Johnny Khamis launches campaign for Santa Clara County Supervisor SEE PAGE 4



State mandate Teachers, students must continue to wear masks at school SEE PAGE 9 Fourth of July festivities strike celebratory note in District 10 PAGE 10



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Above left: Golden Buzzer winning World Taekwondo Demonstration Team members from San Jose include (L to R) **Kelsey Ha, Sean Wallace,** and **Cassidy Wallace**.

'America's Got Talent' golden buzzer winner

World Taekwondo Demonstration Team has roots in San Jose

By William Bellou Publisher

Merica's Got Talent returned to TV last month and with the start of this season's auditions America got to witness one of the world's greatest Taekwondo performances ever caught on tape.

"This Olympic-worthy World Taekwondo act is the best I've ever seen!" stated Simon Cowell.

Teammates Kelsey Ha, and Sean and Cassidy Wallace grew up in San Jose.

When the World Taekwondo demonstration team took centerstage, the athletes captivated the judges and audience with a highflying display of strength and discipline.

The team missed the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, but they did earn See TAEKWONDO, page 15

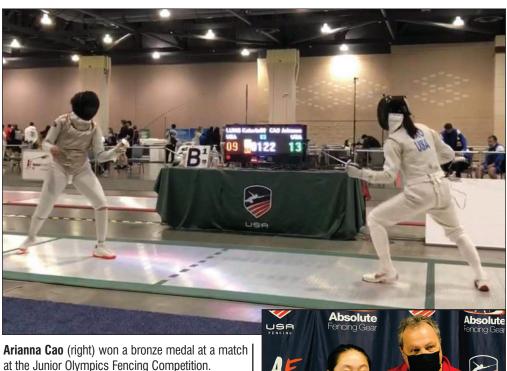
Arianna Cao of San Jose wins the bronze medal at SA Fencing Junior Olympics

By William Bellou Publisher

Rising junior High School student Arianna Cao of San Jose has won the bronze medal at the USA Fencing Junior Olympics Championships held in Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 4.

Cao won the bronze medal in the cadet event (up to age 17) and also placed in the top 16 in the Division I event, which fencers of any age above 13 with a C rank or above may participate.

"In June, I competed in a smaller competition where I floundered," explained Arianna. "I feared that the shelter-in-place in California meant West Coast fencers lost out on training and chances to compete. However, my coaches



at the Junior Olympics Fencing Competition. believed in me and constantly pushed me to improve. This has been my best performance

improve. This has been my best performance so far and I'm so excited to continue to compete as the world opens up again!" Arianna Cao trains in San Francisco at MTeam

See FENCING, page 6





There is great need for young leadership nd there is no greater time to be a young leader. **IBELIEVE IN YOU. WEBELIEVE IN YOU.** And that belief in your own ability to change the orld in doing the right thing is what makes you a

force to be reckoned with



Young hero Apoorva Panidapu of San Jose receives Diana Award

Apoorva uses her talents to help underprivileged children worldwide; Prince Harry surprises honorees saying "[My mum] would be so proud of you all"

Voung hero Apoorva Panidapu of San Jose has been honored with The 2021 Diana Award for going above and beyond in her daily life to create and sustain positive change.

The Diana Award, established in memory of Diana, Princess of

Wales, is the highest accolade a young person can achieve for social action or humanitarian efforts. The awardees have demonstrated their ability to inspire and mobilize their own generation to serve their communities through campaigning, volunteering, fund-raising, fighting injustice or overcoming extreme life challenges. Although their causes and backgrounds are varied, what they all have in common is that they are changing their communities and See APOORVA, page 14

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ALMADEN TIMES I JULY 23 - AUGUST 5, 2021 PAGE 3

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urren



The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors are pictured in this file photo.

What stocks do Santa Clara **County lawmakers own?**

By Eli Wolfe Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

ne Santa Clara County lawmaker owns stock in more than 60 companies, including tech giants like Apple, Google and Facebook as well as gas and utility companies such as Chevron and Exelon.

The review of public stock holdings for Santa Clara County's Board of Supervisors follows an April analysis of San Jose councilmembers' stock portfolios. That analysis found one elected leader, Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, owned more stocks than all the other members combined. He later shed most of his stock options, holding on to just eight including the controversial data-mining company Palantir.

At the county level, Board President Mike Wasserman, has far and away the largest stock portfolio of any board member.

- Abbott Labs, a pharmaceutical company.
- Amazon
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Last year, Wasserman disposed of stocks in Evergy, a utility, and Maxim Integrated, an integrated circuits maker. Wasserman also reported income from a client, Caw Properties, that he served through

See STOCKS, page 7



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

Johnny Khamis kicked off his campaign to replace termed out Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman June 27.

Johnny Khamis launches campaign for Santa Clara County Supervisor

By Muskan Seth

Special to the Times ohnny Khamis kicked off his campaign to replace termed out Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman June 27. The event was held in the barn of a private residence in San Martin.

Applause and cheers echoed loudly in the barn, so loudly that attendees sitting outside the crowded barn could hear the roar of the crowd.

More than 150 people were in attendance for the campaign kickoff, including many current and former elected officials. One guest remarked that they have not seen this many people turn out for a political event in the south county in many years.

In the center of the barn, standing on a slightly raised platform of wooden crates, the former San Jose Councilmember outlined his campaign goals and plans for the future of Santa Clara County. Khamis said he's running because he wants to focus on results.

Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley, MC for the event, introduced former Santa Clara County Supervisor and former Gilroy Mayor Don Gage who spoke about how he was heartened to see such a wide diversity of political views in one room.

Former Morgan Hill Mayor Steve Tate spoke about Khamis' work ethic, qualifications and his experiences working together with Khamis on South County issues.

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo spoke in praise of Khamis' independence and strength in standing up for his beliefs.

Khamis opened his remarks in humble appreciation

for the number of guests in attendance, "Who cared enough to be out here on a Sunday evening, talking about the future of our county." Khamis spoke about his two terms on San Jose City Council and remarked that he feels his work is not done.

