

Evergreen Valley
teen believes
in STEM
education for all
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Troubling video
School safety concerns after
students fight at Silver Creek High
School – **SEE PAGE 7**

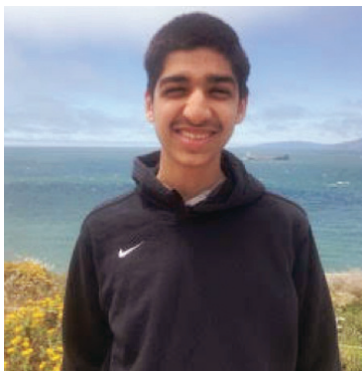
‘Undecided’ app helps
students determine their
major while locking
down a college path of
study **SEE PAGE 8**



SEPT. 10 – SEPT. 23, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 19

EvergreenTimes

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EVHS student develops meal order app to increase lunch delivery efficiency for students

*New app allows students
to customize their meals
and pay online*

By William Bellou
Publisher

Aarav Navani (pictured), a junior at Evergreen Valley High School, has been recognized by the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) Board of Trustees for the development of a meal order application for the more than 23,000 students at 17 schools within the district.

See LUNCH APP, page 2

World Taekwondo Demo Team earns spot as finalists on AGT

*Three team members
from Evergreen Valley*

By William Bellou
Publisher

America’s Got Talent semi-finalist results shows are the most exciting ones to watch of the series.

The AGT semi-finalists results show on Sept. 1 was certainly exciting for the World Taekwondo Demo Team, comprised of 24-members from South Korea and America, three of which reside in Evergreen Valley.

World Taekwondo Demo Team was triumphant as they were voted at the end of the show by judges, Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel and Sofia Vergara to be among the five acts that won a spot on the show’s upcoming finals telecast. Following the next semifinal results, there will be a total of 10 finalists.

The AGT judges were very impressed with the Team’s quarter-finals performance, even more im-



On “America’s Got Talent” it was revealed that the World Taekwondo Demonstration Team would be advancing to the show’s semifinal round. *Photo credit: Trae Patton, NBC*

pressed than their Golden Buzzer winning performance in July.

“I love you, I love your ambition. This is what AGT is all about,” said Simon Cowell.

Sofia said they are fascinating and amazing.

Heidi said it’s like “a beautiful controlled chaos” and she would buy tickets to see them in Vegas.

Howie said it’s like a Marvel movie musical. He thought for his personal taste, “this was the best act of the night.”

See TALENT, page 2



Breanne Kaing, pictured here on her way home from school, is an inspiration to others because of all the volunteer work she does.

Breanne Kaing: An asset to Evergreen Valley

*7th grader donates to
Operation Gratitude
for our soldiers*

By Frank Shortt
Times staff writer

Breanne Kaing will be 13 on her next birthday.

For one of such a young age she has accomplished more than most of us do at a much older age. Breanne entered Middle School in the Evergreen School District, 7th grade last month.

Each morning, along with her mother Vivian, she volunteers her

time picking up other folk’s trash along the streets of her neighborhood and around Evergreen schools, as well as the District storage and work sheds. Her mentor has been doing good things like this for many years.

Breanne is an inspiration to her friends and family as she goes about doing good. She not only helps keep the community clean but also crochets scarves for friends and to donate to Operation Gratitude for the soldiers and veterans who serve our country. She also had a great mentor in her

See KAING, page 15

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Lunch app*Continued from page 1*

As a freshman, Aarav observed a problem in the lunch ordering process in which students were waiting too long for lunch and he wanted to find a way to remedy this issue.

After receiving district approval, he worked throughout the 2020 pandemic year with the district's IT department and Julie Kasberger, Director of Child Nutrition Services, to develop a meal order app.

Aarav was able to design a program that not only allows the students to customize their meals and pay online, but it also allows cafeteria workers to gather data to quickly assemble the lunches in advance resulting in reducing lunch lines, costs and food waste.

The district expects to save money by reducing food loss, increase productivity by assembling the meals in advance, and better data tracking of popular meals and the number of lunches served each day.

"I enjoy problem solving and especially improving human efficiency," Aarav said. "I will continue to work on developing tools which will improve the quality of life for my fellow students and make ESUHS schools run more efficiently."

Within this app, Aarav is thinking about adding support for different languages and nutritional information and allergy warnings for each food item.

"It's fantastic for students ordering and our team to be able to ready the meals so efficiently," said Julie Kasberger, ESUHS Di-

rector of Child Nutrition Services.

Aarav and the team at ESUHS used a relational database application, scripting languages, and RESTful API's to design and develop this cloud-based application which works on multiple different phone platforms. He also worked with a UI designer to make the app appealing to students.

"Aarav used his experience as a student and his skills as a programmer to make an app that will make lunch time a joy," said Randy Phelps, ESUHS Chief Technology Officer. "To see young people developing applications that have immediate and lasting impact for our students and staff is empowering and encouraging," said Phelps.

"East Side has many talented students and Aarav is a perfect example," said Van Le, ESUHS Board President. "He has developed a meal app that is a first of its kind, demonstrating innovation and efficiency. As a district, we will save both time and food. Congrats to Aarav! You make us proud!"

The application was beta tested from March 2021 to June 2021, and Aarav enhanced the app to protect privacy considerations and add increasing functionality.

Wingra Fang, a parent familiar with the situation at Evergreen Valley High School, commented about Aarav and his app,

"Aarav is just such a product of the Silicon Valley mentality -- find a problem and solve it. And this is just what we expect from EVHS and the district in general -- they are just so open to student feedback, and willing to work with everyone to develop answers to problems," said Fang.

Talent*Continued from page 1***Three members from Evergreen**

The World Taekwondo Demonstration team members from San Jose include: Kelsey Ha, 24, Sean Wallace, 23, and Cassidy Wallace, 20, who all grew up near each other in Evergreen Valley.

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.

"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."

Tokyo Olympics

"Our team was invited to perform at the Tokyo Olympics but unfortunately we could not do it due to COVID-19," said Kelsey, referring to the global pandemic that postponed the Olympics by a year.

During the team's first appearance on AGT, Simon Cowell responded, "So you could say you chose us over the Olympics."

'Peace is more precious than Triumph'

The World Taekwondo Demo Team performs their choreographed action sequences that could have been created for

any big-budget Hollywood action film. With intricate skill, they brake dozens of difficultly-placed song-pans (wooden boards). They always end their performance with a banner that reads: "Peace is more precious than Triumph," and always receive thunderous applause from the audience when it's unveiled.

