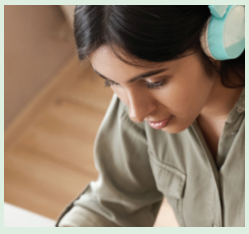


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NOV. 5 – NOV. 18, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 23

# EvergreenTimes

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## Rain totals of latest storms reported for Evergreen/Silver Creek Valley

*"To get out of our drought we need seven more such storms"*

Jacqueline Bogard is reporting on last week's storm rain totals using her rain gauge at her Silver Creek Valley Country Club home for the Wednesday through Saturday and the Sunday and Monday time frames.

"Wednesday through Saturday it rained off and on all those days. Then we received the big part of the storm Sunday and Monday," Bogard said. "For the period Wednesday through Saturday we accumulated 0.32". Then on Sunday and Monday we received 2.78".

Bogard said for the 6 day total, 3.10" of rain hit Evergreen/Silver Creek Valley and the YTD total to 3.15". The rain year begins Oct. 1.

"I heard a piece on the local news yesterday that to get out of our drought we need seven more storms like this one which was quite exceptional, Bogard said. "So we're off to a good start; but we need a great overall rain year."

## Water main break floods Silver Creek Valley Rd.

*One million gallons of water cover road 1-2 feet deep between Canyon Creek Shopping Plaza and Yerba Buena Rd.*

**By William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

Silver Creek Valley Rd. looked like a lake when a water main break released at least one million gallons of water on Monday evening, Oct. 25.

"The road was completely blocked off between Canyon Creek Plaza and Yerba Buena and there was debris all over the road," reported Evergreen resident David Coburn. "There was a lake 1-2 feet deep in front of Canyon Creek Plaza."

Motorists were detoured through

Beaumont Canyon Drive in the Bel Aire community to avoid the rising water. Silver Creek Valley Country Club residents and Villages Golf and Country Club residents reported they had no water, or substantially reduced water pressure at their homes due to the water line break.

Villages Golf and Country Club residents reported a reduction of 90 percent water pressure. On Tuesday morning, Oct. 26, most residents reported their water was back on after 8 a.m., however, Silver Creek Valley Road remained closed throughout the day.

"This isn't what we want to see during a drought," said an Evergreen homeowner.



A water main break released at least one million gallons of water onto Silver Creek Valley Road on Monday evening, Oct. 25.



## LOCAL ARTS

### The 1:11 High School Film Festival Selects Mt. Pleasant High School Student Films to be part of this year's festival

Mt. Pleasant High School students have done it again!

The 1:11 High School Film Festival selected four of Mt. Pleasant High School student films to be part of this year's festival. Two of the films, The Alabaster Awakening (left, top) and Trapped in the Tank (left, bottom), were also selected to the All American High School Film Festival earlier this year.

The Mt. Pleasant High School student films selected to be part of this year's Festival include the following:

"And the Journey Begins" by Ricardo Tovar Herrera  
"The Alabaster Awaken-

ing" by Brian Diaz  
"The Start" by Diego Lazaro  
"Trapped in the Tank" by Dominic Trapani

"Often, we as teachers do not see or know about the hidden talents of our students. The recognition from the 1:11 High School Film Festival for each of these films is a recognition of each student's achievement of greatness," said William Cavada, Mt. Pleasant High School Multimedia Arts Teacher and Program Director.

J. Manuel Herrera, ESUHS Board of Trustees Vice President, said, "What we dream of  
*See FILMS, page 14*

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## Local residents named to Dean's List at Biola University

Six Evergreen Valley residents have been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Biola University. Students earn a place on the dean's list with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

The following local residents were named to the dean's list:

Chloe Chow, majoring in Comm Sciences Disorders; Hanna Erickson, majoring in Nursing; Bernardine Landicho, majoring in Psychology; Emily Lindholm, majoring in Nursing; Kelaiah Moore, majoring in Liberal Studies Elementary Ed; and Katie Nguyen, majoring in Music.

"Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement, and investment in scholarship," said Tamara Anderson, Associate Provost of Academic Effectiveness and Administration. "These attributes are the building blocks of continued success, not only in the classroom, but in the workplace and in the student's personal lives. We celebrate these students and their achievement, looking forward to their future accomplishments."

Biola University is a nationally ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. It was recently recognized as one of America's best colleges, earning a spot in the top tier of the "best national universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges 2021 rankings.

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# Valley Currents

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

## East Side Union High School District announces partnership with Tutor.com

*New ability to help over 22,000 students 24/7*

By Times Media staff writers

Online tutoring services company Tutor.com has been selected by the East Side Union High School District to provide online tutoring services for its 22,000 students in grades 9-12.

Through the partnership, students enrolled in ESUHSD schools can access 24/7, on demand, 1-to-1 learning support from Tutor.com's expert tutors.

The service provides homework help across more than 200 subjects, including bilingual Spanish tutoring in math, science, social studies, and study skills. Students enrolled in the district's robust set of Advanced Placement courses can connect with a tutor for individualized help with their AP studies.

Through Tutor.com, learners can also utilize drop-off writing review and an array of test prep resources from The Princeton Review. The goal is to ensure that students get crucial learning support anytime, anywhere, and on any device. "It is a privilege to help East Side students achieve their academic and professional goals— from improving their grades to gaining subject expertise and ensuring college readiness," said Ed Ceja, Area Vice President, Educational Partnerships, Tutor.com.

"As we worked with district leaders to customize this program for their students, we were impressed by the scope of offerings and supports they provide for their learning community," Ceja said. "We're honored to be their partner in helping students accelerate learning now and into the future."

"Tutor.com has been a great resource for our students," said Teresa Marquez, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. "Our students are able to access tutoring on demand to help them with homework, get feedback on their writing, and practice their skills. We are excited to offer this resource to our students so they can feel more prepared to engage in their classes."

"Our commitment to the success of every student is unwavering, and this comprehensive tutoring service is one of many resources we're mobilizing for our East Side community," said J. Manuel Herrera, ESUHSD Board of Trustees Vice President. "Parents have expressed gratitude that their students have access to Tutor.com, and students' post-session survey comments attest to the partnership's

early impact."

A 10th grader wrote of receiving encouraging support from a tutor: "His way of teaching was able to engage me to have fun while doing a problem I was initially bewildered by." An 11th grader said: "I really appreciate my tutor. She was so patient with me and fit my understanding! Now after a session, I am able to have a better understanding." Through the partnership, teachers and staff also get early intervention alerts, as well as real-time data and analytics, so they can address curricular challenges and provide just-in-time support for students who need it. Tutor.com's more than 3,000 tutors provide encouraging, empowering online tutoring to communities of learners through the company's partnerships with hundreds of K-12 school districts as well as institutions of higher education. The company also serves learners through its partnerships with state and local libraries, corporate employee benefits programs, nonprofit organizations, and the U.S. Department of Defense and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. For more information, visit Tutor.com.



## San Jose Police Department awarded traffic safety grant

The San Jose Police Department will roll out a police traffic services program to deter dangerous and illegal driving behaviors that increase the risk of crashes in the community.

The funding for the new program is made possible by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Impairment, speeding and other dangerous driving behaviors jeopardize the safety of other people on the road," San Jose police Sergeant Doug Gates said. "This funding allows us to provide necessary traffic enforcement measures with the goal of reducing serious injury and fatal crashes on our roads,"

The grant will pay for additional enforcement measures, including:

- DUI checkpoints and patrols specifically focused on suspected impaired drivers.
- Enforcement operations focused on suspected distracted drivers in violation of California's hands-free cell phone law.
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement operations focused on driver behaviors that put vulnerable road users at risk.
- Enforcement operations focused on top violations that cause crashes: speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and/or red-light running, and improper turning or lane changes.

• Community education presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted driving, DUI, speeding, and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

- Collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies.
- Officer training and/or recertification: Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

The grant program will run through September 2022.