"There are so many problems and challenges in our community that we need to face together," Khamis said. "Our campaign will be focused on results! We need results for our homeless crisis. We need common sense solutions for our transportation challenges. We need programs to help the mentally ill and drug addicted, because once we do, we will have helped many of our unhoused citizens. Lastly, I will demand fiscal responsibility to make sure that taxpayers are getting results for their tax dollars."

Khamis concluded by talking about how strong the support is for his campaign and how proud he is to have already earned so many endorsements. He asked all in attendance for their help spreading his message.

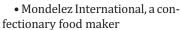
According to campaign officials, the event raised more than \$7,000 in contributions. According to the latest report from the campaign, Khamis has exceeded his fundraising goal of \$100,000 for the period ending on June 30.

Khamis will face off with three other challengers in the June 7th 2022 primary. Santa Clara County Supervisorial District 1 includes Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and parts of San Iose

The Kick-off also coincided with the official launch of his website: www.johnnykhamis.com.

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854 Bucks Lake Court - \$582,000*



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Above: Medal winners at the USA Fencing Junior Olympics Championships held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. on July 4 are (left to right) **Gabrielle Gebala, Daniella Davia, Emily Jing, Katerina Lung, Ivy Zheng, Crystal Qian, Arianna Cao**, and **Ryanne Leslie**.

Fencing

Continued from page 1 Fencing with US Olympic Fencing Coach, Greg Massialas.

"I owe a lot to my coaches," Arianna said. "I want to thank coach Dean for giving me such great confidence; coach James for the tactical tricks and strategies; and coach Greg for directing and advising me through critical matches and also giving me the confidence to implement the tactical tricks and strategies at the tournament, often late into the night."

The Junior Olympics is an annual national tournament that takes place each February but was postponed due to COVID. Nearly 1200 fencers arrived at the Pennsylvania Convention Center each day to compete.

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Times Community News

P3 Ri Li O, S, S, Ri Ks Ksy Indices

Stocks

Continued from page 4

South Bay Consultants, a property management firm for which he is the sole proprietor. He also received income from a family trust that owns five rental properties.

Stock options for elected officials can become a conflict when they have to step away from votes involving companies they've financially invested in. That could be viewed as a conflict of interest. In San Jose, two councilmembers were forced to walk away from a vote on hazard pay for grocery workers at the last minute and it appears no one at City Hall is checking for such conflicts before an item is discussed.

Wasserman has recused himself at least once from a vote. In Dec. 2020, he recused himself from a vote on considering protections for essential workers in the fast-food industry because he owned stock in McDonalds. Several investments did not appear on Wasserman's public disclosure forms. In an email to San José Spotlight, Wasserman said he has invested in several cryptocurrency stocks, including Coinbase, Riot Blockchain and Grayscale. Wasserman did not immediately respond to questions about why they do not appear on his forms.

It's unclear what obligations elected officials are under when it comes to reporting cryptocurrency. Jay Wierenga, a spokesperson for the California Fair Political Practices Commission, said officials must submit a document known as a Form 700 that reports their financial interests as "completely as possible." But the Political Reform Act doesn't explicitly address reporting for cryptocurrency.

"The FPPC Legal Division has given informal advice on the subject in the past to treat it like a stock in a business," Wierenga told San José Spotlight, meaning it should be disclosed. "We always tell public officials that it's better to over report than under report, to encourage transparency, and if they choose, to disclose things that might not necessarily be required in an effort to show transparency and diligence in adhering to the requirements." Other members of the Board of Supervisors reported fewer financial interests in 2020 than Wasserman.

District 2 Supervisor Cindy Chavez, is invested in two stocks that are held in her spouse's individual retirement account, Apple Inc. and Pacific Financial Corporation, a regional bank. Chavez did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

District 3 Supervisor Otto Lee holds no

stocks, according to public records. Lee is the managing partner of an intellectual property law firm, Intellectual Property Law Group, located in San Jose. "I would say that these disclosure rules sometimes could be quite detailed, and I think sometimes it's really important to not assume you know what the rule is," Lee said. "We always consult with the legal counsel to make sure we're doing something right."

Susan Ellenberg, supervisor for District 4, did not own any stock in 2020, according to her disclosure statement. She did report income from a limited liability company called Palms Santa Clara that owns an apartment complex. Her husband is the member of an LLC that is invested in a different apartment complex. Ellenberg said she's never had to recuse herself from a vote.

In 2020, District 5 Supervisor Joe Simitian has stock in Outreach Circle, a relational organizing platform, but his disclosure states that he has no ownership interest or business position in the company. He also reported stock in Apple, AT&T and Johnson & Johnson that were held in IRAs. Those stocks were disposed of in early 2020, according to the disclosure. Simitian told San José Spotlight he has recused himself from votes over the years, but he could not recall offhand which ones. "Over the years you learn to pay careful attention to when and where you might have a conflict of interest, and if and when you do, you recuse yourself consistent with the requirements of state and local law," Simitian said. "Occasionally, it can be tough to get an absolutely clear answer—some of these conflict questions can be complicated—so you err on the side of caution."

County Counsel James Williams said supervisors receive training on how to comply with financial disclosure rules to avoid running into conflicts of interests with their votes. "It's a comprehensive two-hour training and covers quite a range of topics," Williams said. He added that elected officials are required by state law to state their recusal on the record if an item appears before them for a decision that they have a financial interest in.

These recusals are memorialized in the minutes of county meetings. But there appears to be no systematic way of tracking compliance. "We do not have a separate tracking system for recusals outside of the minutes," said Deputy County Executive Megan Doyle.

Contact Eli Wolfe at eli@sanjosespotlight.com or @EliWolfe4 on Twitter.