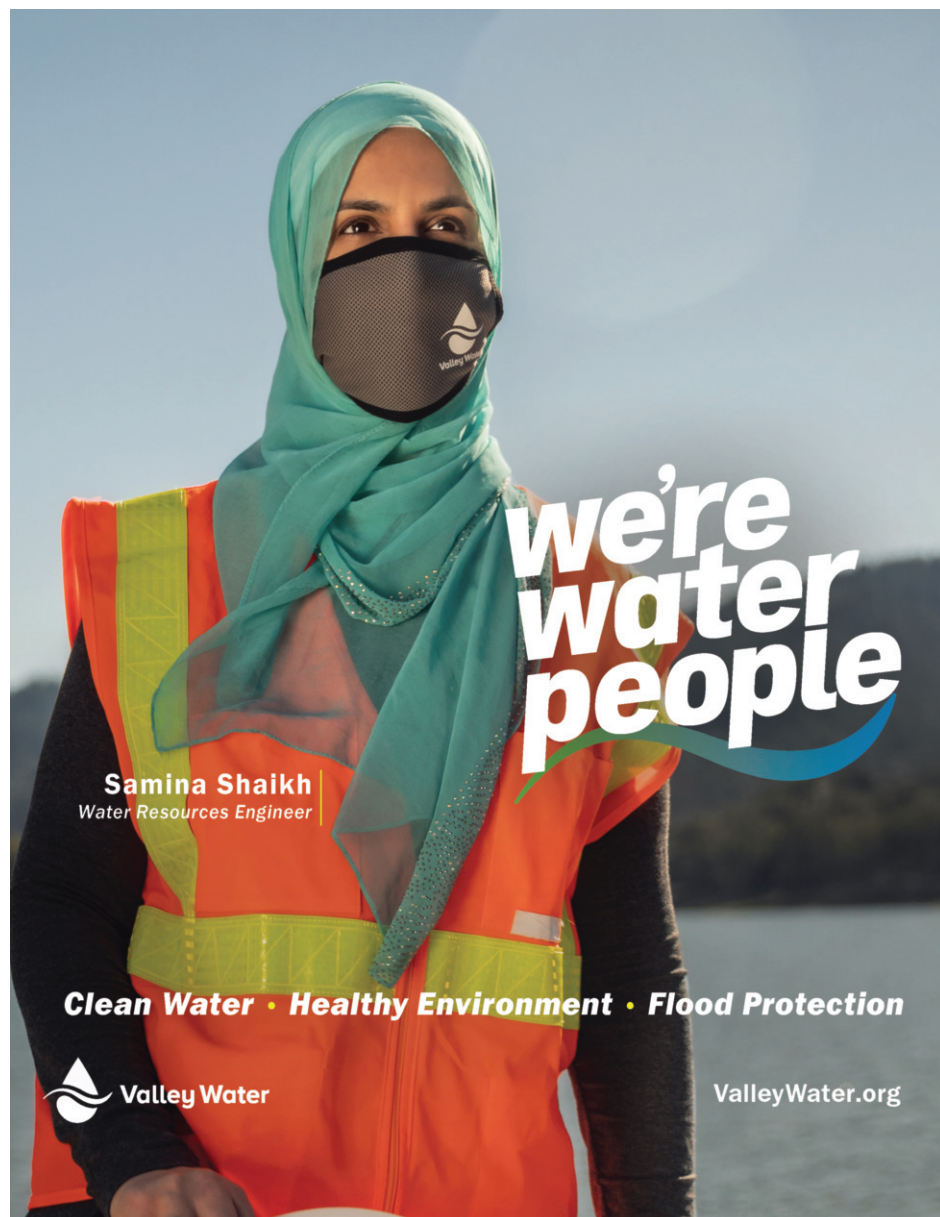
"Performing with my Taekwondo teammates always feels like a dream," said Ha. "Getting the opportunity to represent Taekwondo on the largest stage in the world and in front of my favorite celebrities makes it all feel so surreal."

Ha said her heart has been filled with gratitude 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 finals."

Sean Wallace, said, "Getting to perform with my teammates alongside the World Taekwondo Demonstration Team already 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."

Teammate Cassidy, Sean's sister, said, "I'm so grateful for the unwavering support of my teammates and community, and I can only hope to do them justice during the upcoming final event."


Editor's note: The Final performance show will be telecast on Tuesday, September 14 and the Finale results show will be telecast on Wednesday, September 15 on NBC.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Disabled, fragile children at risk thanks to lawmakers

Dear Editor,
I'm writing in response to "Looking on the bright side: Educational Changes Following Covid-19" by Patrick Quinn.

Thanks to lawmakers' decisions made this summer when the contagious Delta wasn't such a pressing concern, we are all left between a rock and a hard place, but no one more so than families with disabled and medically fragile children. With Delta looming, parents of children with disabilities have had to choose between getting the services they require with in-person learning or opting for independent study, which can't possibly meet their complex needs. Where is the bright side?

Planning to send my son to school, I loaded up on sanitizer and masks in July. By the time August came, I checked in with my son's doctor and received the response I was dreading. Attending school in person would be too risky for my autistic son with many medical conditions. The doctor recommended keeping him home for at least the next 6 months; the tears flowed and not just for my son. Overburdened parents of disabled children either risk their child's health or allow them to be further marginalized and forgotten.

Parents already carrying a heavy workload of appointments and therapies are taking on even more in order to keep their children safe, including managing

See LETTER, page 9

Valley Currents

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

Evergreen Valley teen believes in STEM education for all

Research has shown the importance of beginning STEM education in middle school (see tinyurl.com/cwu5jtyw). Early exposure to science is especially important for underrepresented minority students.

Learning Landmark is a non-profit organization working to cultivate a love for technology and computer science in students and to encourage them to pursue their interests and careers in these fields.

Evergreen Valley resident Sanjana Ryali, a junior from Valley Christian High School and the founder of Learning Landmark, believes that nurturing an interest in science, math, and technology during the critical middle school period will help students to better see themselves as leaders of tomorrow.

Learning Landmark is helping to create the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers by delivering STEM experiences to communities underrepresented in STEM. Ryali and her team of six volunteers work with schools and individual students across the Bay Area to deliver science kits that provide engagement and hands-on learning. The kits contain all the materials needed and a lesson plan with easy-to-follow instructions. These lessons are offered in online and off-line formats, free of cost, to seven participating schools.