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## Times Local News



Hundreds of residents joined local and state officials Saturday in celebrating the opening of the Vietnamese American Service Center. Photo by Tran Nguyen

## Hundreds celebrate the opening of Vietnamese service center in San Jose

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

D onning traditional áo dài dresses and Vietnamese heritage flag face masks, hundreds of South Bay residents joined county officials Saturday, Oct. 23 to celebrate the opening of the first-ever Vietnamese American Service Center.

Ai Duong Truong came to the event with her friends from the Hội Người Việt Cao Niên San Jose (Vietnamese Senior Group in San Jose). The group all dressed in the same green áo dài with gold flower details. Truong said it's an honor to see the center come to life.

"I'm 81 already," Truong told San José Spotlight in Vietnamese. "Most of us are over 80 years old, and we're all very happy to be here to celebrate this moment."

The 37,000 square foot, three-story building is located at the intersection of Senter and Tully roads in San Jose. The \$50-million project was much-anticipated by the community and took nearly a decade to finish.

Attendees were greeted with a traditional lion dance performance, as laughter filled the air. Many flocked to the front of the building to pose for pictures, while others embraced each other in celebration of the historic moment.

"This is so important for our community," Thang My, a resident of more than 20 years, told San José Spotlight in Vietnamese. "We have all waited for a long time for this."

My said she used to go to the city's Vietnamese Cultural Center on Lucretia Avenue prior to the pandemic, but the center is small and couldn't accommodate all the unique needs from the large Vietnamese population in San Jose.

San Jose is home to more than 140,000 Vietnamese residents, making it the city with the largest Vietnamese population in the U.S.

"There are so many of us here," My said. "We need a community space that reflects that."

Many local and state politicians including Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Rep. Ro Khanna and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, joined the community at the ribbon cutting. Supervisors Cindy Chavez, Susan Ellenberg and Otto Lee, Sen. Dave Cortese and several San Jose councilmembers were also in at-

tendance.

"What a beautiful day in San Jose and Santa Clara County," Chavez said. "And today, we make history."

At the center, older residents can come for nutritious meals twice a day and participate in recreational programs. Those with medical needs can use the health clinic on the second floor, while the third floor will be open for meetings, gatherings and community events, county officials said. The center, with a focus on serving the Vietnamese community, is the first of its kind in the nation.

The center, located on county land and funded by the county's general fund, will also serve people of other ethnicities.

Young Vietnamese residents are excited about the new service center, too. Resident Total Nguyen hopes the center will serve as a bridge for their generation to connect with older Vietnamese members in the community.

"Sometimes the youth is separate from our elders because some of us can't speak Vietnamese," Nguyen said, adding that many Vietnamese parents only wanted their kids to speak English. "I think this could be a place where we all come together."

There hasn't been a good place besides the Grand Century Mall where the Vietnamese community can gather for large events and celebrations—such as Tết and Mid Autumn Festival, resident Nicole Phan told San José Spotlight.

"This is so wonderful to have another space to gather," Phan said. "Especially where it's also offering social services that many might not know about."

County employee Khanh Dang said he can't wait for the health clinic to start operating later this year. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

County employee Khanh Dang stopped at the intersection outside of the building to pose for a picture. He said he can't wait for the health clinic to start operating later this year.

"I've been with the county for 20 years," he said. "And this is finally the opportunity for me to serve my community directly."

Contact Tran Nguyen at [tran@sanjos-spotlight.com](mailto:tran@sanjos-spotlight.com) or follow @nguyenntn on Twitter.

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Schumann Quartet’s three brothers and violinist Liisa Randalu thrive on musical adventure and audience-bonding. They were in residence 2016-20 at Lincoln Center, New York City. “Personal and profound” (BBC Magazine); “Fire and energy” (Süddeutsche Zeitung). • Local favorite Jon Nakamatsu wins unanimous praise worldwide as a true aristocrat of the keyboard. “graceful singing... assertive muscularity” (The New York Times).

This program is subject to change.