ALMADEN TIMES JULY 23 – AUGUST 5, 2021 PAGE 7





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Times Local News



New California stimulus checks approved

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a \$100 billion budget deal last week, paving the way for millions of Californians to receive one-time cash payments directly into their bank accounts.

Under "Golden State Stimulus II," qualifying individuals with incomes between \$30,000 to \$75,000 will receive a \$600 stimulus check and qualifying families with children, including undocumented families, will get an additional \$500.

Payments are expected to be issued sometime in early September, and most Californians who qualify for the stimulus are not required to fill out any paperwork to receive the stimulus payment.

Juvenile killed walking across Camden Ave. at Kooser Rd.

Officers responded to the area of Kooser Road and Camden Avenue for a vehicle versus pedestrian traffic collision on July 9 at 5:11 p.m.

The preliminary investigation revealed a male juvenile was walking across Camden Avenue, in a marked crosswalk, against a 'do not walk' signal/symbol when he was struck by a 2018 Mercedes sports utility vehicle. The vehicle was traveling in a southbound direction on Camden Avenue and had a green light at the intersection.

The male juvenile was transported to a local hospital with life threatening injuries. Shortly after arriving the victim succumbed to his injuries and was declared deceased.

The adult male driver of the Mercedes remained on scene and cooperated with the investigation. Alcohol or drugs are not suspected as a factor in this collision.

This is the 26th fatal traffic collision, and 27th victim of 2021. This is also pedestrian death number 9 for the year.



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The identity of the victim will be released by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office after they confirm the victim's identity and notify next of kin.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Aldinger #4183 of the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

Stabbing victim dies on 5000 block of Almaden Expressway

San Jose Police officers responded to the 5000 block of Almaden Expressway in front of Britannia Arms pub on a report of a person stabbed on July 11 at approximately 7:18 a.m. on July 11.

When they arrived, they located one adult male victim, 24-year-old Damon Kosiba, suffering from at least one stab wound. Officers began life saving measures and paramedics arrived shortly thereafter and assisted. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

During the initial investigation, **Howard Ishihara** (inset), 55, was identified as the primary suspect in the homicide incident. He was located and arrested on July 11th by patrol officers. The stabbing allegedly occurred near the car wash where Ishihara was working.



This is the City's 23rd homicide of 2021.

Anyone with information is asked to Contact Detective Sergeant Vallejo #3810 or Detective Cuenca #3915 of the San José Police Department's Homicide unit at 408-277-5283.

Persons wishing to remain anonymous may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 408-947-7867.

Carla Pelino of Almaden Valley named to Emerson College Spring 2021 Dean's List

Carla Pelino (inset), a native of Almaden Valley, has been named to Emerson College's

Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester.

Pelino is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2023.

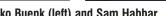
The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs



in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals. The College has an active network of 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.



Times Local News



Miko Buenk and Sam Hebbar make Dean's List at Rochester **Institute of Technology**

arts.

ochester Institute of Technology has announced that Miko Buenk and Sam Hebbar of Almaden Vallev have been named to the 2021 Dean's List for the spring semester.

Buenk, who is in the mechanical engineering technology program, said he has always been fond of making things. "At the age of 14 I started designing and making kitchen knives and selling them to neighbors. This led to MAB Fabrication, where I design and create various artistic projects on commission or to sell online. At RIT I work to solve challenging engineering problems using knowledge of engineering principles and mathematical equations."

As a DAAD RISE awardee (Research Internships for Science and Engineering) Hebbar works with Technische Universität Kaiserslautern in Germany on a project to develop a simple, easy-to-use, and portable electric photometer to measure the quality of wine in an industrial setting. "As a Biomedical engineer, I am interested in one day designing and manufacturing biomedical devices that can make healthcare more accurate and accessible to people all over the world."

Undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40 for nine credit hours of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 18,600 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S. The university is internationally recognized and ranked for academic leadership in



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imaging science, liberal arts, sus-

tainability, and fine and applied

Miko Buenk (left) and Sam Habbar

must continue to wear masks at school California continues "Masking is a simple and effec-

requirement despite CDC relaxing guidelines

he U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published new guidelines that students and teachers who are not inoculated should continue to wear masks, while those who have been vaccinated against the coronavirus have the option to ditch their masks.

Equity provides for philosophy that all wear masks at school

But shortly after the announcement, California said not so fast. The state is taking a stricter approach, requiring that everyone continue to wear masks inside schools to "ensure that all kids are



treated the same."

State mandate: Teachers, students

The CDC said "safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority regardless of whether all of the prevention strategies can be implemented at schools."

The state said it would keep a mask requirement in place because many schools can't implement other protective measures, such as keeping kids at least three feet apart.

tive intervention that does not interfere with offering full in-person instruction," California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said in a statement. "At the outset of the new year, students should be able to walk into school without worrying about whether they will feel different or singled out for being vaccinated or unvaccinated treating all kids the same will support a calm and supportive school environment."

Some parents who are critical of the new masking mandate requirement, pointed out that children, especially young children, are unlikely to become seriously ill from the virus.

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Councilmember Matt Mahan participates in a District 10 July 4 parade.

Fourth of July festivities strike celebratory note, though only 0.6% of fireworks complaints led to a citation

By Matt Mahan Special to the Times hope you and your loved ones enjoyed the 4th of July!

I had a blast participating in a few celebrations in our district, including the Shadow Brook Fun Run (which I walked!), Graystone's annual parade (complete with an engine from Station 22), and Montevideo's 53rd

annual parade, the longest running in our part of town. It is such a pleasure to see neighbors getting together in person and enjoying the summer after such a long and difficult pandemic experience.