Learning Landmark has provided more than 1,000 science kits to students at various Bay Area institutes like ACE Inspire Academy, ACE Esperanza Academy, Family Connections, Aspire Richmond School, San Jose Tully Library, and numerous schools in the Fremont and San Jose school districts. They have reached 107 students, ranging from 6-14 years old, as part of their STEM education initiative.

The efforts of Learning Landmark have been graciously recognized by participating schools

"This year Family Connections partnered with Learning Land-



Sanjana Ryali, founder of Learning Landmark

mark to help our Young Scholars, students ages 6-12, gain experience in STEM fields. It has been great to see our students getting excited about topics like mechanical and aerospace engineering! This program has given our students an opportunity to explore different STEM concepts while having fun and interacting with

their knowledgeable instructor and their peers," said Giannina Cadenas, Young Scholars and Alumni Coordinator at Family Connections.

Science teachers like Stephaney Wilson from Aspire Academy were extremely impressed with the content of the Learning Landmark lessons. "We had a lot of GEARED UP learning today with Sanjana introducing us to Simple Machines!! We learned about simple machines ranging from screws to pulleys (just like an elevator), building gears, and about possible careers in building robotic arms," said Ms. Wilson.

To raise funds to buy and build more science kits, Ryali has conducted online coding camps during school breaks. During the coding camps she teaches kids Python and Scratch programming. She has also raised funds by

selling her kits. She plans to seek corporate sponsorship to help fund these initiatives.

Ryali also conducted a Learning Landmark Science Fair, in which students came up with their own science experiments and presented them to each other and to judges. They applied the scientific method that they had learned during their Learning Landmark workshops. Through this competition, Ryali hoped that the students would demonstrate the ability to transfer their newfound skills to the real world!

"I would like to extend the contributions of Learning Landmark all over the country and even all over the world," she said.

Ryali is currently in the process of expanding her organization to reach kids in other countries including India, Thailand, New Zealand and UAE. She will continue to encourage kids to expand their love of science and to go into STEM careers. She further plans to adapt lesson plans to elementary kids, and to include art as a part of the offering to create a STEAM curriculum.

Editor's note: Landmark's mission is to provide children in underrepresented communities with free STEM education. Diversity brings unique insight to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For more information, visit: www.learning-landmark.com



At left: Ryali hands science kits to Jenny Mai, librarian and TeensReach coordinator at the San Jose Tully Library. Above: Order of 50 science kits to be delivered to Aspire Richmond Academy

EvergreenTimes

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

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES: WILLIAM D. BELLOU
408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM,
SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD,
KEVIN LARSEN, NIRBAN SINGH,
FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE LUU,
APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Times **Local News**

School safety concerns after troubling video shows students fighting at Silver Creek High School

By Times Media staff writers

Some parents are calling for police presence and security guards in Evergreen Valley following a troubling video which surfaced showing fighting at Silver Creek High School last week.

The school fight video shows a freshman at Silver Creek High School being knocked unconscious by a third student who hit from behind.

Some parents believe kids feel emboldened since there are no longer police resource officers on campus. Others responded by saying “don’t let one isolated incident or school change the current approach.”

“This does elevate to a serious level of assault. This is not a simple basic battery,” said San Jose police Officer Steve Aponte. “Losing consciousness is very severe and can be dangerous.”

There have been multiple fights at Silver Creek High School since school began on August 10. Two of those fights required police response.

The school's principal, Kelly Daugherty, scheduled a Zoom meeting with parents to discuss the fight incidents and explained how she plans to keep their children safe on campus.

The school district hired 24 counselors instead of bringing police on campus, to provide a social approach to problem solving.



Photo of fight in process from news media feed.

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Times **Community News**

'Undecided' web app helps students determine their major while locking down a college path of study

By William Bellou
Publisher

Anagha Purushotham (right), a high school junior in San Jose, recently created a new web app called “Undecided Gauge” to help students ascertain their college major.

Anagha said as she embarked on her educational journey throughout high school, she was unsure about what she wanted to pursue in her higher education and she decided to change that.

“I created this web app for students from the ages of 13-18 to help them gauge their interests and decide what they want to major in for college by having them answer ten behavioral questions,” Anagha said. “Like a lot of teenagers, I was also undecided for a while, so the web app not only helps others, but it has helped me as well. The environment and support I have been surrounded by for these past two years are what pushed me to launch ‘Undecided.’”

Inspiration for app

Over the summer, Anagha had the constant question confronting her of what she wanted to do in college roaming around in the back of her mind.

“For a while, I was completely unsure,



and that somewhat scared me, so I decided to take the opportunity to help other people who were also unsure about locking down a college major as well and help hone their interests and gear them in the right direction,” Anagha said. “Eventually I was able to outline an idea of what the app would look like and the project started building from there.”

Anagha said she introduced her idea to

See UNDECIDED, page 21

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Times **News**

How to ride your lawn chair

By Kevin Larsen
Times Staff Writer

You might remember a news story long ago when a man decided to tie large helium balloons to his lawn chair and with his wife looking on, he successfully flew into the skies. As he got too high up, he popped a balloon or two and gently landed in a field, miles away. Another innovation for the lawn chair took flight in Evergreen.

On a hot August summer day, using a One Wheel kind of skateboard, Josue decided to tie a comfortable lawn chair onto it to get to Evergreen Valley College in style.

After he fastened the chair and learned how to lean forward just right to pick up speed moving along the bike paths of the roads. Spotted going up Aborn road, he took a right on San Felipe and then kindly stopped to explain his innovation.

"I've actually seen people ride around on a chair like this so I wanted to customize my own. Our group usually holds rides once a week in Evergreen, we just sit down and relax and enjoy nature," Josue said.

It was seen that this mode of transportation allows the rider to pick up good speed toward their destination. Also, with the ad-

vent of high-tech music systems, songs were played while flying down the road.

"It takes a couple of times to learn how to ride but once you get it down it's life changing. You just lean forward and off you go." While leaning casually back in the chair and getting ready to take off with feet up, Josue referred to it as "the lazy style ride."

Like the man long ago who tied balloons to his lawn chair to rise above the clouds, Josue is following in the footsteps of a previous generation by exploring cutting edge ways to get around.



Heading off down the road he remarked with a smile, "Just a man enjoying his lawn chair."

Editor's Note: To learn more, type "One Wheel" into your computer search engine.



Coastal Cleanup registrations are open!

Coastal Cleanup Day is an international day of action to protect our oceans, watersheds, and wildlife from trash and debris one Sept. 18.

