

Masks are made mandatory for Santa Clara County students
SEE PAGE 4



Hamilton coming soon
Broadway San Jose announces updated season lineup
SEE PAGE 4

'The San Jose Nutcracker' Ballet is re-set in Santa Clara Valley
SEE PAGE 16

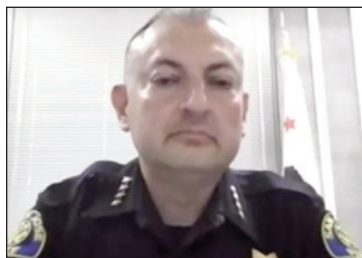


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AUGUST 6 – AUGUST 19, 2021 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 16



San Jose Police Chief **Anthony Mata** is reimagining the police force.
Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

San Jose Police Chief Anthony Mata envisions a more community-minded police force

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

San Jose Police Chief Anthony Mata is reimagining the police department.

Confirmed in his new role by the city council in March, Mata has pledged to improve the San Jose Police Department (SJPD) through training and community outreach.

"Although we had many excellent candidates, Chief Mata's extensive experience, genuine passion for public service, and his dedication to SJPD will serve him and our city well in his new leadership role," said Mayor Sam Liccardo in a statement. "I look forward to working with Chief Mata to reimagine policing, reduce criminal activity in our neighborhoods, and build critical bridges between our officers and the community they serve."

Mata, a native of Chicago, joined the SJPD in 1996. He served as deputy chief for four years managing patrol operations. As a captain, he ran a patrol division and a unit within the bureau of investigations. As a lieutenant, he worked in patrol, administration, and research and development.

As part of its ongoing webinar series "San Jose Speaks," San Jose Spotlight had a frank conversation with Mata. Mata said he is ready
See CHIEF, page 18

Are you prepared for wildfires?



To protect your home from hill fires, SJFD Fire Engineer Chris Cobillas recommends creating a buffer between it and surrounding trees and shrubs.
Photo courtesy of SJFD.



By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Fire season is here. Are you prepared?

In California, wildfires aren't a question of if, but of when, says the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and flying embers from a wildfire can destroy homes up to a mile away.

To protect your home from hill fires, Chris Cobillas, a fire engineer with the San Jose Fire Department, recommends creating a buffer between it and surrounding trees and shrubs. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of the wildfire, Cobillas said at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting.

"If a home has a proper defensible space, the fire department will more than likely stop and protect your home," Cobillas said, "because there is a chance that we actually can make a stop on that fire." Cobillas also urged residents to strengthen their homes against fire, such as using fire resistant materials when replacing a roof and con-

structing decks.

"The roof is the most vulnerable part of the home," he said. "When the wind is going and embers are flying, that's how other homes catch fire." At the start of summer, Cobillas recommends residents remove plants and debris from rooftops and rain gutters. Covering rain gutters and vents with non-combustible covers like metal mesh also protects the home against airborne embers, he said.

CAL FIRE recommends covering chimneys with metal screens with openings no smaller than 3/8-inch and no larger than 1/2-inch to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.

As single-paned and large windows are vulnerable to breaking from the heat caused by wildfires, CAL FIRE suggests installing dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the risk. Screens are also useful for blocking embers and decreasing radiant heat exposure.

Separating fences from a house
See FIRE, page 21

CLASSIC CARS, AMAZING AIRCRAFT

12th Annual Hot San Jose Nights Airport Day returns Aug. 28 to Reid-Hillview Airport

Bring the family to this free friendly classic car show and static airplane show

Hot San Jose nights – *Airport Day* is always a huge success. The anticipated annual event combines a family fun classic car show with an airplane show for the entire family to enjoy.

This year the event returns on August 28 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on August 28. Admission is free includ-

ing free parking.

The annual event brings the best of everything at the airport, including more than 40 static airplanes on display. Car guys and gals will be showing off an incredible array of classic cars from vintage custom hot rods, muscle cars, sleek sports cars, survivors, new special interest cars, and antiques. Military tanks will also be on display and kids are invited to sit in some. The band
See AIRPORT DAY, page 6



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The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 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, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

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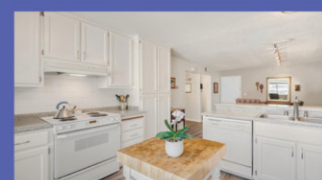


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Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Broadway San Jose announces updated season lineup

By William Bellou
Publisher

Broadway San Jose General Manager Gretchen Feyer announced the updated lineup that will make up the company's upcoming 2021-22 season.

The season opener is *Hamilton* (Oct.12-31), followed by the all-new touring production of Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical, *Hairspray* (Nov.23-28).

The new season also includes the previously-announced *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; the hit musical comedy, *Tootsie*; the Tony and Grammy Award-winning pop culture phenomenon, *Dear Evan Hansen*; and Diane Paulus' new staging of the Tony Award-winning musical, *1776*.

Season add-on productions include the Culinary Variety Show, *Alton Brown Live: Beyond The Eats*; the spellbinding new holiday production, *A Magical Cirque Christmas*; the sell-out hit musical, *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*; the international Irish dancing spectacle, *Riverdance*; the 25th anniversary farewell tour of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning landmark rock musical, *Rent*; and the critically-acclaimed Tony Award-winning musical, *Come from Away*.

"We are so excited to welcome audiences back to San Jose's Cen-

ter for the Performing Arts for a season full of Broadway hits, including several San Francisco Bay Area exclusives and can't-miss returning favorites," Feyer said. "We are working diligently behind-the-scenes to create and expand new safety protocols and on-site operations to ensure a positive experience for our patrons, staff, and cast and crew members."

Broadway San Jose season subscriptions start as low as \$280 for the basic six-show package and can be purchased by visiting broadwaysanjose.com or emailing seantickets@broadwaysanjose.com.

A limited number of President's Club memberships are available, which include center orchestra seats, access to the President's Club Lounge with exclusive-use restrooms and bar, complimentary snacks, invitations to cast parties and other special events, a welcome gift (for full season subscribers), plus concierge service for purchasing theatre tickets in New York, Chicago, London, and Los Angeles.

To purchase a President's Club membership, email Sally Souders at ssouders@broadwaysanjose.com.

Season ticket holders receive a significant discount versus regular single ticket prices. Other benefits include preferred seating, ticket exchanges, and special offers. In addition, season ticket holders will be invited to subscriber events and receptions held throughout the year, as well as access to Subscriber Lounges located on each side of the Center for the Performing Arts before every performance and at intermission.

All performances for Broadway San Jose's season will be held at the 2,600-seat San Jose Center for Performing Arts, unless otherwise noted. San Jose Center for Performing Arts is a mid-century modern architectural showcase designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, at the corner

See *THEATER*, page 6

Valley Currents

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



Students, like those pictured at Merritt Trace Elementary School, will have to wear masks when they return to the classroom in the fall. Photo courtesy of SJUSD.

Masks mandatory for Santa Clara County students

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The excitement of returning to school may be dimmed for Santa Clara County students, as they'll have to wear masks when they go back to the classroom this fall.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended indoor masking for all teachers, school employees, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. California guidelines go one step further and require masks indoors at schools. The CDC previously said vaccinated individuals didn't need to wear masks inside school buildings, but updated its guidance due to the rise of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

CDC Director Rochelle Paula Walensky said at a July 27 news conference that in rare occasions, vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant may spread the virus to others. "This new science is worrisome," Walensky said, "and unfortunately, warrants an update to our former recommendations."