We were fortunate to avoid major fires in our district over the holiday weekend, though our office did receive complaints about illegal fireworks late into the night. According to the San Jose Fire Department, formal complaints were down significantly this year, but citations also appear to be low:

Preliminary data indicates #SJFD responded to 20 fireworksrelated incidents on July 4, 2021. 1,644 online reports were filed during the reporting period (June 15 - July 5, 2021), down from



District 10 Report Matt Mahan elect. District 10

tions & seized approx. 550lbs of fireworks. For info: https://t.co/ u9IX0jeIqH — San losé Fire Dept. (@SJFD) July 5, 2021. My colleagues and I will receive a report on fireworks enforcement from Fire and

Police at our August committee meeting focused on public safety. I'm eager to find out why only

0.6% of complaints led to a citation and will continue to push for greater enforcement as so many of you have requested. If you have any particular fireworks-related experiences that I should reference during our committee meeting, please send them to district10@sanjoseca.gov with the subject line "fireworks."

Next year, we're hoping to bring back the 4th of July fireworks celebration at Almaden Lake, which was cancelled the last two years due to COVID-19. The event, which is safe and family-friendly, is extremely well attended (over 20,000 people) and helps reduce the use of illegal fireworks in our neighborhoods. Many of us are excited to see it return. See DISTRICT, next page



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Times Feature





District

Continued from previous page

However, we need your help to make it happen. Valley Water's planned creek-lake separation project at Almaden Lake is slated to begin in June 2022. Once it begins, much of the park will be inaccessible for approximately two years. Our office has written a letter in partnership with the District 10 Leadership Coalition to demonstrate how much community support exists for the event and requesting that Valley Water move their start date back a few weeks. Please add your name to support our letter today: bit.ly/SaveAlmadenLake4th.

Thanks in advance for lending your voice to this effort. We'll keep you updated on the status of our conversations with Valley Water and the plan for next year.

Speaking of water, soil moisture levels across the state have reached some of the lowest points ever recorded at this time of year. This means we could be facing an extremely bad fire season and weeks of poor air quality, if not worse. I encourage you to prepare now. Cal Fire provides a number of excellent tips and resources on their Ready for Wildfire website: readyforwildfire.org

At a minimum, please have a plan for leaving your home quickly in the event—heaven forbid—that we experience a fire in Almaden Valley or along the Santa Teresa ridge. You will want to have your "graband-go" bag ready with water, food, key documents, a change of clothing for each family member, etc., and a plan for where you will go.

Even in less severe circumstances, you should prepare for extremely poor air quality and the need to remain indoors for extended periods of time. Experts recommend having a supply of N95 masks, extra food and supplies to reduce trips out of the home, a portable air purifier if possible, and identifying a room in your home that can be sealed off from outdoor air.

Finally, and on a more positive note, last week San Jose became the first major city in the country in which 85% of the eligible population (currently ages 12 and up) has had at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. This level of coverage is roughly where epidemiologists believe "herd immunity" kicks in, which is great news for everyone. Well done!

Editor's note: To contact District 10 Councilmember Matt Mahan, email: matt. mahan@sanjoseca.gov or call the District 10 office at: 408-535-4910.



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Times Feature

Rides are back at Happy Hollow!

Guests can now enjoy all their favorites at the amusement park and zoo

H appy Hollow Park & Zoo visitors can once again enjoy the park's familyfriendly rides and attractions along with the two zoo areas.

The \$17.25 admission ticket includes both zoo areas, all play areas and rides. The Pic-

nic Basket is open with an expanded menu and indoor dining soon to follow. Time limits have been removed from play areas, allowing for open play, and rides are now operating daily, as available.

"With nearly 500,000 visitors per year and 1.3 million total riders, we know that rides are a popular aspect of the Happy Hollow experience and we are thrilled to re-open more areas of the park and zoo for members and visitors to enjoy," says General Manag-



er Kiersten McCormick.

More Zoo in the Hollow and the Zoo on the Hill areas are re-opening as well. Guests can now interact with Happy Hollow's goat herd at the popular contact yard and get a close-up encounter with Navajo-Churro sheep and a dwarf zebu at The Barn within Double-H Ranch. Keeper chats will resume in the Zoo in the Hollow, and Animal Meet & Greets in the Zoo on the Hill are expected to return later this summer. The Puppet Castle Theater and the Crooked House, an indoor play area, remain closed. Both are expected to re-open in the fall. *(Continued, next page)*



Times Feature



In line with state and county guidelines, face coverings are required for unvaccinated visitors when indoors or in crowded outdoor settings. Guests are asked to stay home if they are feeling sick. Extra hand washing and hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the park and zoo, and high-touch surfaces are sanitized regularly.

"Our rides team takes pride in providing fun, safe experiences for families with young children," says Interim Assistant General Manager, Mario Day. "We are excited to welcome guests back to our most popular rides like Danny the Dragon and the Pacific Fruit Express roller coaster."

Happy Hollow is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Same-day ticket purchases are available on-site, but guests are encouraged to purchase tickets ahead of time through the online reservation system to ensure their entry. Reservations are no longer timed, with guests able to enter anytime between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on the day of their reservation. Reservations are free of charge for Happy Hollow members and children under two. Visit our website to plan your next visit.

Visiting the amusement park and zoo helps promote wildlife conservation and research locally and around the globe. The Happy Hollow Quarters for Conservation program devotes 25 cents of every ticket sold and \$1 of every membership to help protect animals in the wild.

About the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has provided outdoor play to the Bay Area since 1961. Happy Hollow is a facility of the San José's Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, and is supported by the Happy Hollow Foundation. The mission of Happy Hollow is connecting people to nature through play. Happy Hollow features a unique combination of family rides and amusements, a Puppet Castle Theater, nature themed play areas, special events for all seasons, an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoo, and a zoo education and wildlife conservation program with classes and camps for all ages. Happy Hollow also offers annual memberships for families and individuals. www.happyhollow.org



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What the Great Resignation means to you and your career

By Angela Copeland Special to the Times n the last few weeks, countless news stories have popped up about the *Great Resignation*. Millions of American workers

are quitting their jobs. You've probably heard about it (and maybe even considered it). So, what does it mean for your career?