This massive volunteering effort has an astounding impact on many of our local natural habitats and communities. In 2019, the Ocean Conservancy reports that nearly 800,000 volunteers collectively removed more than 20 million pieces of trash from beaches and waterways around the world.

Pollution prevention starts at our front doors. Trash from around our neighborhoods can travel through storm drains, creeks, and rivers to become Bay pollution.

By pledging and registering, you will receive free tips on conducting a safe and effective cleanup. Your cleanup to stay connected with thousands of other residents hosting their own cleanups and to help us track the amount of trash we're keeping off our streets and creeks.

About National River Cleanup

National River Cleanup, also on Sept. 18,



is a national day of action to protect our rivers, watersheds, and wildlife from trash and debris. Since its inception in 1991, American Rivers have engaged more than 1.3 million volunteers who have participated in thousands of cleanups across the country, covering more than 261,000 miles of waterways and removing more than

32.5 million pounds of litter and debris.

To locate a cleanup site near you, visit coastal.ca.gov/publiced/cd/ccd.html#map

To download the Cleanswell app on your phone, visit www.oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/cleanswell

Letter

Continued from page 4

their emotional health under these difficult circumstances. Patrick Quinn sees schools "prioritizing social emotional learning" but let's be clear, if this is happening, it is only true for in-person students. On the first day of school I witnessed children in my son's google classroom desperately trying to find out what time school was starting. They only realized later that there would be no greeting or zooming with anyone; just a long list of work to do. Independent study does not provide any social emotional support and further isolates children with disabilities from their home school and familiar classmates.

Clearly lawmakers and school districts were not thinking of medically fragile, disabled children when they did not renew distance learning and modified AB130 instead. Teachers having done an amazing job utilizing technology to create engaging lessons for students in the classroom and at home are not allowed to use their new found skills to support all students. Where is the implementation of all the lessons we learned last year? Where is the focus on mental health and social emotional support for children doing independent study? These children, more isolated than many of their peers, need this support desperately. Don't they matter too? I'm tired of seeing disabled children treated as an afterthought, only included in planning when it is convenient. Lawmakers and schools need to remember to account for ALL students. Until then I'll be teaching my child long division between the tears.

Anna Ahammad
Evergreen Valley

'The Largest Annual Antique Auto Show in the West'

21st annual Antique Autos in History Park Sunday, Sept. 19

The 21st annual Antique Autos in History Park presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San José will take place on Sunday, September 19, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Designated as a "Living History Day," this year's event fills History Park (Kelley Park, 635 Phelan Ave, San José, CA) with 200 period-correct pre-1946 vehicles, fire equipment, bicycles, and motorcycles of all makes.

The featured vehicle this year is Pierce-Arrow, (1901-1938). A special presentation on Pierce-Arrow Co. Automobiles will be held at 2 p.m.

Registration not required

There is no registration required to enter a vehicle. Just bring your antique vehicle to the gate at History Park. All vehicles permitted on the grounds of History Park, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., were manufactured between the late 1800s and 1945

and are period-correct. No vehicle will be displayed on the grounds of History Park during the show that is newer than 1945.

Also located on the grounds will be the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. There will be antique crafts demonstrated and antique collectibles displayed.

A Dixieland Jazz Band will provide music and songs will be sung by The Fabulous JewelTones.

Food may be purchased from Double-H Catering and ice cream from O'Brien's Cafe. Activities are provided for kids.

Scheduled activities:

11:15 Dance Performance
12:00 The Fabulous JewelTones
12:30 Music by Toot Sweet Jazz Band
12:30 Video: Pierce-Arrow, Jay Leno's Garage



2:00 Presentation on Pierce-Arrow Co. Automobiles

2:30 Barbershop Quartet

3:30 Drawing for Door Prizes

Entrance Fees: Adults: \$ 10; Children (6 - 12) & Historical San Jose members: \$5. Participants and children under 6: Free

Editor's note: There is NO alcohol, NO pets (except service dogs), and NO BBQs allowed inside the park. These are park rules and must be followed.



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dent." A Sikh is a practi-
tioner of the faith founded
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Guru Nanak in Punjab of
old British India. A Guru
who is a "teacher" or "en-
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Times **Local News****California passes historic declaration becoming first 'Compassionate' state in the nation**

By Times Media staff writers

The State of California has passed Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 18, titled “Compassionate California” introduced by Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose) on Tuesday, Aug. 31.

The resolution, declaring California to be the first Compassionate State in the United States of America, was unanimously passed both by the State Senate (32-0) and Assembly (73-0) and became effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The Charter for Compassion was unveiled to the public in 2009 carrying forth the vision of creating a global civil society based upon the principle of compassion which lives at the heart of all religious, ethical, and spiritual traditions. Compassion impels us to alleviate the suffering of all creatures, care for our natural environment, and treat one another with dignity, equity, and respect. While SCR 18 is not an official adoption of the international Charter for Compassion, it does recognize the state as a model of compassion and proclaims California to be a Compassionate State.

“Our State is home to many industries, organizations, and individuals who seek to serve the needs of our communities through compassion, and it is through them that we have risen to be a model of compassion within the Union,” said Senator Cortese. “When we lead with compassion, especially during times of increasing uncertainty, we generate positive benefits that ripple through every sector of our civic and community life.”

Seventeen communities in California have passed “Compassionate Resolutions”, including the County of Santa Clara, which adopted a Resolution introduced by Senator Cortese when he served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Numerous California communities have initiatives in process. Over 450 cities, counties, and states spread across 56 countries globally have already adopted or are actively advancing “Compassionate” community declarations.

Research demonstrates that practicing compassion produces positive benefits in all sectors of civic and community life, including business, education, safety, public health, economic, and physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

“Compassion is at the heart of peace and harmony in community,” says Girish Shah of the Silicon Valley Interreligious Council and Compassionate California, adding, “This bipartisan resolution brings Compassion into the public square to build a more just and compassionate society.”

“Declaring California as a Compassionate State helps us change the narrative for how we relate to

each other and create community”, says Laura Hansen of Compassionate Capital Region and Compassionate California, adding, “Public health, safety and community design that serve everyone equitably are central to that narrative.”

“The passing of this Resolution is highly significant as it lays further groundwork for policies advancing issues of inclusion, diversity, and equity”, says Marina Councilmember Dr. Lisa A. Berkley of Compassionate California, adding, “It lies at the intersection of positive psy-

chology, social and environmental justice, and legislation and further establishes a foundation for policy rooted in care and compassion for the Earth and all her beings.”