San Jose Unified School District spokesperson Jennifer Maddox said the district follows California Department of Public Health mandates and informed parents, students, teachers and other employees a couple of weeks ago that masks will be required indoors, regardless of vaccination status. SJUSD also requires

masks to be worn outdoors, except while eating, drinking or during intensive sports.

Exceptions to wearing masks include teachers alone in classrooms or individuals alone outdoors. Individuals who are exempt from mask wearing due to medical conditions are required to wear face shields with draping, she said. The move to require masks in school settings is already facing backlash.

On July 22, parent advocacy groups Let Them Breathe and Reopen California Schools jointly sued Gov. Gavin Newsom and state public health officials for requiring students to wear masks in schools, saying they interfere with student learning.

Reopen California Schools founder Jonathan Zachreson said returning to a normal school year after distance learning is crucial to kids' mental health.

"We really just need to get those kids back to normal," he told San José Spotlight.

Zachreson said the groups are hearing from parents and teachers, especially of young kids and those who speak English as a second language, that wearing masks inhibits students' abilities to learn sounds and words. "You have to see how the mouth is moving, facial cues and emotional response," he said. "Masks get in the way of being able to properly teach kids."

See *MASKS*, page 9

Athena Genise and Dana (Cal) McCarthy of Almaden Valley Named to Pacific University Dean's List

Almaden Valley residents **Athena Genise** and **Dana (Cal) McCarthy** have been named to Pacific University Dean's List in Forest Grove, Oregon.

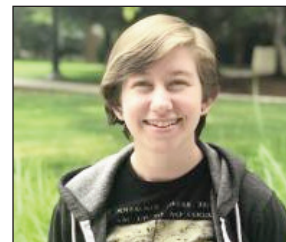
Genise is a graduate of Leland High School and was a member of the Chargers Varsity Softball Team.

McCarthy, an English Literature major, volunteers as a tutor.

Founded in 1849, Pacific University is a compre-



Athena Genise and friend (left) and Dana (Cal) McCarthy



hensive university offering undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in the liberal arts and sciences, business, education, health professions and optometry. Pacific is the No. 1 private research university in the Pacific

Northwest and serves nearly 4,000 students in a diverse and sustainable community dedicated to discovery and excellence in teaching, scholarship and practice.

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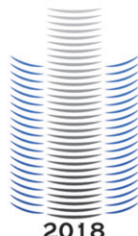
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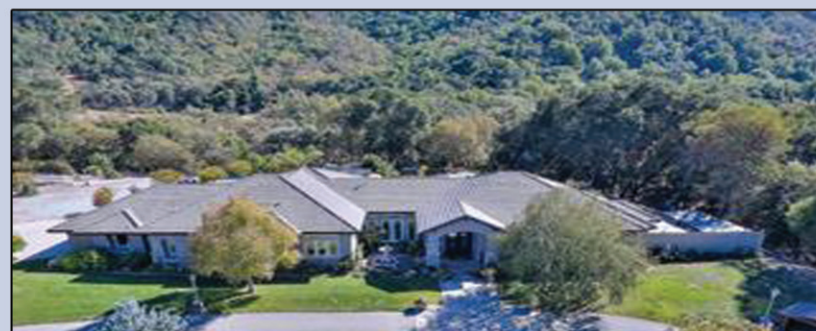
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6857 Castlerock Drive - \$2,900,000



1270 Echo Ridge Court - \$1,785,000*
represented buyer



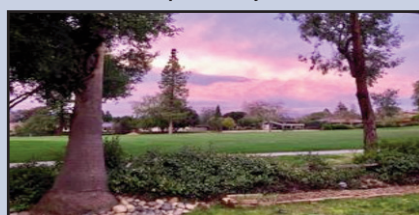
6933 Castlerock Drive - \$2,650,000



854 Bucks Lake Court - \$582,000*
represented both buyer and seller



1299 Littman Drive - \$2,625,000*
represented buyer



6598 Crystal Springs Drive - \$2,520,000*
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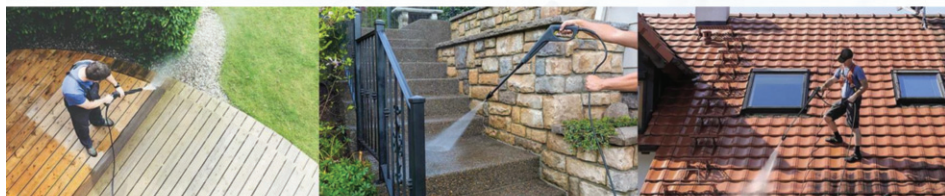
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Times **Community News**

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HAMILTON, National Tour Company. © Joan Marcus

Theater

Continued from page 4

of Park Avenue and Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Broadway San Jose will continue to monitor guidelines from the CDC and state and county officials for the latest public health innovations to continually update these procedures.

HAMILTON

OCTOBER 12–31, 2021

Press Night: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

HAMILTON is the story of America then, told by America now. Featuring a score that

blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway, Hamilton has taken the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton and created a revolutionary moment in theatre—a musical that has had a profound impact on culture, politics, and education. With book, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, direction by Thomas Kail, choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, and musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire, HAMILTON is based on Ron Chernow's acclaimed biography. It has won Tony®, Grammy®, and Olivier Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and an unprecedented special citation from the Kennedy Center Honors.

Airport Day

Continued from page 1

Identity Problem will provide incredible music so you and your family can enjoy a fun and upbeat day in the sun.

"Bring your chairs and coolers and enjoy the day with us!" said event founder, Michael Hennessy. "We will have great live music and fun food all day, including food trucks vendors, which will round out the show. School robotics teams and ROTC will also be participating. And don't miss the Civil Air Patrol presenting the Color Guard during the National Anthem in the Opening Ceremony at noon."

Second Harvest Food Bank

Event goers are encouraged to bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank that can be placed in barrels at the entry point. Feeding kids during summer months can be a worry to some families, not just Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Award of Excellence

Awards of Excellence will be handed out



at noon during the opening ceremony to the Best of the Bay Honorees. Assisting **Mike Hennessy** with the honors will be California State Senator **Dave Cortese** and **Cindy Chavez**, County Supervisor District 2 (above, L-R).

Scheduled events

Angela Tirado, the "Voice of San Jose" will show off her beautiful voice as she sings the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies scheduled at 12 noon.

Baylands RC Group, directed by Ray Manuel, will present The Greatest Little Air Show in the World" with hundreds of RC planes on display and flying demonstrations, complete with commentary, starting at 12:15 p.m.

San Jose State University aviation program, See **AIRPORT DAY**, next page



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Times **Community News**

Danielle Chang of Almaden Valley named to Wheaton College (Ill.) Dean's List for Spring 2021

Wheaton College student **Danielle Chang** of Almaden Valley was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester. Danielle is majoring in medicine.

To earn Dean's List honors at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.) is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics, integration of faith and learning, and consistent ranking among the top liberal arts colleges in the country. For more information, visit wheaton.edu.

Free, simple sign could save your home in a wildfire

After watching the massive 2020 LNU wildfire burn thousands of acres, destroy his neighbors' homes and threaten his home, John Mills teamed up with local firefighters and community leaders to create a simple sign that helps first responders better defend properties.