If you've thought of quitting your job recently, I don't blame you. If the COVID pandemic has given us anything, it's given us time to think. We've spent more time at home



and alone in the last year than any years past. All of that quiet time has allowed us to reflect on important topics. It's given us the space to consider what is really important in our lives, and what isn't so important after all.

It has also given us a chance to try out a new lifestyle when it comes to work. Suddenly, many people aren't doing a daily commute each way. Perhaps they're spending more time with immediate family. Many people have learned that working from home really is possible. It's given us a new per-

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spective on the concept of work life balance.

If you've found yourself unhappy with your current work situation, the good news is this. It's a great time to look for something new. Companies are being more flexible than ever before. And, you likely now have options beyond your local area. This means that there may be more job options available to you than before the pandemic started.

That said, you should take this to heart. Don't assume that the way things are today is the way they'll be tomorrow. For example, the apartment rental market one year ago was amazing. If you wanted to rent a new apartment, you could find a deal on a great place. People were leaving cities in droves. However, in the last few months, the entire situation has changed. People are moving back into cities. And, finding an apartment has become much harder and much more expensive.

What I'm saying is this. Things change.

Apoorva

Continued from page 1

the world. The Award is given out by the charity of the same name and has the support of both her sons, The Duke of Cambridge and The Duke of Sussex.

Apoorva was one of 25 students to receive the award in the United States and among 300 globally. She was recognized for her many talents to help underprivileged children throughout the world, and was nominated for the award by the Girls Leadership Academy Meetup (GLAM), for which she is a global ambassador, speaker, and mentor.

A math prodigy, Apoorva donates funds she earns through tutoring and through the sale of her artwork to help visually impaired and tribal schools in India, raising more than \$35,000 for global causes. She brings art and activism together, with her painting of George Floyd raising \$1,400 for BLM organizations. She also volunteers at 'Girls Leadership Academy Meetup' as a mentor and as a keynote speaker. To date, Apoorva has mentored more than 200 young people and continues to encourage girls to pursue STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math). Apoorva's column "Gems in STEM" appears in the Evergreen Times and the Almaden Times.

"I'm so honored to receive this prestigious award," Apoorva said. "Ever since I was 10 years old, I have reached out to help underprivileged children across the world and I will continue to do so the rest of my life; especially through mentoring young girls and gender minorities to encourage them to pursue STEM."

Prince Harry

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, made a surprise video address for the ceremony honoring the latest group of young people getting Diana Awards for their humanitarian work and community action.

"I'm truly honored to be celebrating your work, your commitment to change making, and the vital role that you've taken on representing a new generation of humanitarianism," Harry told the winners. "Later this week, my brother and I are recognizing what The market is great for job seekers today – right now. But, in a few months, that may no longer be the case. If you aren't happy at your current job, now is the time to look.

But also, don't take your current job for granted. Keep putting in the same effort today that you put in every other day. Don't assume a new job is waiting around the next corner. Looking for a new job takes time. You may need this job. And, even if you find a new job, you'll eventually need references from your current job.

Do your best and doors will open. Nurture your existing job, and you'll be able to wait until a job you really like comes along. The last thing you want is to run from one bad situation to another – or to find yourself stuck in a negative environment. In other words, don't resign today. Keep steady until you find something new.

Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

would have been our mum's 60th birthday, and she would be so proud of you all for living authentic life with purpose and with compassion for others." He went on to explain that, "Our mum believed that young people have the power to change the world. She believed in your strength because she saw it day in and day out and in the faces of young people exactly like you, she witnessed a boundless enthusiasm and passion." He added that his wife Meghan Markle is equally passionate about supporting future generations explaining, "Meg and I fundamentally believe that our world is at the cusp of change, real change for the good of all."

Tessy Ojo, CEO "We congratulate all our new Diana Award

recipients from the UK and all over the globe who are change makers for their generation," said Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award. "We know by receiving this honor they will inspire more young people to get involved in their communities and begin their own journey as active citizens. For over twenty years The Diana Award has valued and invested in young people encouraging them to continue to make positive change in their communities and lives of others."

Award recipients were nominated by adults who know the young people in a professional capacity and recognize their efforts as a positive contribution to society. Through a rigorous nomination process, these nominators had to demonstrate the nominee's impact in five key areas: Vision, Social Impact, Inspiring Others, Youth Leadership, and Service Journey.

There are 12 Diana Award Judging Panels representing each UK region or nation and a further three panels representing countries outside of the UK. Each panel consists of three judges; one young person, an education or youth work professional, and a business or government representative. The panels have an important main purpose: to determine which nominations from each UK region/nation/country will receive The Diana Award. Nominations are judged using the Criteria Guide and Scoring Guide which have been created to measure quality of youth social action.



Times Feature

Taekwondo

Continued from page 1

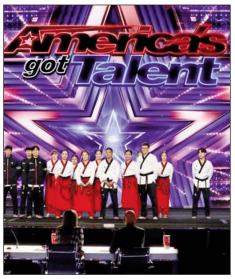
Gold on AGT (America's Got Talent) with a Golden Buzzer award bestowed by host Terry Crews.

The World Taekwondo Demonstration team includes three team members from Evergreen Valley. Teammates Kelsey Ha, 24, Sean Wallace, 23, and Cassidy Wallace, 20, all grew up in Evergreen. Sean and Cassidy trained with Team-M Taekwondo, joining the team in Jan. 2018; and Kelsey also trained with Team-M Taekwondo, joining the team in Oct. 2009.

All three teammates joined World Taekwondo earlier this year.

Cassidy explained that the three of them were all friends living in San Jose prior to joining the team. "When Sean and I first joined Team-M's Community Program, we were rather intimidated by the incredible skill and accomplishments of our new teammates," Cassidy said. "Some we had never met, and the rest (including Kelsey) we had only known as coaches at seminars. Over the past couple of years, however, our shared experiences at training and competition have brought the three of us very close. Sean and I both feel extremely lucky to call Kelsey one of our very best friends."