As the Resolution states, “The state, along with its 58 counties and 482 cities, regularly empowers and supports compassionate programs and nonprofit services to improve the lives of all California residents and treat them with dignity, with emphasis on supportive services to child and youth programs, the elderly, the disabled, the

homeless, veterans, immigrants, vulnerable and protected populations such as those defined by race, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation and identity, nativity, native language, and related issues, workers, and small businesses.”

SCR 18 has 68 official coauthors: Assemblymembers Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bryan, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chiu, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan

Dahle, Davies, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lackey, Levine, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Rendon, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, and Wood.

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Times Local News



Reid-Hillview Airport. Photo by Lloyd Alaban

Reid Hillview airport closure could poison another neighborhood

By Lloyd Alaban

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

County officials are working to shut down Reid-Hillview Airport in East San Jose, citing lead exposure for surrounding residents. But shutting it down could shift the lead burden onto another low-income neighborhood: Washington-Guadalupe.

Should Reid-Hillview close, some Washington-Guadalupe residents fear planes en route to Mineta San Jose International Airport will bring leaded fuel pollution to their neighborhood, which is approximately six miles from the airport.

"We're in a community that already has so many different pollutant sources. We need to be really careful not to add one more," Brett Bymaster, executive director of the Healing Grove Health Center in Washington-Guadalupe, told San José Spotlight. He suggests moving air traffic to San Martin Airport 23 miles to the south—a possibility supervisors have explored in the past. "When you have tens of thousands of low-income children of color living right on the flight path, multiple schools right on the flight path, we just have to think strategically."

Lead levels

A recent study commissioned by the Board of Supervisors found elevated lead levels in the blood of children living within a 1.5-mile radius of Reid-Hillview Airport. The study looked at 17,000 blood samples from youth 0-18 between 2011 and 2020. While children closer to the airport have elevated blood lead levels, a San José Spotlight report shows that only 1.7% of children in the study have blood lead levels that warrant further testing and observation, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's threshold. The statewide average of children who meet the same criteria is between 1.5% and 2.6% depending on age.

Though officials want to close the airport, they are also looking to eliminate lead exposure in the interim. Last month, supervisors voted to ban planes from using leaded fuel. A day before, Reid-Hillview pledged to run as many of its planes on unleaded fuel as possible.

The heavily Latino neighborhood of Washington-Guadalupe is near a Southern Pacific railroad corridor and crisscrossed by Highway 87 and Interstate 280, contributing to noise and car pollution.

Washington resident Monica, who declined to give her last name, knows the dangers of lead poisoning all too well. She said she learned

her daughter suffered from lead poisoning when she was younger, though she isn't certain of how her daughter was poisoned.

"The airplanes where I am I hear all day because they pass over my roof," Monica told San José Spotlight. "I cannot imagine how bad our community will turn if this move happens. I really worry."

In a memo last month, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said he was concerned the closure of Reid-Hillview would mean more traffic to San Jose's downtown airport, directly in the flight path of several low-income neighborhoods. He added that increased general aviation traffic to the airport would slow commercial flights down. Liccardo pushed the county to explore directing traffic to alternate airports, including San Martin.

"Shifting the exhaust from lead-based aviation gas from East San Jose communities to even lower-income neighborhoods in the Mineta flight path will not solve the problem, but merely burdens yet another set of high-poverty, densely-populated communities of color," Liccardo wrote. "It is imperative that the county play a leadership role to study impacts of Reid-Hillview closure, both assessing the potential harm to neighborhoods like Guadalupe-Washington, and options for building capacity in neighboring facilities based on the likely flight redistribution."

'It's a poor people community here'

Officials have raised concerns for years that planes taking off and landing at the 82-year-old Reid-Hillview Airport, which used leaded fuel for decades, have poisoned the 52,000 mostly Latino and Vietnamese residents who live near the airport. Advocates say the airport poses safety and noise concerns and that the land could be better used for much-needed affordable housing. Opponents, however, say the airport serves a critical purpose for smaller planes and emergency operations.

"I agree that the (Reid-Hillview) airport should be closed because there's a lot of people getting sick," Washington-Guadalupe resident Maria Marcelo told San José Spotlight. "But then the airplanes are going to come around Washington because they need to find a place. That's going to kill the community of Washington. It's a poor people community here."

John McGowan, a private pilot and board member of Community and Airport Partnership for Safe Operations, believes Reid-Hillview's transition away from unleaded fuel will help with pollution and hopes the switch will keep Reid-Hillview open.

Simply diverting traffic to the San Martin Airport, McGowan says, is not a viable option for business and other personal travelers who come into San Jose regularly.

"While the mayor and several councilmembers would like to avoid upsetting residents of East San Jose who simply don't like having an airport in their neighborhood, it is not possible to close Reid-Hillview without having negative impacts on Mineta airport and the community at large," McGowan said.

Times **Feature**

Participants from the 2019 Trio Talent Search Program.

Evergreen Valley College receives \$2M grant over next five years to continue its Trio Talent Search Program

Evergreen Valley College (EVC) announced the renewal of its Talent Search grant through the US Department of Education, which amounts to \$404,413 per year and equates to over \$2.0 million dollars over the span of five years.

EVC's TRiO Talent Search program is one of more than 700 TRiO programs nationwide that promote academic achievement among disadvantaged populations.

TRiO Talent Search at EVC is a free, federally-funded program that serves four target high schools in San Jose, helping low-income and potential first-generation students successfully graduate from secondary school and enroll in post-secondary education.

"Evergreen Valley College's TRiO Talent Search program is such an important pathway for

high school students to receive tutoring, guidance, and support in helping them prepare for college," said Tammeil Y. Gilkerson, Evergreen Valley College President. "We are so grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting hundreds of youth in our region, and to have five more years to keep impacting lives."

This grant enables Evergreen Valley College to continue robust support services at: W.C. Overfelt High School, Latino College Preparatory Academy, Roberto Cruz Leadership Academy, Luis Valdez Leadership Academy, and San Jose High School. Through this grant EVC will serve over 700 participants and continue to be on the forefront of bolstering college-going culture within our richly diverse community.

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Times Feature

BrainCycle: Working Out Elliptic Curves with Elliptical Cardio (Pt. 1)

By Apoorva Panidapu
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more complex towards the end, and this week's column is a little more advanced than usual.