"The sign is designed to be simple, cheap, and effective," said Mills, founder of Sherwood Wildfire. "I asked my firefighter friends what information they needed to better defend a property, and they all came back with a lot of the same answers. So we designed a simple-to-read and use sign, and decided to give it away free for anyone to print out at home and use."



The Homeowner Wildfire Suppression Sign is free to download at sherwoodwildfire.com or can be purchased, pre-printed on a sturdy, lightweight material for \$10 + shipping.

The Homeowner Wildfire Suppression Sign is designed to give firefighters all the information they need to defend a property against wildfires. It lists the location of water sources, the location of combustibles like gas cans, and your contact information. It even has a space to list your Wi-Fi and password.

Firefighter Jason Hodge added: "Most people wouldn't think to include their Wi-Fi information, but during wildfires, cell service is often spotty. Wifi access for fire teams is a major communication advantage, especially in rural areas. For property owners, it's a bonus because firefighters are more likely to stay

close to a property if they can access communications."

Sherwood Wildfire (sherwoodwildfire.com) is a Sonoma, CA-based Not-For-Profit organization formed in late 2020 to help give firefighters and residents resources they need to save homes and lives. Sherwood Wildfire has applied for 501(c)(3) (non-profit) status.

Editor's note: All proceeds from the sale of the pre-printed Homeowner Wildfire Suppression Sign go towards the development of fire safety systems to help wildfire teams.

Woovin Shin named to Dean's List at Tufts University

Woovin Shin (inset) has been named to Tufts University Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester.

Shin is a student-athlete majoring in economics with a double minor in entrepreneurship and

finance.

Shin, class of 2023, is a member of Tufts University Men's Soccer team. He is also a freelance photographer and volunteers as a Big Brother for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Shin, passionate about the environment, participates as a Marine Mammal Education volunteer at New England Aquarium and volunteers for Save Our Shores organization which coordinates beach cleanup events.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions.



CDC analysis: Vaccinated people can spread Delta variant

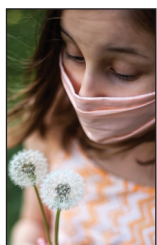
A new analysis of the recent massive outbreak of COVID-19 in Massachusetts reveals "breakthrough" infections of the Delta variant for people who have been fully vaccinated.

Detailed in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report last Friday, bolsters the theory that vaccinated people can become infected and spread the more transmissible Delta variant at the rate of 74 percent. Approximately one quarter (26 percent) occurred in unvaccinated people.

The "breakthrough" number of infections by percentage from vaccinated individuals are as follows: Pfizer BioNTech (46 percent), Moderna (38 percent) and Johnson & Johnson (16 percent).

Those infected had all been vaccinated on an average of nearly three months before the breakthrough infection occurred. Nearly 80 percent of the vaccinated patients with "breakthrough" infections had symptoms. The most common symptoms, aged 20-70 years old, were cough, headache, sore throat, fatigue and fever.

As a result of these new findings the CDC has recommended that everyone, including the fully vaccinated, should wear masks in indoor public settings in areas with significant COVID-19 transmission.



Airport Day

Continued from previous page

one of the Nation's oldest and the only public institution in California, is welcoming event goes to sit in their aircraft and talk with students and faculty. This gives everyone a chance to learn more about the educational opportunities we provide. The program offers a BS in Aviation with an emphasis in professional flight, operations, aviation management, and Maintenance Management.

Military Tanks displayed

The Eagle Field Foundation will be displaying military vehicles including an array of tanks! The Eagle Field Foundation Mission is to continue military history and technology preservation, veteran appreciation, educational and related events, and activities for local communities. Founded by a group of like-minded historians, engineers, mechanics and veterans, the Eagle Field Foundation - 501C3 California Non-Profit - was established to provide a totally unique educational experience for young and old.

Antique Autos

Check out this year's selection of these very old and well cared for antique vehi-

cles. You can learn a lot about the history of the automobile by talking with their very knowledgeable owners. What antique autos are increasing the most and also find out which antique cars are increasing in value for the collector.

Author Dennis Mattish

Meet Dennis Mattish, famous local auto racing authority and photographer and have him sign your book or pick one up and browse his many photos.

Hot San Jose Nights is sponsored in partnership with California State Senator Dave Cortese, District 3 County Supervisor Otto Lee, and District 2 County Supervisor Cindy Chavez. Business Sponsorship includes: Car Guy Channel; Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez; Eagle Field Foundation; Evergreen Times; Mike Hennessy Automotive; Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, Reid-Hillview Airport; and Tradewinds Aviation.

Registration forms for the car show, food trucks, vendors, non-profit organizations as well as more information can be found at www.hotsanjosennights.com.

Reid-Hillview Airport is located at 2500 Cunningham Avenue, San Jose CA 95148. For more information, visit: www.hotsanjosennights.com.



Times **Local News**

California Dept. of Public Health recommends masking for public indoor settings to slow the spread of COVID-19 and Delta Variant

In response to the spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, and new CDC guidance calling for masking measures to prevent the spread of the highly transmissible and deadly Delta variant, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated its Guidance for Face Coverings, recommending mask use for indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status.

"The Delta variant has caused a sharp increase in hospitalizations and case rates across the state. We are recommending masking in indoor public places to slow the spread while we continue efforts to get more Californians vaccinated," said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer.

Under the CDC's new guidance, more than 90% of California's population is currently in areas designated as substantial or high transmission.

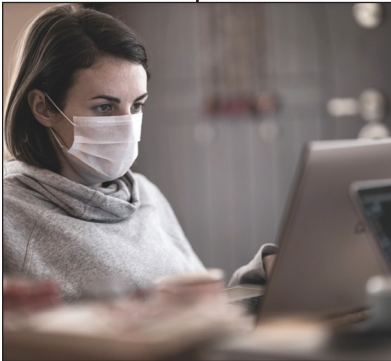
According to the CDC, getting vaccinated helps protect from the virus and the circulating variants, including the Delta

variant that is now seen in the majority of California's new cases.

California continues to work to increase vaccination rates across the state. This week, California took the nation-leading step of requiring state and health care employees to provide proof of vaccination or submit to regular testing. California had also led with its K-12 school guidance, requiring universal masking and other prevention measures as schools fully open for the upcoming school year.

CDPH is continuing to motivate businesses and local communities to encourage vaccination to prevent new outbreaks in areas of substantial and high transmission.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free. Unvaccinated Californians can go to myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255 to schedule their appointment or go to myturn.ca.gov/clinic to find a walk-in clinic in their county.



Jazz OFF the Plazz gala will help keep Los Gatos Jazz alive

Kim Nalley to perform Sept. 26

Los Gatos Music & Arts and Linda L. Lester present *The GALA* featuring renowned vocalist **Kim Nalley** (inset) in a special tribute to Billie Holiday on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The concert benefiting *Jazz OFF the Plazz* for 2021 is called "Cool Cats in Los Gatos" and will be held at La Estancia Estate, 18000 Overlook Road, Los Gatos, CA.

Free valet parking opens at 5:00 p.m. Gates open at 5:15 p.m. Cocktails served 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Appetizers and small plates from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Live Auction at 7:00 - 7:15 p.m. Performance 7:30 - 8:30 PM. Farewell and auction item pickup by 9 p.m.