"We were invited to perform at the Olympics but unfortunately we could not do it due to COVID," said Kelsey, referring to the global pandemic that postponed the Olympics by a year. During the telecast, Simon Cowell responded, "So you could say you chose



The World Taekwondo Demonstration Team is introduced on America's Got Talent.

us over the Olympics."

The World Taekwondo team performed choreographed action sequences that could have created for a big-budget Hollywood action film. With intricate skill, they broke dozens of difficultly-placed song-pans (wooden boards). They ended their performance with a banner that read: "Peace is more precious than Triumph," and received thunderous applause from the audience.

"Performing with the World Taekwondo teammates felt like a dream," said Ha, who joined the team in 2009. "Getting the opportunity to represent Taekwondo on the largest stage in the world (and in front of my favorite celebrities) made it all feel so surreal."

Ha said her heart has been filled with grat-

itude by all of the responses and overwhelming support we have received. "I can't thank my teammates, coaches, friends, family, and community enough, and can only hope we make them proud in the future rounds."

Sean Wallace, said, "Getting to perform with my teammates alongside the World Taekwondo Demonstration Team alreadv felt like a dream, but us performing on a stage as large as AGT in front of such large celebrities makes it feel even more unreal. I'm incredibly thankful for my coaches, friends and family for supporting me along this journey, and hope that we can put on a show that will make martial arts fans everywhere proud of the sport."

Sean's sister, Cassidy, 20, said, "I never could have imagined that my almost-sixteen years of martial arts training would culminate in this: representing taekwondo on one of the biggest stages in the world. I am so grateful for the unwavering support of my teammates and community, and can only hope to do them justice in the upcoming rounds."

Cowell called what they did "one of the most extraordinary things I've seen in all the years I've been on 'America's Got Talent."

The rest of the judging panel also agreed. Heidi Klum said the World Taekwondo demonstration team's act gave her "goosebumps" and Sofia Vergara called them "perfection."

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," Howie Mandel said. "The discipline that is involved, the message you have, amazing!

When it came time to vote, Crews said, "No you don't," and came out to say "that was the most incredible thing he's ever witnessed, and because they weren't able to make it to the Olympics to get a gold medal, I'm gonna give you something golden right now," just before hitting the Golden Buzzer."

This was truly earned, and Simon's 100 percent right when he says it's a "great Golden Buzzer" choice on Terry's part.



The World Taekwondo Demonstration team makes a high-flying synchronized kick.



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Times Local News



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A cyclist rides over Highway 880 on The Alameda, a segment of the Shortliner Route proposed for Santa Clara County's bike superhighway. *Photo by Sonya Herrera.*

Silicon Valley pedals closer to region's first bicycle superhighway

By Sonya Herrera

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight anta Clara County is planning the region's first bike superhighway—but a route still needs to be selected.

"I don't see a bicycle superhighway going down El Camino," Erik Lindskog, a member of VTA's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, said at Wednesday's meeting. "I think a bicycle superhighway needs to be a little more separate from traffic."

The idea of a superhighway stems from VTA's Santa Clara Countywide Bike Plan released in 2018. The plan proposes a central bikeway to help cyclists travel more easily and safely between cities

Santa Clara County already has 800 miles of bikeways, including dedicated bike lanes on roads such as San Fernando Street in downtown San Jose. There are 200 miles of dedicated bike trails, but many popular routes—such as the Guadalupe River Trail and Coyote Creek Trail—are not connected through a continuous, uninterrupted path.

VTA allocated \$903,000 in funding toward the project, and aims to complete an analysis of the preferred route by January.

The transit agency reached out to local bicyclists to evaluate three alternative routes for a protected bike path stretching from East San Jose to Santa Clara.

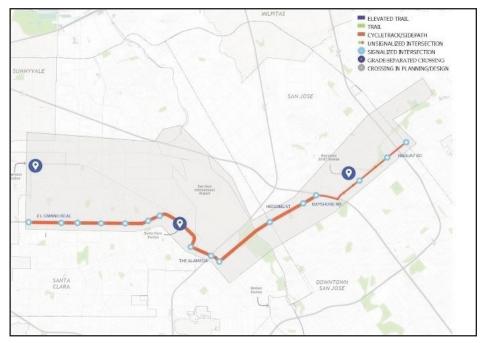
The three routes—dubbed the Shortliner, Trail Trackway and Walsh Wizard—take different paths from east of Highway 680 north of Mabury Road to Santa Clara as far west as Lawrence Expressway.

VTA judged each route by eight metrics: equity, compatibility, desirability, sustainability, access, joy, safety and feasibility. Equity measures how attractive a route is to new users, women and people of color, while desirability is based on whether segments of a route lead to popular destinations.

The Shortliner Route scored highest among the most categories and follows an on-street path from Mabury Road, Taylor Street, Hedding Street and The Alameda to El Camino Real. The route is the shortest of the three alternatives.

San Jose resident and cyclist Andy Murillo said that when they travel via bike, they choose routes with as few turns as possible, which makes the Shortliner Route attractive. However, they cautioned that riding along The Alameda and El Camino Real can be dangerous.

"The optimal option would be to make it easier and safer to bicycle The Alameda (and) along El Camino Real, rather than along a bike route that you have to piece together," Murillo told San José Spotlight. "For a lot of *See CYCLING, page 18*



Map of the Shortliner Route option. Image courtesy of VTA.

Times Local News

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK Marketing Al

ave 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 me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Marketing AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning are transforming the technological landscape. From digital assistants to image-recognition software to self-driving cars, AI is everywhere. But how does AI influence the marketing and the advertising?

Marketing AI leverages AI concepts and models such as neural networks and Bayesian networks to achieve marketing goals. It provides a set of tools and techniques that enable behavior targeting. It captures customer data, collects, and reasons with it to give recommendations targeted for personalized shopping for customer. The analytic solutions make it possible for marketing folds to build a clearer picture of their target audience; and use it to boost their campaign's performance.

