and new fans alike because of its magical blend of wackiness, absurd humor, and eminently quotable dialogue.

The newest addition to the franchise, *Bill and Ted Face the Music* successfully recaptures the magic of the first film, while bringing to the table a host of fresh and interesting concepts.

Bill and Ted Face the Music introduces us to a much older Bill (Alex Winters) and Ted (Keanu Reeves), who have settled down with the Princesses (Jayma Mays and Erinn Hayes) and have two adult daughters, Thea (Samara Weaving) and Billie (Brigitte Lundy-Paine).

In the intervening time since the last film, *Bill and Ted's* band Wyld Stallyns has fizzled out despite their constant efforts, the pair is on the verge of rethinking the future of their band and lives. They soon learn however, that the world is in danger if they are unable to produce their destined song that will bring the world together. Unconfident in their ability to produce this song by the deadline, Bill and Ted decide to travel through time in order to locate the song. In addition, Thea and Billie also travel through time to recruit famous musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Mozart who they hope can assist both their dads in producing the song.

The new aspect of *Bill and Ted Face the Music* that I loved the most are the daughters, Thea and Billie. With the formerly young and naive Bill and Ted grown up,

Thea and Billie effortlessly slide in effortlessly to fill the gap. From their speech to their body movements, Samara Weaving and Brigitte Lundy-Paine portray perfectly what one would expect the daughters of Bill and Ted to be. Lundy-Paine deserves recognition for her great performance. In addition, the daughters allow for some genuinely heartfelt moments with their dads and bring a sense of closure to Bill and Ted's story, in what is expected to



be the final film of the franchise.

Bill and Ted Face the Music also contains many Easter eggs and the return of characters from the franchise, many of which pleasantly surprised me. Fans of the franchise will undoubtedly appreciate the winks and nods the film makes to past films, which are incorporated in creative ways.

Overall, *Bill and Ted Face the Music* is a worthy addition to the *Bill and Ted* franchise which I highly recommend to any fan of the previous films. It is also the perfect opportunity for new fans to be introduced to the franchise.

Bill and Ted Face the Music is available for purchase and rental on all major video platforms and is the perfect film to watch at home for those weary of visiting a theatre.

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Anonymous man gives words of advice as he faces last days in hospital

He believed strongly in honoring all people of all races and religions

By Kevin Larsen
Special to the Times

The following was stated by a brilliant individual who recently passed in an effort to help others. This person led a private life and thus the name is kept anonymous.

Words of wisdom spoken as a gift

"When a person goes into the hospital, he will realize that there is one book that he has yet to finish reading: 'The Book of LIFE'. Whichever stage in life we are at right now, at a certain time, we face the day when the curtain comes down.

I treasure my love for my children, my love for my spouse, and my love for my good friends. Here are some important words to uplift those who wish to read and reflect upon them.

Remove all forms of hatred and fear, even if it means loving those that hate you. Treat yourself well, Cherish others for as we grow older and hence wiser, we slowly realize that wearing a \$300 or \$30 watch, well, they both tell the same time. Whether we carry a \$300 or \$30 wallet/handbag well, the amount of money inside is the same. Whether we drive a \$150,000 car or a \$30,000 car well, the road and distance are the same and we get to the same destination don't we. Whether we drink a bottle

"Cherish others for as we grow older and hence wiser, we slowly realize that wearing a \$300 or \$30 watch, well, they both tell the same time."

of \$300 or \$10 wine, well the hangover is the same isn't it. Whether the house we live in is 300 or 3000 sq. ft, well, the loneliness is the same.

You will realize your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether we fly first or economy class, if the plane goes down – we all go down. Where we go one, we go all.

As I lie on this hospital bed facing my last days, I say to you to humbly consider these words. When you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, sing songs with, share poems, dreams and visions with, talk about the East and the West or heaven and earth with that is the true happiness!!!

ness!!!

Six Undeniable Facts of Life:

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2. Teach your children to always think of others better than yourself. Love your enemies and be willing to die for them. This is True Power!

3. Best awarded words in China...'Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise, you have to eat medicines as your food.'

4. The Ones who love you will never leave you for another because even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find

one reason to hold on.

5. There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it.

6. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!

NOTE: If you just want to Walk Fast, Walk Alone! But if you want to Walk Far, Walk Together!