The GALA features the renowned vocalist, Kim Nalley along with Tammy Hall (Piano) Michael Zisman (Bass) Mads Tolling (Violin) and Leon Joyce (Drums). Dr. Nalley has been awarded "Most Influential African American in the Bay Area" in 2005 and "Best Jazz Group" in 2013, and is already being called "legendary" and a "San Francisco institution."

Audiences are awed by Nalley's aura of a diva from a bygone era, packing a 3 1/2 octave range that can go from operatic to gritty blues on a dime with vocal projection that can whisper a ballad yet fill a room with no microphone. She has toured the world gracing concert halls from Moscow to Lincoln Center and festivals from Umbria Jazz to Monterey Jazz garnering effusive international press, awards, and ranking high on the Jazz charts.

About Los Gatos Music & Arts, Inc.

LGM&A provides opportunities for our Silicon Valley community to enjoy and appreciate a full spectrum of fine arts through live performances, exhibitions and educational programs. Los Gatos Music & Arts produce outstanding quality, free-to-the-public concerts, featuring world-class local and international musicians. Additionally, they sponsor youth workshops and provide funding for music and arts programs for people of all ages.

Tickets: www.jazzontheplazz.com; Artist Website: www.kim-nalley.com. Photo courtesy of Los Gatos Music & Arts.



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Times **Local News**

Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose announces 25th season

The Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose's 2021-22 Season presents four concerts in easily accessible venues.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the orchestra is offering all concerts for FREE, on a first come first served basis.

Highlights of the new season include four world premieres, a belated Beethoven birthday celebration, less-frequently featured solo instruments, and renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine in a concerto by an Afro-Cuban composer.

The first event is scheduled Saturday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. at Hammer Theatre Center, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose. Emily Ray will conduct Christopher Mann, guitarist, in Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Guitar Concerto no. 1, and the orchestra will present HyeKyung Lee's A-ri-a-rang, world premiere of string orchestra version, and Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony no. 3, op. 55, "Eroica."

About Mission Chamber Orchestra

Founded by conductor and musical director Emily Ray in 1996, Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose (MCOSJ) is a volunteer orchestra performing spirited concerts in the South Bay. The 35- to 50-piece orchestra is known for its innovative programming that surprises and delights its listeners. MCOSJ features world class artists as well as emerging professional soloists. It

has given the world premieres of more than twenty works and the West Coast or South Bay premieres of many others. Brilliant Classics recently released a disc of A.J. Fernandes' Violin Concerto featuring Portuguese violinist Carlos Damas accompanied by the orchestra.

For more information visit: www.missionchamber.org; Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose; P.O. Box 32872, San Jose, CA 95152; Phone: (408) 236-3350. info@missionchamber.org



Christopher Mann, guitarist

Masks

Continued from page 4

Mary Ann Dewan, superintendent of schools for the Santa Clara County Office of Education, told San José Spotlight that wearing face coverings indoors is an effective strategy to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. But Dewan said there is a narrow exception to wearing masks for developmental reasons, such as phonics instruction. She said where face coverings cannot be used for communicating, assisting young children or those with special needs, a face shield with a drape can be used in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.

Let Them Breathe founder Sharon McKee-man said while COVID-19 is not very deadly for children, mental health disorders can be. "We know our kids are at low risk from COVID. Unfortunately, our children are at very high risk from the mental health impact," she said, adding that wearing masks can be difficult for kids with ADHD and for teachers trying to engage with students. Maddox doesn't consider masks a hindrance to student learning. She said when students returned to school in the spring, wearing masks didn't seem to be a problem.

"The situations deemed most risky for COVID to transmit are indoor spaces where people can't be distanced more than six feet, and that's essentially what our classrooms are," she said. "We're seeing a rise in the Delta variant; we're seeing it spreads a lot more easily and we know masks are one of the best preventative strategies we have."

Maddox said having everyone wearing a

mask also avoids discrimination against those who can't get the vaccine. "We don't want to identify them or make them a target," she said. "Making everyone wear masks is safer and equalizes things."

Hilaria Bauer, superintendent of Alum Rock Union School District, said during the district's summer program with about 2,000 in-person students, only one family had concerns about masking indoors. "It's about thinking about your neighbor," Bauer said. "Wearing masks is a good hygienic habit we need to learn. It's like washing our hands and brushing our teeth to prevent illness."

Students will be allowed to unmask during class breaks

East Side Union High School District Superintendent Glenn Vander Zee informed parents last week that everyone will be required to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Although he said he's aware of the discomfort students and teachers may have wearing masks, Vander Zee told San José Spotlight "the concern is making sure everyone feels safe." "It can be a long day wearing the mask," he said. "Students will have the opportunity to unmask during class breaks."

Vander Zee said teachers will have to read the room as students become accustomed to wearing masks all day and provide additional breaks to make sure they're not a barrier to instruction. He said the school district's reopening committee, made up of students, parents and teachers, agreed most individuals understand wearing masks is for the safety of everyone. "I think our community will step up and do that," he said, "and support each other."

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CAREER COLUMN

The Pandemic workplace

By Angela Copeland
Special to the Times

Just when we thought we were out of the woods, the COVID-19 pandemic is evolving. Every day, the news is talking about variants.

We're crossing our fingers, hoping that a full shutdown doesn't happen again. In the meantime, businesses are trying to figure out how to get back to normal. And, employees are weighing their thoughts on it all.

Glassdoor.com recently released the results of another survey. Glassdoor focused on employee attitudes around going back to the office in the midst of a pandemic. They found that 96 percent of employees plan to return to the office in some capacity, and 66 percent of those surveyed are eager to go. 27 percent of employees said they felt less connected to their coworkers and 26 percent felt less connected to their company's culture.

Employees also felt working from home might impact their future career path. 30 percent of those surveyed worried that working from home long term could impact their ability to get a promotion.

All of this said, 89 percent of employees surveyed have concerns about returning to the office. In particular, 35 percent of people said they are concerned about contracting COVID-19 if they go back in person. 70 percent of employees surveyed feel that employees should be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine before returning to work. And, 23 percent said they would consider quitting if they were required to return to the office before all employees were vaccinated.

17 percent also said they would consider quitting their job if they were required to go back to the office five days a week, regardless of COVID or the vaccine.

It's hard to believe we're still having to think about the pandemic, and this new world of work. By now, we would have assumed things would have been back to normal. When you think about the results shared, it would be interesting to talk to these employees in more detail. It's unfortunate that 27 percent of people felt less connected to coworkers. But, how did the other 73 percent feel? It would also be interesting to know how many people felt disconnected from their company when we were still at work in person.

One thing we've learned is that



not all work is really work. Work can be talk around the watercooler. It's lunches together. It's relationship building. The question I keep wondering is this. Will work

evolve along with work from home? Will we find ways to connect around a virtual watercooler? We've been doing this for almost a year and a half.

It's interesting that 17 percent of people said they would consider quitting if they have to go back in person – regardless of COVID. This shows a shift in work culture. At first, it sounds irresponsible, but employees have this opinion because remote work is now offered by more companies.

How do the Glassdoor findings compare to your opinions of returning to the workplace?

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



Quentin Thorne of Almaden named to Spring 2021 Dean's List at Hofstra University

Quentin Thorne (inset) of Almaden Valley excelled during the Spring 2021 semester, achieving a GPA of at greater than 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List.