Marketing opportunities

What does this mean for the marketing folks? The further integration of technology into the physical world creates new consumer interactions that are even more simple and instantaneous. A big part of the opportunity for marketing folks is how AI will help us fully realize personalization-and relevance-at scale. With platforms like Search and YouTube reaching billions of people every day, digital ad platforms finally can achieve communication at scale. This scale, combined with customization possible through AI, means we'll soon be able to tailor campaigns to consumer intent in the moment. It will be like having a million planners in your pocket.

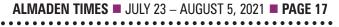
Brands like Coca-Cola are using AI to reinvent how consumers engage with their products through their smartphones. The Walt Disney Co. is using language processing to trigger an audio soundtrack when you're reading a story aloud to your child.

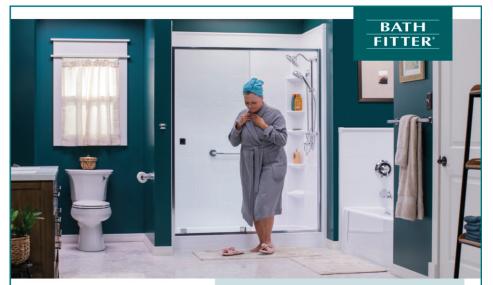
We also must ask how AI and machine learning will spark new ideas and push the boundaries of creativity. With new tools, what will makers, artists, and musicians design? And how will that affect the marketing world we work in? New forms of creativity will provide new ways of telling brand stories, and new media platforms as well.

Marketing people today can harness AI to improve data processing, customizing offers to improve customer experience as well as using creativity to come up with new insights and products. AI can perhaps take over some of the tedious and time-consuming tasks that marketing folks struggle to deal with.

About the Author

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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Map of the Trail Trackway route option. Image courtesy of VTA.

Cycling

Continued from page 16

people, it's a lot easier to imagine yourself sharing a trail with pedestrians than sharing a street with cars."

The Trail Trackway route scored highest for equity and safety. The route extends along the Penitencia Creek Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Caltrans Corridor, Caltrain Corridor and San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail through Central Expressway.

However, VTA considers the route infeasible along some stretches of San Jose and Santa Clara. For example, in Santa Clara the route faces gaps in the Caltrain Corridor which are expensive to connect.

The third route is the Walsh Wizard, which tracks along Berryessa Road, Hedding Street, the Guadalupe River Trail and Trimble Road, eventually reaching Kifer Road.

Lindskog is disappointed that the Trail Trackway Route is considered infeasible, and said it may be a better alternative than the on-street options, given that many of the streets on the route are planned to have bike lanes added anyway.

Betsy Megas, who also serves on the bike and pedestrian committee, said the Trail Trackway Route is an attractive option, but that on-street segments are necessary to provide a safe alternative during nighttime or in periods of flooding.

Many streets in San Jose are designated as bike routes, but don't have basic features such as bike lanes that make roads safer for cyclists, Murillo said. "I'm kind of salty that The Alameda is designated as a bike route, but there are no bike lanes," Murillo said. "I've actually stopped riding on The Alameda for the most part because of having to share travel lanes with cars."

VTA plans to survey more residents next month, and may set up a booth at San Jose Street Fair Viva Calle in September to solicit more feedback on the three alternatives. Readers can learn more about the bikeway alternatives at VTA's website.



The Walsh Wizard Route, which follows a portion of the Guadalupe River Trail, would likely be the cheapest of the three alternatives proposed. Image courtesy of VTA.

San Jose residents defy orders and light fireworks

By Eli Wolfe Article courtesy of San José Spotlight **C** an Jose residents lit up the night Ssky on Independence Day, ignor-ing weeks of pleas and threats from city and county officials to not set off illegal fireworks.

The full scope of the evening's explosive festival is not available yet, but the first batch of data is a mixed bag.

The San Jose Fire Department responded to 20 fireworks-related incidents on July 4. For the month leading up to the holiday, residents filed 1,644 online reports about fireworks.

That's significantly lower than the $6{,}601\,filed$ for the same period in 2020, but San Jose Fire Department spokesperson Erica Ray said this year's data is preliminary and subject to change. She added that no fireworkrelated fatalities occurred on July 4, but the department doesn't yet have details on injuries.

'The breakdown of fireworks-related incidents still needs to be reviewed by staff and today is a city holiday," Ray told San José Spotlight on Monday. The initial figures suggest that some San Jose residents listened to the weeks of warnings to not set off fireworks over the weekend. But some officials were discouraged that the educational campaign by multiple agencies seemed to miss a large chunk of the population.

"I don't think anyone took heed of the warnings on illegal fireworks," said Matt Tuttle, San Jose fire captain and president of the San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230 union.

Tuttle told San José Spotlight that crews responded to several fires in Alviso, but he noted that firework use appeared fairly widespread throughout the city. Tuttle did not express much optimism that officials will have more luck curbing fireworks next year. "Perhaps a city sanctioned fireworks show could help, but people know the fines and know the risks but illegal fireworks still occur," Tuttle said.

Chelsea Burkett, a seasonal firefighter for the Cal Fire Santa Clara unit, did not have preliminary data on complaints. But she told San José Spotlight that county law enforcement only issued a couple citations. The big success was that firefighters were able to keep blazes contained to under .01 acres. "(It's) amazing, especially compared to last year's Fourth of July-it was quite a decrease in incidents," Burkett said. Sanctioned shows in Morgan Hill and Gilroy may have helped curtail some illicit firework use, she said.

Just how many fireworks went up in the sky on July 4 is unclear. But it was enough to cause a spike in air pollution in San Jose, worsening the air quality index from good to moderate overnight.