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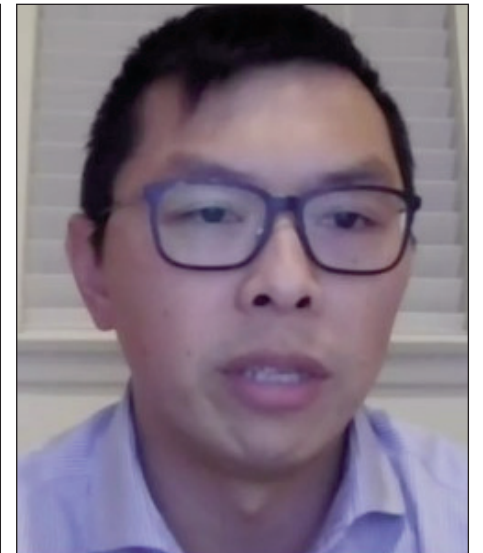
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Almaden Times



Dan Kostenbauder is against Prop. 15 as he said raising taxes could result in businesses leaving rather than investing in California.



Yin Ho is against Prop. 19 as he said the tax increase would be a burden on children inheriting properties.

Measures

Continued from page 1

of Prop. 15. He was contested by Dan Kostenbauder, vice president of tax policy for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

O'Neill said large corporations "not paying their fair share" have left California schools behind with overcrowded classrooms and a lack of counselors, librarians and nurses.

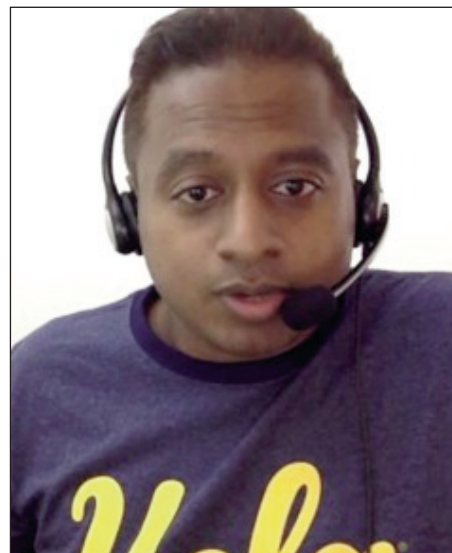
"Prop 15 closes a four-decade-old commercial property tax loophole, which a handful of large corporations and wealthy investors have taken advantage of," O'Neill said. "We can address a lot of problems by just changing this loophole that will only affect about 10% of properties."

Kostenbauder said raising taxes would hurt small businesses which rent their premises, and will be hurt by Prop 15 as tenants with triple net leases are responsible for tax increases.

"Minority owned businesses especially...won't be able to afford a tax increase," Kostenbauder said.

He said raising taxes would result in businesses leaving rather than investing in California.

"We have among the highest personal income tax, corporate tax and sales tax rates in the country," Kostenbauder said, "and adding Prop. 15...will only make it more difficult."



Vijay Ingam said Prop. 16 isn't required to have diversity in universities and government jobs.

Prop. 16

California Proposition 16 would permit diversity to enter into decision-making policies for public employment, education and contracting. Factors such as sex, color, ethnicity and national origin could be considered. Prop. 16 would repeal Prop. 209 and the ban on Affirmative Action. Prop. 209 said government and public institutions could not discriminate based upon race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

Vijay Ingam, a diversity recruiter for underprivileged minority students, spoke against Prop. 16. Unfortunately, there was not a representative available to speak in favor of the proposition.

A pro argument presented in the official voter information guide by the California Secretary of State said Prop. 16 expands equal opportunity, increasing access to fair wages, good jobs, and quality schools.

"Prop. 16 fights wage discrimination and systemic racism, opening up opportunities for women and people of color," the pro argument said. Prop. 16 is supported by the League of Women Voters of California, California Federation of Teachers and Minority Business Consortium.

Ingam said Prop. 16 would allow different rules for different races in determining who gets into state colleges and universities and hired for state and government jobs.

"It's simply unfair because it doesn't treat people equally based upon their race, gender or ethnic background," Ingam said.

Ingam, who is of Indian descent, said he was accepted into medical schools in 1988 despite his poor GPA because he posed as an African American. He said in 2016, the American Association of Medical Colleges showed acceptance rates varied greatly by race and were made up of 18% Asian American, 28% White, 46% Hispanic and 76% African American students.

"We cannot allow this type of racial discrimination in California's schools and universities," Ingam said. "Prop. 16 isn't required in order to have diversity."