Thorne is a student journalist and is the Site Expert for Blades of Teal and a Contributor for the Rip City Project. He is also an Associate Producer for Sports Beat on Hofstra's HEAT Network. Thorne is pursuing a career in sports media or marketing.

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. that is the only school to ever host three consecutive presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016). The University offers small classes and personal attention, with the resources, technology and facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate programs.

Times Feature

Report: 2021's best places to flip houses

With house flippers earning an average gross profit of \$63,500 in Q1 2021, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2021's Best Places to Flip Houses, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.

To help serious real-estate investors find the best markets to list their flipped properties, WalletHub compared more than 170 U.S. cities across 26 key metrics. The data set ranges from median purchase price to average full home remodeling costs to real-estate agents per capita.

Best Cities to Flip Houses

1. Sioux Falls, SD
2. Missoula, MT
3. Peoria, AZ
4. Nampa, ID
5. Tampa, FL
6. Mobile, AL
7. Boise, ID
8. Rapid City, SD
9. Gilbert, AZ
10. Knoxville, TN

Worst Cities to Flip Houses

163. Oxnard, CA
164. Wilmington, DE
165. Jersey City, NJ
166. New York, NY
167. Los Angeles, CA
168. Bridgeport, CT
169. San Francisco, CA
170. Yonkers, NY
171. Oakland, CA
172. Newark, NJ

Best vs. Worst

- Pittsburgh has the highest average gross return on investment, 128.12 percent, which is 9.4 times higher than in Raleigh, North Carolina, the city with the lowest at 13.64 percent.

- Montgomery, Alabama, has the lowest median purchase price, \$60,000, which is 15.3 times lower than in San Jose, California, the city with the highest at \$920,000.

- Memphis, Tennessee, has the highest share of home flips, 11.95 percent, which is 6.1 times higher than in Portland, Maine, the city with the lowest at 1.95 percent.

- Charleston, South Carolina, has the most real-estate agents (per 100,000 residents), 247, which is 41.2 times more than in Worcester, Massachusetts, the city with the fewest at 6.

- Little Rock, Arkansas, has the lowest average full home remodeling costs, \$75,888, which is five times lower than in Atlanta, the city with the highest at \$375,734.

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-to-flip-houses/23158

Expert Commentary

What are the most common mistakes people make when trying to flip a house?

"The most common mistake is easily the mistake of the rose-colored glasses. Especially as the popularity of 'fix and flip' shows have grown, people believe that flipping a house is an easy way to make a great deal of money quickly...While it is sometimes possible to do a few cosmetic repairs and earn a handsome profit, investors should beware of their own optimism. Older houses, in particular, may have a lot of charm which looks in need of some polish, however, a new coat of paint cannot solve a structural problem or make up for obsolete plumbing or electric wiring."

Brittany Cousins – Professor, Duke University

"The most common mistakes are underestimating the costs and the time involved for a successful 'flip.' It is better to contact the local building inspection department before starting any work to pull proper permits. Each city or municipality may have different rules and regulations, so better to start off on the right foot by knowing the rules first."

John Sobota, M.S. – Lecturer / REPM Ambassador, University of Wisconsin-Stout

What is the best way to finance a flip? Should people try to go all cash or is borrowing the way to go?

"Cash is the simplest, particularly the first time around, and it will generate the lowest returns. But it is the least likely to result in a financial default (in which case you may lose everything), assuming you have sufficient additional cash for the repairs, home prep, and sale. Short-term loans are very attractive, and interest rates should remain low for quite some time. But if you take out a loan, ensure you can make the payments until the home is sold, and allow a generous margin for delays."

James Refalo – Professor, California State University, Los Angeles

"In business, proper leverage will result in higher potential returns. However, flipping houses is a risky business. I suggest that if you are planning on financing part of your flip, you should plan to

have at least 50 percent of the total cost of the project including the purchase price of the property and the cost of renovation. Usually, when you show a lender that you have significant skin in the game, loan terms are meaningfully more favorable."

Daniel Huerta-Sanchez, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University

What factors – financial and otherwise – should go into the decision of whether a house is a good candidate to be flipped?

"Understanding the original type of construction and the ongoing maintenance investments made by prior homeowners is central for evaluating development risk. Finding an engineer and an inspector that you trust is a major step in that direction. Sometimes in real estate, you make money by

walking away from a deal. So, learning how to say "no" is important."

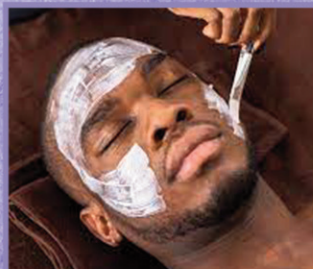
Jesse M. Keenan, M.Sc., Ph.D., J.D., LL.M. – Associate Professor, Tulane University

"Knowing as much about the physical issues as possible is critical. So is having detailed information about any environmental issues that could jeopardize the whole investment...Understanding potential legal problems, such as encroachments, building code violations, and non-compliance with ADA and other regulatory matters, is equally important given the potential to seriously damage the buyer's ability to flip the property at a future date. Of course, the initial point to be verified is that the re-sale of the house will fully recover the initial purchase price of the house, the restoration and renovation costs, the carrying costs, and a suitable profit margin."

Nicholas Stolatis, CPM, RPA, LEED-AP BD+C – Principal, EPN Real Estate Services, Inc.



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Times **Feature**

San Jose State, CSU Schools to require COVID vaccinations for all students, faculty and staff

By William Bellou
Publisher

San Jose State University faculty, staff and students will need to be vaccinated for COVID-19 this fall.

All California State Universities which includes San Jose State University have decided to require all faculty, staff and students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 during the fall

2021 term.

With nearly 4 billion doses already administered worldwide, CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro cited the ultra-contagious Delta variant as one reason the university system will require the vaccine to protect CSU students and employees. The vaccination deadlines vary by campus.

"Receiving a COVID vaccine continues to be



the best way to mitigate the spread of the virus," Castro said in a prepared statement. "We urge all members of the CSU community to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and announcing this requirement now allows members of the CSU community to receive multiple doses of a vaccine as we head into the beginning of the fall term."

Vaccines are available on-site at several CSU campuses and unvaccinated students and staff are encouraged to contact their campus to determine their options and availability.

CSU officials are expected to unveil their formal vaccination policy in the next week.

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Times **Feature****COUNTY SCHOOL REPORT****August brings a new school year**

By Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
Special to the Times

With the new month of August comes a new school year.

Although it is not the typical start to school, I am looking forward to an incredibly positive and successful year.

School employees, school leaders, elected officials and others have been preparing for the next school year and the planned return to full in-person instruction. Schools are ready.

While many families are also excited and ready for full-time reconnection for their children, others are anxious or unsure about potential risks.

The school districts in Santa Clara County are committed to the health and wellness of the students, staff, and their families. Schools will continue to foster resilience, perseverance, and the ability to communicate effectively in diverse learning situations.

The guidance for universal masking eliminates the physical distancing requirements. Our office and the County school districts must follow the guidelines set forth by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Education



From the Superintendent
Mary Ann Dewan, Ph. D.

(CDE).

- Masks are required for all students when indoors and for adults when students are present.

- Masks are required on school buses.

- When outdoors, masks will be optional for everyone.

These measures need to be implemented and practiced to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its variants while providing the safest educational environment possible.