Good MORNING, readers! I am so psyched you're here and ready to work that brain—now let's ride! Let's start off slow by first defining what an elliptic curve is. (To quickly catch you up, we're going to learn about elliptic curves as though we are in a SoulCycle class and I'm the infuriatingly energetic instructor. This may or may not be a result of me laughing about "elliptic" continuously being autocorrected to "elliptical.")

Surprisingly, elliptic curves have (almost) nothing to do with ellipses (or elliptical machines, for that matter).

(Note: we will only be looking at elliptic



Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu



Here's the kicker: the points of an elliptic curve form a group (which can be described geometrically)!

...Uh, so what? I too have a hiking group, a group chat, and Groupon, it's not that hard to form a group.

Well, let's take a quick 5 so I can introduce you to the magnificent, magical, and mathematical definition of a group! We won't rigorously learn what a group is (that's your abstract algebra professor's job), but just enough to understand how the points of an

elliptic curve form a group.

What is a group?

A group G is a set of elements that satisfies certain properties: associativity, having an identity element and inverse elements, and being closed under a binary operation. Fear not, a binary operation is much simpler than it seems: it's literally just an operation that combines two elements and outputs another element, like addition or multiplication. For example, $1+2=3$ and $2*3=6$, quick maths! But, what is an identity or inverse element? Let's understand them through an example.

So what are some groups? Well, what did we use in our operation examples? Just regular whole numbers...the integers! Indeed, the set of integers form a group under the binary operation of addition. But you shouldn't automatically trust what I say (always beware of fake news), so let's check that the set of integers satisfies each of the properties to form a group. Before that, guess what time it is...that's right, let's Name. NECESSARY. NOTATIONNNNN (go back and read that in a dramatic announcer voice please). Similar to how we denote the set of rational numbers by \mathbb{Q} , for convenience, we denote the set of integers by \mathbb{Z} .

Closure under a binary operation:

Okay, this seems like a lot of advanced, scary words, but remember that binary operation is just a fancy way of saying something like addition. Now, closure under addition means that if I take two elements a and b in our set, $a + b$ is also in the set. For example, 1 and 2 are in \mathbb{Z} (the set of integers), and $1+2=3$ is also in \mathbb{Z} . Simple, isn't it? So, if we take any two integers a and b , $a+b$ is also an integer and is hence also in \mathbb{Z} . Thus, \mathbb{Z} has closure under addition—check #1!

Associativity:

Associativity means that $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ for all integers a , b , and c . This is clearly true for adding integers, which we can see with an easy example: $(1 + 2) + 3 = 1 + (2 + 3) = 6$. Check #2 done!

Identity element:

First of all, what is the identity element? Naming necessary notation, let e denote the identity element, which must satisfy $a + e = a = e + a$, for all integers a . What familiar number follows this rule? Hm, let's think for a couple seconds...That's right, 0 (the hero)! So, for the integers, zero is the identity element for addition—check #3.

Inverse element:

Finally, every integer a has an inverse element b such that $a + b = 0 = b + a$. As you can probably deduce, the inverse element of the

See GEMS, page 17

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curves over the rationals in this article, rather than general number fields. What does this mean? Keep going to find out!

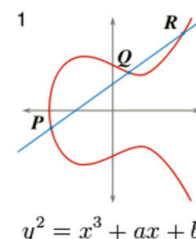
First, let's start off with the basics. We define the Weierstrass equation over the rationals, meaning that all the coefficients a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 , and a_6 are rational numbers (aka numbers that can be expressed as fractions r/s , where r and s are both integers): $y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$.

Naming Necessary Notation time! We denote the rational numbers with fancy-looking \mathbb{Q} .

However, we mainly make use of the much simpler short Weierstrass equation over \mathbb{Q} : $y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$, where the coefficients A and B are rational numbers.

In fact, every elliptic curve E over the rationals has a Weierstrass equation defining it, plus an extra point $O = (0, 1, 0)$ at infinity. Say what?! More on that later, keep going, keep going!

Thus, an elliptic curve E is the set of points satisfying the short Weierstrass equation $y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$, plus that mysterious, unique point at infinity, which we call O .



Times News



Breanne not only helps keep the community clean but also crochets scarves for friends and to donate to Operation Gratitude for the soldiers and veterans who serve our country.

Kaing

Continued from page 1

mom who crochets blankets for Linus (Children in Trauma units), as well as other causes.

Breanne represented her school in six speech tournaments, including state and national tournaments. She also crocheted corals for West Valley College Coral Reef exhibit in November 2019. She was the youngest participant in that effort!

Other community efforts that Breanne has been involved in are the Crafters Christmas Potluck at the Evergreen Community Center where she helps her mom by decorating the room to appreciate the ladies who give tirelessly of their time to make blankets, scarves, and baby items for the community, and also hats and scarves for soldiers and veterans. She also volunteers at Daybreak Camp alongside her mom to prepare meals, as well as, helping to clean up the mess after preparing and serving the meals to others. She also volunteers at her church for upcoming events.

While not volunteering for some cause or other, Breanne likes to jump rope, hike, spend time in nature, reading, writing letters to her friends, raising chickens, as well as, taking care of rabbits, attending piano classes and choir, spending time at the beach swimming, and helping out friends and family. She also likes to take nature photos of flowers, and wildlife, such as birds and squirrels. Where this young model citizen finds the time is anyone's guess!

Breanne's father, Matthew, is an Evergreen businessman owning his own business called Esudo. Her brother, Brian, will soon enter Northridge College after having graduated from Evergreen Valley High School. It is not hard to see where Breanne inherited such a strong work ethic. She starts off each morning reading the Bible and journaling and is a very self-disciplined young lady. Her mother stated, "Breanne is sensitive, considerate, and caring. She stretches out her time and does so much. Breanne is a blessing to me and others."

Being a good listener, Breanne is very mature for her age and is a positive encourager for all her friends. She takes responsibility at home helping to organize, clean, cook, do laundry, grocery shopping and

putting the groceries away after shopping.

To list all that this young lady does for her community would take a lot of doing. She is a very busy young lady thinking more of her fellow humans than she, sometimes, does of herself. When she falls into bed at night she can do so with a clear conscience that she has done all that she can do by doing her part for the Evergreen community.

Breanne exemplifies great humanitarian values we can all be proud of in the Evergreen community.

Breanne represented her school in six speech tournaments, including state and national tournaments. She also crocheted corals for West Valley College Coral Reef exhibit in November 2019.



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Times **Feature**

Ayurveda – the science of life

By **Latha K**
Special to the Times

I believe in the natural way of healing and want to share the knowledge I acquired with everyone.