Prop. 19

California Proposition 19 would adjust property tax rules for homeowners who are older than 55,

disabled or victims of natural disaster. Prop. 19 would permit eligible homeowners

Times **Feature**

Enjoying lilies for as long as possible

Thanks to their beautiful flowers, lilies are one of the most graceful flowers. But how can you enjoy these beauties for as long as possible?

In the Middle Ages, the lily was a symbol of the Virgin Mary and, therefore, also of purity and innocence. Women who wore lilies were put on a pedestal. Nowadays, lilies are still associated with the same symbolism, but these flowers actually deserve a pedestal of their own.

Striking appearance

With their impressive flowers with a diameter of 3 to 10 inches, lilies cut a striking figure. There are lilies to suit everyone's taste: you can choose from a variety of colors as well as odorless, lightly scented or strongly scented varieties. Many lilies have colored stripes, edges or spots. And did you know that there are also lilies without pollen?

Care

Once you've bought your lilies, you will want to enjoy them for as long as possible. With proper care, they will brighten up your home for ten days or even longer.

1. Choose lilies with flower buds that are just starting to open.
2. Remove the lower leaves from the part of the stem that will be under water. Submerged leaves will start to rot, which causes unpleasant smells and will make your



lilies last less long.

3. Use a sharp knife to cut the stems at diagonally as possible. The shorter the stem, the longer the lily will last.
4. Put the lilies in a vase with lukewarm water and cut flower food immediately after cutting. Make sure the vase is clean by cleaning it with bleach or washing-up liquid.
5. Change the water every now and then so that mold does not have a chance to grow and the water stays clear.
6. Place your bouquet well away from ripe fruit like bananas. Fruits emit ethylene gas, which causes flowers to wilt faster.
7. If you have a pollen stain, you can easily remove it with a piece of tape.

For more information about bulb flowers, visit www.ilysays.com.



Sean Bellach said he supports Prop. 19 due to the housing crisis.

ers to transfer the tax assessment of their principal home anywhere within the state. Inherited homes, which aren't principal residences, would be reassessed at market value when transferred. Revenue generated from this would fund wildfire agencies.

Sean Bellach, a government affairs field representative with California Association of Realtors spoke in favor of Proposition 19. Yin Ho, a senior associate at San Francisco law firm Withers Bergman, spoke against the proposition.

Bellach said Prop. 19 addresses the housing crisis in California, as housing costs are inflated due to lack of supply and removes a penalty to seniors wanting to relocate.

"Prop. 19 allows seniors to move their tax savings anywhere in California," he said,

"...and preserves the family home for children or grandchild with the same property tax. This creates an incentive for them to move, freeing up these larger homes...that could be going to younger families...priced out because of low inventories. This is the time to do this, not only because of the fires but the housing crisis we're in."

Bellach said the tax on non-principal residences would also generate hundreds of millions of dollars each year for local governments.

Ho said although Prop. 19 would create revenue for schools, local government and firefighting, the "significant property tax increase" would eliminate some inheritance rules for transfers of real property from parents to children. Currently, families can transfer a principal residence and a non-principal residence (a small commercial building, second home or rental property) subject to a \$1 million lifetime limitation on the second property.

"As a state, we wanted parents who worked their whole lives to be able to pass down real estate to their children without their children suffering from a huge tax burden," Ho said. "The new law would eliminate those rights except to one family home that the child must live in. Children will not be able to afford the property taxes transferred from their parents and be forced to sell. We're giving benefits to seniors and disaster victims but taking benefits away from families who want to transfer their wealth to their children."

Note: The second half of this State Ballot Measures debate will appear in the next issue of the Almaden Times.

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Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz

No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here! We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.

Our ministries/activities include:

- Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
- A Food Pantry serving anyone in need—open Tu/Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater productions, informative lec-

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment.

Our activities flow from our core values:

- Extravagant Joy
- Passionate Faith
- Loving Respect
- Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- Shared Laughter

Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.

www.ccvucc.org.

We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.

Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118

408.265.5837

www.bibleroad.org

We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament.

Bible class at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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 outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve.

Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>
2486 Ruby Ave,
San Jose CA 95148.

(408) 239-6668

"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".

Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?

A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakh" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com

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



GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

www.GraceChurchSJ.net
See you on Facebook
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor
Christian Worship every

Sunday at 11:00 am
Together let us build lives toward excellence!