I want to thank our parents, families, and staff for their partnership and commitment to our youth. I look forward to reconnecting with students, staff, and families as the beginning of the school year gets underway.



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Times **Community News**

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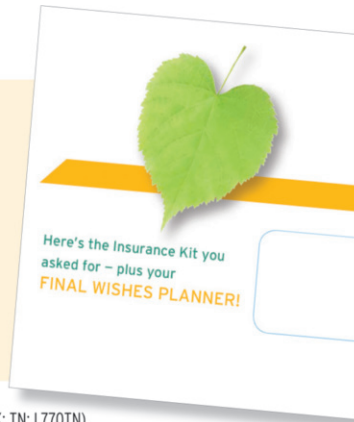
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Ninth Circuit rules Governor Newsom's COVID closure of private schools unconstitutional

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed and remanded a district court ruling erroneously upholding Governor Newsom's closure of nearly 80 percent of schools across California, Friday, July 23.

In doing so, the Ninth Circuit held that Governor Newsom's COVID-19 order closing private schools violated parents' Due Process rights to determine the forum of their kids' education.

The Center for American Liberty (@Liberty_Ctr), with counsel Eimer Stahl LLP and the Dhillon Law Group (@dhillonlaw), appealed the District Court's summary judgement dismissal of the landmark #OpenCASchools case, Brach v. Newsom.

In ruling for parents, the Ninth Circuit reasoned: "...the Supreme Court has long held that 'the right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children is a fundamental liberty interest protected by the Due Process Clause,' and that right includes 'the right of parents to be free from state interference with their choice of the educational forum itself.'"

"Because California's ban on in-person schooling abridges a fundamental liberty of these five Plaintiffs that is protected by the Due Process Clause that prohibition can be upheld only if it withstands strict scrutiny. Given the state closure order's lack of narrow tailoring, we cannot say that, as a matter of law, it survives such scrutiny."

"Today's opinion from the Ninth Circuit is a huge victory for parents' rights," said

Harmeet K. Dhillon, CEO of the Center for American Liberty. "The Ninth Circuit rightly ruled in parents' favor, affirming that they – and not Gavin Newsom or faceless bureaucrats -- have the right to decide how best to educate their children."

"While we are thrilled for our clients whose rights are vindicated by today's decision, we are disappointed the Ninth Circuit did not rule that all students, including those in public school, have a basic right to an education. We will continue to advocate for the educational rights of all students," Dhillon said.

VTA begins running buses along the light rail system

The Valley Transportation Authority has started a new schedule of running buses along part of its defunct light rail system.

No fares will be charged until light rail service has been restored. Full VTA service is expected by mid-August.

The light rail system was taken offline after a disgruntled VTA employee killed nine people at the VTA dispatch yard on May 26.

The bus service will operate along First Street in San Jose, from the Paseo de San Antonio Station to Baypointe Station, then over to the Milpitas Transit Center along Tasman Drive; operating every 30 minutes on weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and hourly on weekends from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"At this time, there is no firm estimate of when light rail service will begin," the VTA said. "VTA is working diligently and compassionately to ensure employees impacted by the tragic events of May 26 feel safe and confident to return to their normal duties."

NEW CAR REVIEW 2024 Honda Prologue EV SUV

*A new EV SUV to help achieve
a goal of a full electric Honda
fleet by 2040*

By Sean Eastwood

The name for the new Honda EV that will arrive in 2024 is Prologue, the first in a pending lineup of battery electric vehicles.

Honda says it chose the name Prologue to indicate that it is the first of many upcoming electric vehicles.

Prologue will be the first result of a surprising partnership between Honda and General Motors on EV powertrains. It will use the same Ultium battery packs found in upcoming GM electric vehicles such as the GMC Hummer EV and the Cadillac Lyriq.

Few details of the sport utility vehicle were revealed in the recent announcement,



but Honda said the Prologue will operate on GM's Ultium batteries. It will be available in the United States and Canada. An all-electric Acura SUV will also debut in 2024.

Besides its 100 percent fully electric goal by 2040, Honda says its shorter-term goal is 40 percent of its major market using batteries or hydrogen fuel cells by 2030. Honda's EV goal is 80 percent by 2035.

The Prologue is expected to be either a compact or mid-size SUV. The powertrain and platform will be made up of GM components.

The Acura luxury brand will also add a version of this EV in 2024, but that model's name hasn't yet been announced.

Times **Feature**

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Self-Parking

By **Shubhi Asthana**
Special to the Times

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

Self-Parking

Parking can be an ordeal in congested areas like Downtown Campbell, where squeezing your car in tiny spaces is a vital skill. It’s seldom an easy task and can lead to traffic tie-ups which can be unnerving in narrow streets.

Fortunately, technology has answers – cars that park themselves. The same technology used in self-driving cars can be used for self-parking as well as collision avoidance systems. Imagine finding the perfect parking spot, but instead of struggling to maneuver your car back and forth, you simply press a button, sit back, and relax. This autonomous valet and its convenience truly sell most people on autonomous vehicle technologies.

The first vehicle to parallel park a car was a prototype built in France by the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (INRIA), setting the foundation for what has now become commercially available in self-parking vehicles. Many major automotive manufacturers like Ford, BMW, and Volkswagen are working to introduce semi-automated parking systems in their vehicles. All are using systems based on the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J3016 standards.

The basic procedure for parallel parking starts with finding a suitable parking space. Assessing the best approach for getting into that space is done by considering variables such as the space's size, the amount of room available for maneuver, and the capabilities of the vehicle to be parked. Humans can (theoretically) do this quickly and without much conscious thought. Computers require a little more training.

Sensors on the front and rear bumpers of a vehicle can be used to detect most of the variables involved. Proximity sensors for park-assist usually use electromagnetic or ultrasonic detection to determine the distance to and

size of an object near the vehicle. The more common ultrasonic sensors work in a way like the echolocation bats use to find their way around. Once distances are determined, calculations are made by the parking system's computer to set the best course of action for parking. Since some control is still usually in the hands of the driver (mostly forward reverse and braking), adjustments must be made to accommodate mistakes made



The 2018 Audi A8 is a popular self-parking car.

by the human involved.

The vehicle steers itself into the slot and announces the comple-

tion of parking with a tone and visual image. The first few times an experienced driver tries this system it seems highly foreign, and the urge to grab the steering wheel or apply too much brake is high. This subsides after a few tries, though, and leaves one amazed at how well the system parks the vehicle, even in what would seem to be impossible spaces.

Self-parking is the first big step towards fully automated vehicles.

Most in the industry are expecting fully automated vehicles to begin availability in the near future, likely with self-parking or nearly autonomous parking as a primary feature.

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

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Families can revel in the holiday spirit in a magnificent new setting when New Ballet brings The San Jose Nutcracker to the historical California Theatre in downtown San Jose December 18-22, 2021. Pictured: The Diamondback Rattlesnake (**Rachel Winter**) and Gilroy Garlic Harvester (**Ty Danzl**) dance as Clara (**Mesa Burdick**) looks on in the background. *Photo credit: Bari Lee*

NEW BALLET MAGICAL HOLIDAY SHOW

'The San Jose Nutcracker' Ballet re-set in Santa Clara Valley comes to the California Theatre; Dec. 18-22

Performance inspired by San Jose history

Families can revel in the holiday spirit in a magnificent new setting when New Ballet brings its hit production “The San Jose Nutcracker” to the historical masterpiece California Theatre in downtown San Jose.