I recently completed the Ayurveda Wellness Program that provided me an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the phi-

losophy, principles, theory, and practical application of Ayurvedic preventive care. I am extremely happy to have acquired the tools and knowledge I require to ignite the healer in me and everyone around me.

Ayurveda respects the uniqueness of an individual, considers the body, mind, and spirit, encourages natural ways of treating imbalances and promoting



Ayurveda
By **Latha K**
Ayurveda Wellness Counselor

health, emphasizes on prevention and empowers an individual to take responsibility for their well-being.

I have been helping my family and friends lead an Ayurvedic lifestyle.

I will be sharing simple tips on how to create and maintain positive health as “You are the healer.”

Let’s all take the first step towards a healthy lifestyle!



Ayurveda respects the uniqueness of an individual.

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Gems

Continued from page 14

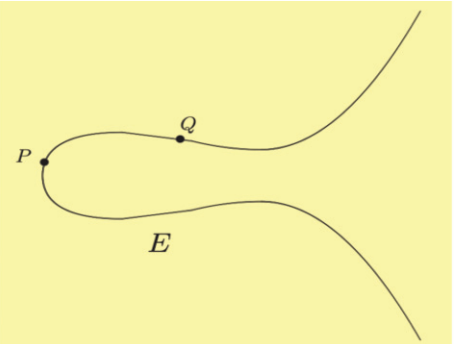
integer a in \mathbb{Z} is exactly $-a$. For example, $1 + (-1) = -1 + 1 = 0$. And that's check #4!

Therefore, we can conclude that the set of integers \mathbb{Z} is indeed a group under addition.

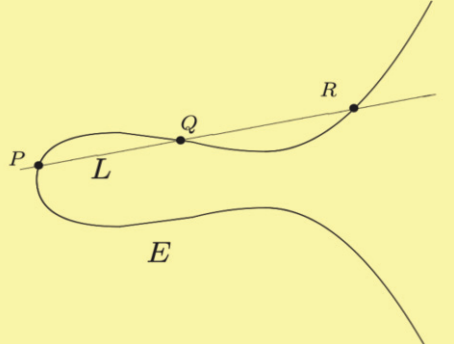
Okay, break's over, let's get back to the workout! Recall that I claimed that the points of an elliptic curve form a group (which can be described geometrically), but we need to verify my statement—just because I was right once doesn't mean I always am. Note: this check will not be totally rigorous, for the sake of simplicity. However, we will rigorously continue our BrainCycle workout! (Warning: here's where things get a little more advanced.)

First, we define the binary operation on the points of an elliptic curve (like how we had addition for the integers) and show closure under this operation (i.e. that adding two points on an elliptic curve produces another point on it).

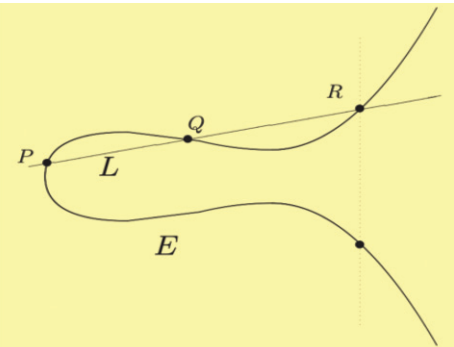
Now, suppose we have two points P and Q on an elliptic curve E .



We first draw a line L through P and Q , which intersects E at a third point, which we call R .



Note that elliptic curves are symmetric about the x -axis. (Can you think about why this is true? Suppose a point (x, y) satisfies the equation $y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$. What does that say about the point $(x, -y)$?)



Then, we draw the vertical line through point R , which intersects E at another point.

Thus, we define the sum of P and Q on E to be this new point, which can denote by $P \oplus Q$ or, more simply, $P+Q$.

Stay tuned next issue for part two of "BrainCycle: Working Out Elliptic Curves with Elliptical Cardio."

PHOTO OP

Red-headed Hummingbird

This image is of the aggressive red-headed Hummingbird that inhabits **Susan Garcia's** Crepe Myrtle Trees in the Villages Golf and Country Club.

"I have two Hummingbird feeders on my back patio. There is about 15-feet between the two feeders, but only the brave venture in. The Hummingbird (pictured) aggressively chases away all other Hummingbirds."

– Photo by Susan Garcia



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Times **Community News****SCHOOLS****National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

By Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Youth suicide is a preventable public health problem, yet it occurs at high levels in California and nationwide.

More important than ever, parents, teachers, healthcare providers, and youth must learn and understand the key elements of youth suicide prevention. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the teen mental health crisis. According to the CDC, the number of people having thoughts of suicide and experiencing depression has nearly doubled as compared to the years before the pandemic.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has several valuable resources for us to reference, including (1) Know the Warning Signs and Risk Factors of Suicide, (2) Being Prepared for a Crisis, and (3) Navigating a Mental Health Crisis. In the meantime, through honest conversation and assisting youth who need it, we can

help prevent suicides and save lives. Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. Pain and trauma aren't always obvious, but many people who have thoughts of suicide show some signs. The signs may appear in conversations, through their actions, or in social media posts. Individuals may make statements about feeling hopeless, helpless, or worthless, showing a deepening depression, taking unnecessary risks, or exhibiting self-destructive behavior. Other signs may include:

- Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Frequent or pervasive sadness
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and regular activities
- Frequent complaints about physical symptoms often related to emotions, such as stomachaches, headaches, fatigue, etc.

• A decline in the quality of schoolwork

- Preoccupation with death and dying

If you observe one or more of these warning signs, especially if the behavior is new, or has increased, consider telling the child or person how important they are to you. Validate their feelings and express empathy. And, don't be afraid to talk openly about your concern. These four steps may help with your support:

1. Have a planned conversation: Before

See SCHOOLS, page 20

**School News**

By Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

**44th Annual 2021 VMOA Car Show to be held at Branham High School: Sept. 11**

The 44th Annual 2021 Vintage Mustang Owners Association (VMOA) Car Show will be held this year at Branham High School in San Jose on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. The event is free for spectators.

Sponsors for the event include: House of Miracles, Campbell Ford Performance, Big Daddy Motor Cars, Mustang Fever, and Custom Alignment.

Scheduled events

- 8:00 - 10:00 AM Registration & car check in (Enter on Meridian Ave.)