Music Institute
(408) 791-7772

After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute
PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.



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

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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

Punjab of old British India.

A Guru who is a "teacher"

or "enlightener" completes

the relationship of teaching

and learning. Sikhism is

monotheistic and stresses

the equality of all men and

women. Sikhs believe in

three basic principles; meditating

on the name of God (praying),

earning a living by honest

means and sharing the fruits

of one's labor with others.

Currently there are close

to one million Sikhs living

in the USA and Canada and

25 million Sikhs living around

the world. Sikhism is the 5th

largest religion in the world.

At the Gurdwara (House of

God) in San Jose we welcome

all. We pray daily for peace

and prosperity for everybody

in the world. Come to visit

and enjoy Langer (food) in

our kitchen which is open

365 days of the year and

serves complementary

vegetarian meals. We also

encourage you to enter our

history room on site and

walk

the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd.,
San Jose, CA 95135

408-223-1562.

www.stfrancisofassisi.com

or www.stfranciscatholic.org

We invite you to join our

community of faith located

in the Evergreen area of

San Jose. We are an

inclusive diverse community

striving to serve as

Disciples of Jesus Christ

in the footsteps of St.

Francis, offering prayerful

and joyful liturgies; evangelization,

fellowship, and service

opportunities to the community.

We offer spiritual opportunities

for all ages, including children's

liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O. - Jr.

High, IGNITE - High School

and North Star - Young Adult

Ministries, along with small

faith communities and

opportunities to help the

poor and marginalized of

San Jose. Our Preschool

is the only Catholic Preschool

offering quality family oriented

service in the Evergreen and

Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel,

Gathering Hall, Parish

Office, Mission Center,

Parish Gift Shop, Memorial

Garden and Preschool

are all located at 5111

San Felipe Rd. Please

come join us to worship

at one of the following

times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi

Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM,

Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30

AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM

(Mass in Vietnamese),

6:00 PM Youth Mass

St. Francis of Assisi

Gathering Hall

Sunday 9:00 AM, Sun-

day 11:00AM, Igbo Mass -

Second Sunday of the

month 12:30 PM

Mt. Hamilton Grange -

2840 Aborn Road

Sunday 9:30 AM

The Villages Gated Com-

munity (Cribari Auditorium)

Sunday 8:15 AM

For more information,

please call or visit us at

the Parish Mission Center

open M-F 9:00 AM - 12:00

PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Come join us and share

your presence with us so

that together we may grow

and share our gifts to help

build God's Kingdom!

**For Worship
listing
ads, call
408.483-5458**

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



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408.279.5531

Clocks

**GRANDFATHER
Clock Repair**

Because it's not advisable to move Grandfather Clocks for repair, we will come to you!
Please give us a call today and we'll be happy to come out and take care of your "home's heartbeat."

M&L Watch & Clock Repair
3218 S White Rd., SJ CA 95148
(408) 270-6080

Singles

**Almaden Valley
(Senior) Singles**

The organization that brings single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and take part in community service.

Come and join us for our monthly breakfast which is held at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Cup and Saucer, Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375 Blossom Hill Road.

TimesClassifieds

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16820 Jackson Oaks Dr., Morgan Hill CA

Hours 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM

Call: (831) 232-8182

By appointment only during Covid

Home Services



Benson's CLEANERS

Full Service Dry Cleaners 5965 Almaden
Wash & Fold Expwy #160
MON - FRI 6:30 AM - 6:30 PM 408-997-6144

Driving School



Advantage Driving School is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses.

Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

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Summer Specials!

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3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

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408-270-0850

No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

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917 Pramukhs Way



\$3,600,000

5 Bed | 4.5 Bath

5479 Sq Ft | 2.16 Acre Lot

This magnificent custom smart home is one of four estates on an exclusive cul-de-sac adjacent to the Greystone Quarry in the Almaden Valley area of San Jose. Breathtaking views of large rock formations and Mount Umunhum.

Total privacy and tranquility yet just minutes to commute routes. The private property is a gallery of outdoor amenities including a custom kinetic sculpture, dramatic fountains and fire features, ironwork and a fire pit nestled amongst the trees, and more. *Remarkable setting!*

**For more photos and video go to
SiliconValleySmartHome.com**



Therese Swan

408.656.8240

tswan@tswan.com

AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com

DRE 01355719



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 11 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2019 was no exception.

She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home in 2020, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.



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