This joyful production, which transports the well-loved tale to turn-of-the-last-century San Jose, offers pre-show lobby experiences for all ages, and has added new VIP Experience tickets that include a fantastical visit with performers onstage. Featuring historical references that highlight the Santa Clara Valley as a birthplace of innovation, Presented in partnership with History San Jose, “The San Jose Nutcracker” is performed by the acclaimed New Ballet, with choreography by the Company’s Artistic and Executive Director, Dalia Rawson.

Set to sections of Tchaikovsky’s beloved score performed live by a professional orchestra, the story begins at a festive holiday party hosted by young Clara, her brother Fritz, and their family in San Jose. Fascinating Uncle Nikola and his astonishing electric gifts make an appearance, and soon Clara is swept into an adventure that leads her on a magical journey to “The Valley of Hearts Delight,” where she meets the Sugarplum Fairy and characters inspired by Santa Clara Valley history. Youngsters watch in delight as the historic San Jose Electric Light Tower magically grows above the streets of San Jose, the Nutcracker prince comes to life, and adorable mice go to battle with toy soldiers for a magic crown. From the unique Casa de Fruta character and her darling danc-

ing cherries, to swirling folklorico dancers from Los Lupeños Juvenil, this colorful and cultural production is a treat for all.

Children’s version
Families with younger children can enjoy “My Very First Nutcracker,” a shortened performance that makes an ideal introduction to live performance. This special one-act presentation features a run time of 55 minutes and reduced ticket prices. (Audiences should note: “My Very First Nutcracker” does not include the second act where Clara meets the Sugarplum Fairy and journeys to the “Valley of Heart’s Delight.”)

Christmas in the Park official partner
The fun begins at every performance with festive holiday decorations in the elegant lobby, courtesy of San Jose’s renowned Christmas in the Park, an official partner of “The San Jose Nutcracker.” Attendees will enjoy opportunities to interact with costumed characters and be photographed in magical fairytale settings, plus enjoy inventive displays from History San Jose and treats and toys available for purchase. Concessions offer something for everyone, from sweet treats to celebratory beverages.

VIP experience
The all-new “San Jose Nutcracker” VIP Experience is also available to create a lasting, treasured holiday memory for family members of all ages. In addition to premium seating, VIP guests will be led backstage to meet the dancers and New Ballet orchestra conductor Thomas Shoebotham and learn all about what makes “The San Jose Nutcracker” the most spectacular holiday extravaganza around. VIP guests will have the opportunity to live the magic, up close and personal, as they sit in Clara’s beautiful carriage, take epic photos with costumed

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Dancers of The New Ballet in The San Jose Nutcracker.
Photo credit: Bari Lee

dancers in fairytale settings, and experience stage effects, among other magical surprises. They will also see the beautiful California Theatre from the perspective of the Sugar Plum Fairy herself, a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Magnificent California Theatre

The handsomely restored California Theatre is one of the most magnificent, best-preserved examples of 1920s era lavish motion picture palaces. Lovingly restored at the turn of the 21st century, its opulently ornamented interiors were completely refurbished, including the elaborately stenciled entry foyer ceiling and magnificent gallery. With only twenty rows of seats in the orchestra section, five rows in the grand tier, and six in the mezzanine, every seat has an excellent view of the stage. The California is slightly smaller than England's Gly-

debourne and Venice's historic Teatro la fenice, placing it in the select ranks of the world's most intimate opera houses.

New Ballet was founded in March 2016 by local dancer, teacher, and choreographer Dalia Rawson, filling a void in downtown San Jose for a professional ballet school. Offering an additional focus on dancer health and child development, the organization provides ballet instruction as well as performances. With a certified teaching staff, New Ballet is one of only five schools designated as an American Ballet Theatre Certified School nationwide.

Performance dates
The San Jose Nutcracker:
Saturday, Dec. 18 @ 2pm; Sunday, Dec. 19 @ 2pm; Tuesday, Dec. 21 @ 2pm; Wednesday, and Dec. 22 @ 2pm.
My Very First Nutcracker:
Saturday, Dec. 18 @ 11am; Sunday, Dec. 19 @ 11am; Tuesday, Dec. 21 @ 11am; Wednesday, and Dec. 22 @ 11am.

An affordable yuletide treat for families, tickets start at \$17 for "My Very First Nutcracker," and \$25 for "The San Jose Nutcracker." For more information, visit www.newballet.com or call the box office at (408) 792-4111. California Theatre is located at: 345 S 1st St, San Jose.



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Chief

Continued from page 1

to create positive change for the betterment of the police department and community through community partnerships. "The reason I got involved in law enforcement," he said, "...is to build relationships with our community."

Mata said his vision is to create the highest level of confidence and trust in the police department. He said he will accomplish this through having an engaged department which provides the best service at all levels from responding to calls to investigating and conducting follow-ups.

Among his priorities, Mata said, are stabilizing resources such as staffing and equipment and having a police department which is highly trained in areas such as cultural diversity. Currently, new recruits receive training in procedural justice, fair and impartial policing, critical incident training, racial profiling and de-escalation, he said. Officers also tour and speak with members of the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center. The police department is contracted with the Islamic Network Group to provide cultural sensitivity training to recruits and command officers. Mata said he wants to expand that training to all officers.

Mata said training and teaching best practices in policing is essential in serving the diverse community of San Jose. He also has an eye on restructuring the department's approach to community safety. Not every circumstance requires a police response, he said, so partnering with social services and city and county agencies is important.

City Manager David Sykes said in a statement that Mata demonstrated an ability to build trust with the community and manage the leanest police force of any big city in the nation. "The challenges faced by police departments across the nation require courageous leadership and collaboration with the communities they serve," Sykes said.

Mata said providing a high level of service and building relationships with residents will help him and his department develop a high level of trust and confidence in the department. "We became officers...to help our community, to help others," he said.

Mata said to build trust, officers need to have conversations with the communities they serve. "In order to help others, we need to get to know one other," he said, "and listen and have those difficult dialogues to build those bonds, that trust and confidence." Mata said officers need to personally engage with neighborhoods to know what their needs are and provide services. "We need to...get out of our cars and speak with our community," he said. "That's the only way we're going to know how we can help."

Mata said additional officer training is also

needed. The city's independent police auditor told the city council its 2020 year-end report found 25% of SJPd sworn officers received at least one complaint and 23% of these complaints involved force allegations. But Mata said in 2020, the SJPd had 426,065 citizen contacts through calls for service or self-initiated activity, and of those, it only received 269 complaints. Of these complaints, 62 were for use of force and 19 resulted from civil unrest during the summer, he said. "Do we make mistakes? Absolutely," he said, adding that SJPd is looking at how to do better.

The independent police auditor recommended SJPd develop an early warning system to identify officers with possible issues, as well as those who do really good work, Mata said. Mata said the county has guidelines on how to deal with officer involved incidents which include officer involved shootings. In 2021, there were two fatal incidents with officer involved shootings, he said, and five last year, with one being fatal. A

criminal investigation by the homicide unit and district attorney's office is conducted following an officer involved death, he said, which is overseen by internal affairs and an independent police auditor. An administrative investigation determines what led up to the incident and ensures officers followed the law and department policy. Recent legislation requires the department to make available any video, including from body-worn cameras, within 45 days of the incident. The district attorney determines the legality of the shooting

and can file charges and a report of the incident and internal affairs conducts an administrative investigation. If there is a violation of policy that the officer was engaged in, discipline has to wait until the criminal investigation is completed, Mata said.