- 10:00 AM Peer judging commences
- 11:00 AM Deadline for T-shirt redemption at the VMOA Club table
- 12:00 PM Peer Judging concludes. (Drop ballots at the VMOA club table.)
- 1:00 PM Best sounding engine contest
- 2:00 PM Awards presentation

To register your car for the Sept. 11 VMOA Car Show, visit: www.vintagemustang.org/44th-annual-vmoa-car-show

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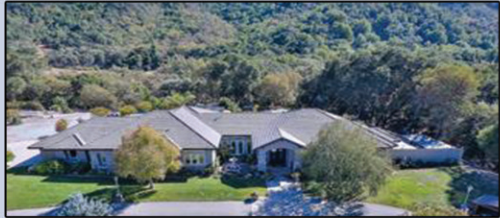
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Times Community News

Schools

Continued from page 18

starting a conversation with someone you are concerned about, be prepared. Have a list of crisis resources on hand. Practice what you will say. Plan the conversation when you won't be in a hurry and can spend time with the person.

2. Listen to understand, express concern, and reassure: Listen to the person's reasons for both living and dying. Validate that they are considering both options and underscore that living is an option for them. Steer away from closed, yes/no questions, especially ones that may indicate you want "No" for an answer. Open-ended questions may provide a greater understanding of the situation.

3. Create a safety plan: Ask the person if they have access to any lethal means (weapons, medications, etc.) and help remove them from the vicinity. (Another friend, family member, or law enforcement agent may be needed to assist with this.)

4. Get Help: If you feel the situation is critical, take the person to a nearby Emergency Room or walk-in psychiatric crisis clinic, or call 9-1-1. Do not put yourself in danger; if you are concerned about your safety, contact 911.

In addition, the Santa Clara County Suicide & Crisis Hotline (SACS) has a 24-hour, toll-free, confidential suicide prevention hotline. Highly-trained volunteer Crisis Phone Counselors are available seven (7) days a week for phone intervention and emotional support. In addition, SACS provides a cost-free, drop-in Survivors of Suicide Support Group (SOS) where adults who have lost a loved one to suicide can meet weekly to process some of the thoughts and feelings they experienced resulting from their loss.

For the meeting times, location and further information about SACS, please call (408) 885-6216.



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Times **Features**

The Mark of a Hindu Deity in Carnatic Music

By **Veena Krishnan**
Special to the Times

A very widespread holiday is approaching throughout India at this time of year.

Vinayaka Chathurthi or Ganesha Chathurthi is a Hindu holiday celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesha. Lord Ganesha is a Hindu god who is known as the remover of obstacles. Devotees worship him at the beginning of any of their new activities, and he is worshipped at the beginning of any ceremony or ritual. Lord Ganesha does not just have an important role in the Hindu religion, but also in Carnatic music.

During a performance, musicians always begin their concert with a krithi (song) on Lord Ganesha. They believe that this will remove any obstacles hindering their performance. Usually, these krithis are set to ragams that bring joy and live-

liness to the listener. When rasikas (those who listen to and appreciate Carnatic music) listen to these krithis, they can connect to them, as Ganesha krithis have been popularized a lot due to their frequent appearances in concerts.

Maybe you know some of the krithis I will be listing. Vathapi Ganapathim, composed by Muttuswami Dikshitar, is probably the most popular Ganesha krithi. Set to the ragam Hamsadhwani, it's a lively introduction to concerts. Mahaganapathim, also by the same composer, is in the ragam Naatai. A krithi which I mentioned last week, Girirajasutha, is a rare Ganesha krithi that was composed by Saint Thyagaraja. Lord Ganesha has a big influence on Carnatic music.

The next time you listen to Carnatic music, you might hear one of these krithis!



About Carnatic Music

By **Veena Krishnan**



Undecided

Continued from page 8

Sumit, who has vast experience with programming different computer platforms, to help mentor and teach her everything she needed to know in order to bring her idea to life. She was able to achieve her goal with the support from not only Sumit but also her parents who continuously encouraged and supported her.

"Sumit taught me how to use platforms like site design, react programming and the AWS platform," Anagha explained. "Together we were able to successfully launch my idea into a web app. We started meeting weekly, and soon the hours grew along with the progress. I was able to learn so much in such a short amount of time through a project I sincerely loved."

"The idea was pretty simple. I created ten open-ended behavioral questions for students primarily in late middle-high school to answer. I then set out to discover the logic between each answer choice and created my own algorithm that would correspond to a given result. Finally, I concluded that there would be three possible outcomes: STEM/ health professionals, business, and arts/humanities. I figured out a way that logically connected every possible outcome, and transferred my work from the excel spreadsheet, into Atom. I worked on this project from May to July, and towards the end of July, I was able to launch the app. This plat-

form has complete user end privacy, and feedback from my peers has allowed me to make a difference in many people's lives, including my own. Together, Sumit and I worked to get my project to an execution point, along with creating a separate site that allows us to view the diagnostics of our data."

Anagha's priority is now to spread the word and get more people to complete this through the URL www.undecidedsurvey.com. Over time, her hope is that her new platform continues to grow and help more students who are undecided to potentially make up their minds for a great future.



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TimesClassifieds

Public Hearing



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

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JUST LISTED!

6106 Long Court, San Jose

3BD/2 BA, 1,143 sf on a 6,055 sf lot



Right in the heart of Santa Teresa sits this lovely 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, ranch-style home. Inside, its open concept floorplan and bright, airy atmosphere make for comfortable home living and remote work, while the private backyard is perfect for gardening and year-round entertaining. The home also features a stunning modern kitchen with everything the family chef needs to cook up gourmet meals, as well as a bedroom that can easily be converted into a home office, gym, playroom, meditation space, and more. Its central location close to major thoroughfares makes commuting a breeze, while also giving you the ability to take advantage of all the spectacular parks, dining, shopping, and entertainment that Santa Teresa has to offer. Offered at \$998,000.



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jjones@cbnorcal.com | www.JackieJonesSells.com

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Therese Swan
408.656.8240
tswan@tswan.com
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com
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If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning.

Call me as soon as possible.

7089 Royal Ridge Drive, San Jose

\$2,750,000 | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath
2851 Sq Ft | .39 Acre Lot

This updated and desirable home in Almaden's Country Club neighborhood, borders the Almaden Quicksilver County Park, and has a backyard gate that provides access to a trail that connects to the Webb Canyon and New Almaden trails. The backyard is spacious and provides multiple outdoor dining and entertaining spaces that wrap around the solar-heated pool and spa. Highly acclaimed schools are nearby, including Williams Elementary, Bret Harte Middle, and Leland High School.



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