Videos shared on Twitter show dozens of multi-colored explosions across the San Jose skyline. On social media, some residents and officials vented against the display. "The fireworks are completely out of control." tweeted Assemblyman Ash Kalra. "There's no sympathy for veterans or others with acute sensitivity to sounds of explosions. And, the pets & wildlife. This is sheer torture for the animals. I've never heard it this bad before and that says a lot being in San Jose."



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County takes first step installing outlet tunnel for Anderson Dam

Groundbreaking ceremony kicks off \$576M project to restore Anderson Dam

S. representatives joined local officials July 7 at Anderson Reservoir in northeast Morgan Hill for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Anderson Dam Retrofit project, which is expected to take up to 10 years to complete.

The long-awaited \$576 million dollar project, which is expected to take up to 19 years to complete, will not only protect Santa Clara Valley residents and properties from potential flooding; it will also go a long way toward improving the region's water quality and storage capacities, according to those who spoke at the ceremony. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren—who represents the 19th U.S. congressional district, which includes Santa Clara County—said a potential failure of Anderson Dam when the reservoir would be "catastrophic" for Morgan Hill and throughout the valley. A "wall of water" would engulf Morgan Hill within 14 minutes and the water would flood all the way to the San Francisco Bay in such a disaster, Lofgren said.

Lofgren was joined by Ro Khanna, D-Santa Clara to kick off the construction of a 1,700foot-long outlet tunnel and then rebuild the 240-foot earthen dam, which first was constructed in 1950.

The project was ordered by federal dam regulators over concerns the dam could fail in a major earthquake. Because the dam had to be drained, water shortages in Santa Clara County have worsened this summer.

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Valley Water reaches milestone in project to improve water quality at Almaden Lake and restore creek habitat

By Linda J. LeZotte Director, District 4 Valley Water Board of Directors or nearly 10 years, Valley Water has been working on a project to protect the environment and improve water qual-

ity at Almaden Lake in South San Jose. It's been quite

Members and I

certified the pro-

ject's environ-

mental impact

report and ap-

unanimously

a journey so far. and we've overcome a variety of challenges, So, I am pleased to share that on May 11, 2021, my fellow Board



District Linda J. LeZotte, SCVWD Director. District 4

proved the project for construction. We look forward to working with various agencies to acquire the necessary permits to build this project in a timely fashion.

The project's key objectives are to:

• Separate Alamitos Creek from Almaden Lake and return it to flow into the Guadalupe River naturally

• Reduce production of methylmercury and mercury in fish in Almaden Lake to improve water quality

• Improve conditions for native fish

• Minimize impacts to the park and trails Almaden Lake is located about five miles away from the site of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, a Gold Rush-era mine that released mercury into local creeks and the Guadalupe Watershed. Since the formation of Almaden Lake by the erosion of the old gravel quarry, mercury-laden sediment that flows down Alamitos Creek has accumulated at the lake's bottom and converted to methylmercury, harming the environment.

Furthermore, native fish may lose their way in the lake and fall prey to non-native fish.

Helping the environment

To address the mercury and fish passage issues, Valley Water will build a levee to separate Alamitos Creek from Almaden Lake. Vallev Water will re-contour the lake bottom to a uniform depth and cap the mercury-laden sentiment. The creek flows will be isolated to the restored creek section and directly connect Alamitos Creek to Guadalupe River, as it did before the park was created in the 1980s. Separating the creek from the lake will prevent mercury from coming into the lake and harming the environment.

Creating a better way to the bay for native steelhead

The direct connection from Alamitos Creek to the Guadalupe River will also allow the native Central California Coast steelhead to bypass the lake's waters on its journey to the San Francisco Bay.

New pump station

Valley Water will also build a pump station to allow water from the lake to be discharged into the Alamitos Percolation Pond. The new lake configuration and pump station aim to improve water circulation and water quality.

New island

After construction, the lake will feature the existing island and a new island. These islands will add complexity to the lake, provide bird habitat, and break up the water surface to discourage use by seagulls.

New hiking pathways

We are also working with the City of San Jose to incorporate a new park area and add new trail connections. The new levee will add a new walking pathway so park users can walk around the entire lake.

The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2012 and again in November 2020, will provide funding for this \$45 million project.

This achievement would not have been possible without the support and input of our community. Since we first announced plans to address the environmental issues at Almaden Lake, Valley Water held six formal public meetings to gather feedback from the public. Valley Water also met with more than 20 groups and provided information about this project.

I am so happy to see this project come to fruition. We've considered the public's opinion to make the Almaden Lake Improvement Project the best for the community and protect the environment, restore habitat and improve water quality.

It's truly been a collaboration between Valley Water and our community. And I look forward to continuing that collaboration on this important environmental project.

Shawn Ansari Presents



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Shawn Ansari

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CONGREGATIONAL

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Communion

Sunday.

Sunday in Worship: Holy

2nd Sunday in Worship:

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and Communities

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



CENTER (EIC) http://www.eicsanjose.org 2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148. (408) 239-6668 As-Śalaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you". 0) 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 Waeayi-

latak"" the English meaning is " May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

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Office is open Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. 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

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believe in three basic prin-THE POINT CHURCH ciples; meditating on the 3695 Rose Terrasse Cir name of God (praying), San Jose, CA 95148 earning a living by honest (408) 270-7646 means and sharing the English Service: fruits of one's labor with Sundays at 9:30 & others. Currently there are 11:00 AM close to one million Sikhs Spanish Service: living in the USA and 11:00 AM Canada and 25 million Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th Cantonese Service: largest religion in the 11:00 AM world. At the Gurdwara Mandarin Service: (House of God) in San 11:00AM Jose we welcome all. We Youth Extreme Point pray daily for peace and (7th-12th grade): prosperity for everybody Every Saturday at 6:30 in the world. Come to PM - 8:30 PM visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen SAINT ANTHONY which is open 365 days of CATHOLIC CHURCH the year and serves complementary vegetarian

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nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and whereyou get to know peopleby 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

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Therese Swan 408.656.8240 tswan@tswan.com AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com DRE 01355719









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