Mata said service has always been his calling. He currently mentors high school and college students. "I think becoming a police officer was for me the ultimate way to give back," he said. "Our profession sees our community in crisis and at its most vulnerable and being able to help...to me is very rewarding." Mata said his profession is going through some hard times right now, but he always reminds the officers why they became officers is to help people. "Being out in the community is very important because all those positive contacts reenergize me and the men and women of the department," he said.

Mata said he welcomes criticism as an opportunity to be better. But he said defunding the police is not an option. "We're seeing other cities where they have been defunded," he said, "but it's only going to hurt those communities that are most impacted by crime. We're seeing officers leave large cities because of defunding." Mata added that 90% of SJPd's budget goes to personnel and 10% goes to equipment, training and other services needed to keep the community and offi-

***"We need to...get
out of our cars
and speak with
our community,"
he said. "That's
the only way
we're going to
know how we
can help."***

***—Police Chief
Anthony Mata***

Times **Community News**

cers safe.

Mata said everyone deserves fair treatment and respect, regardless of ethnicity or disability. He said he wants to learn how the police department can provide better service for disabled residents and be a bridge for other services. Reimagining the police department's response to mental health, Mata said he understands not everything necessitates a police response, but SJPd has a role to play in community safety. He wants to keep officers as well as residents experiencing a mental crisis safe, he said. "I welcome these dialogues in reimagining community safety," he said, "because it is important to understand how we can provide better police services and how we can be a partner with allied agencies to keep our community safe."

To respond to individuals having a mental health crisis, SJPd created a mobile crisis assessment team trained in crisis intervention. This team, which includes about 10 officers and two sergeants in dressed-down uniforms, corresponds to calls for service with county clinicians. Mata said the program has been working well as the unit has responded to hundreds of cases with zero complaints or use of force. He said officers have deescalated many situations because of their training and they had been selected for this pilot program. Mata said he wants to expand the program to multiple teams and is federal funding to do so.

Regarding gang violence, Mata said the police department can't combat it alone. "We respond when

"The challenges faced by police departments across the nation require courageous leadership and collaboration with the communities they serve."

***—City Manager
David Sykes***

someone calls us, when there's a gang incident, a shooting, a homicide or an assault," he said. "As a city, we need to do better at providing services to our youth."

Mata supports increased after school programs, camping with impacted communities, homework club and extended library hours. He said the police department can partner with schools to mentor youth and provide opportunities for their wellbeing as well as provide challenged families with services to help create positive environments for their children.

"It is the greatest honor of my professional career to lead this great department at this time of needed social and organizational change," Mata said in a statement. "I humbly but enthusiastically approach the challenge of guiding and supporting our dedicated workforce while also advocating for our community as we re-imagine community safety together."

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Times **Community News**

Fire

Continued from page 1

or upgrading the last 5-feet of the fence to a noncombustible material is another way to safeguard your home, CAL FIRE said.

- Lean and green**
- CAL FIRE also recommends keeping your property “lean and green” and doing the following things within five feet of your home:
- Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other noncombustible mulch materials.
 - Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.)
 - Remove all branches within 10 feet of a chimney.
 - Limit plants to low growing types.
 - Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks.
 - Relocate firewood and lumber.
 - Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.
 - Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers and vehicles.

CAL FIRE also suggests mowing lawns down to a maximum height of four inches, trimming trees regularly, removing or pruning flammable plants and shrubs near windows, removing vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks, balconies and stairs and creating a separation between trees and shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Cobillas recommends doing yard work early in the morning, before it gets too hot and the wind starts blowing, as well as watching out for sparks and embers when using power tools.

Overheated vehicles, a concern

“If your car is overheating for any reason, make sure you don’t pull off into a field,” Cobillas said. “That can actually start a fire. These things have all happened in the past.”

Almaden has two San Jose Fire Department Stations: Station 22, located at 6461 Bose Lane, and Station 28, located at 19911 McKean Road. Station 22 has a Type 1 Engine, which can carry 500 gallons of water. Station 28 has a type 1 Engine and a Type 6 Engine, which can carry 250 gallons of water and has off-road capabilities.

CAL FIRE has a station a quarter mile from Station 28, which is helpful as it has tools and equipment the city doesn’t have such as hand crews, airplanes and helicopters.

“It’s really good for us to keep a great relationship with the CAL FIRE station because we utilize their resources on bigger events,” Cobillas said.

Fire prevention in the home

Cobillas suggested several safety precautions for the home including having a fire extinguisher on every floor as well as one in the kitchen and garage. If a fire is in the area, having hoses on either side of the house is ideal for spraying it down, he said.

Smoke detectors for sleeping rooms

Smoke detectors should be in every room people sleep in and carbon monoxide monitors in every hallway, Cobillas said. He said the fire department recommends changing the batteries in the smoke detectors every time clock times are changed.

Fire escape plans

The whole family should know...where

they’re going to get out from and where they’re going to meet up so when we show up as firefighters we can say, ‘Do you have anyone in the house?’ Because life safety is the number one priority for us,” Cobillas said. “That meeting place is actually really important for accountability purposes.”

Cobillas said it’s helpful to call 911 from a landline in a home as calls from cell phones go to highway patrol and have to be rerouted to a local dispatch center.

If there is the threat of fire, turning the gas and propane tanks off could save your home, he said.



SJFD Fire Engineer **Chris Cobillas** said families should create fire escape plans, including a meeting place outside the home.

In the case of an encroaching fire, Cobillas said to stay informed but evacuate early

rather than waiting to be told to leave.

Emergency bag

Cobillas recommends having an emergency bag ready to grab at a moment’s notice with enough food and water for three days, extra clothing, keys, credit cards and cash. The bag should also contain prescriptions, medications, an extra pair of glasses, a first aid kit, flashlight, battery powered radio, pet food and copies of important documents, he said.

“If time allows, take your photos,” Cobillas said, “but it’s not worth your life trying to save items.”

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• 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.eicsanjose.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
ਰਬ 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.stfranciscofassisi.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, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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**



Notice

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

The Agape Schools admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

SJMN#6547945; January 28, 2021

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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.

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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

Employment

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1762 Technology Dr #227, San Jose, CA 95110

IT Manager

Sify Technologies North America Corporation/Sify NA seeks IT Manager – Instructional Design in Santa Clara, CA. Prepare a range of cost proposals with appropriate complexity in response to specific solicitation requirements and relevant regulations. Work on multiple proposal efforts concurrently toward achievement of a fully compliant and competitive cost proposal. Work from home may be an option. May need to relocate/travel to unanticipated client sites. Please send your Cover Sheet and Resume to 5201 Great America Parkway Suite 132, 1st Floor, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Attn: Katta Reddy

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20214 Viewcrest Drive San Jose

\$2,999,000 | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3536 Sq Ft | 2.5 Acre Lot



Almaden Valley home with an established one acre vineyard of over 1,000 terraced vines. This home also features a pool, outdoor fireplace, multiple entertainment areas, fruit trees and stunning Almaden Valley views. Wet bar, wine room, bonus room, built-in, large master suite with private balcony.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 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, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

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



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