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## Zoom Zone designed by Children Discovery Museum opens at Mineta San José International Airport

*\$1.2M support by ZOOM gets new educational play space off the ground and in Terminal B*

As travelers return to Mineta San José International Airport, families with young children can now safely get their pre-flight jitters out thanks to a new play space created by Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose.

A new educational play space called

Zoom Zone is now open in Terminal B, created with sponsorship funding from Zoom Video Communications, Inc. (Zoom), and designed around the belief that many children have never flown on an airplane and are fascinated by what they see in the sky.

“We couldn’t be more proud to be at the Airport and to support families traveling into and out of San Jose with a place designed especially for children,” said Executive

*See ZOOM ZONE, next page*



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Times **News****Zoom Zone***Continued from previous page*

Director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose Marilee Jennings. "But it would not be possible without the vision of so many – the Airport staff, Hensel Phelps Construction and their sub-contractors, and certainly our presenting sponsor, Zoom. It's truly a Silicon Valley 'barn-raising' that demonstrates San Jose's commitment to children and families."

More than \$1.2 million in pro bono and discounted services made this project possible. The Airport is providing the space at no cost and general contractor Hensel Phelps Construction managed the project pro bono and secured sub-contractors from electrical to mechanical that donated or discounted their services.

Zoom, one of Silicon Valley's fastest growing companies, stepped up as the presenting sponsor with a generous gift.

"We're excited to be part of this project in our 'backyard' and give back to our community," said Zoom Brand Marketing Manager Katianna Galdieri. "We hope this gesture gives the children waiting for long flights an opportunity to learn, explore, and have fun."

"We are extremely proud to introduce this new addition to our Airport experience, said SJC Director of Aviation John Aitken. Zoom Zone is a fun, safe, and clean space for traveling families, and its' creation – from funding to design to construction -- highlights the commitment of Silicon

Valley businesses to our local community and to the Airport."

Zoom Zone, a 600-squarefoot space located in Terminal B between Gates 24 and 25, will engage youngsters by encouraging them to think about the creatures and objects that fly, while experimenting with the roles that air, wind, wings, and design play in flight. An added bonus is that little ones will get their wiggles and giggles out with experiences that engage gross motor movements before boarding a plane.

**Features of Zoom Zone:**

**Pin Screen:** This signature experience at Children's Discovery Museum in downtown San Jose of pushing on plastic pins to create works of art is only limited by one's imagination.

**Alphabet Airplane:** With look-alike airplane window shades, this shadow-box system is mounted on a wall graphic in the shape of an airplane. When children lift the shades, they discover artwork that represents a destination that begins with the corresponding letter. For example, T is for Tokyo.

**Kinetic Butterfly:** Youngsters get a close view of how butterfly wings work with a set of gears that activate sculptural butterfly wings.

**Bird Climber:** Children see a 360-degree perspective of flight by climbing on top of this bird, sliding down its tail feathers and crawling underneath its wings.

**Zoom Plane:** Children can role-play as a pilot in the cockpit of this biplane.

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Times **Local News**

# What are Krithis in Carnatic Music?

By **Veena Krishnan***Special to the Times*

Probably the most essential part of Carnatic music would be the krithi.

A krithi is a song with a specific structure that marks its identity and makes up a significant chunk of Carnatic compositions. The most basic krithi includes a pallavi, anupallavi, and charanam. Some other aspects can be added to or changed

in a krithi such as chitta swaram, swara sahityam, and a samashti charanam. Krithis vary in length from being three all the way to twenty minutes long. Krithis provide room for artists to improvise or sing manodharmam.

Krithis are like poems. The first stanza is the pallavi. Krithis are always begun with a pallavi. It can be a few lines long and contain many variations. It establishes the feeling of the song and captures the attention of the audience. To end the pallavi, singers go back to the first line and end with a small bout of improvisation.

The anupallavi is like the second stanza of the poem. It dives deeper into the song and mesmerizes the audience. Many anupallavis tend to include lots of high notes. This makes it a very challenging part of a krithi for the singer. After finishing, singers go back to the pallavi, sing the last line, go back to the first line, and end again, with the improvisation.

Now, to the charanam of a krithi. The lyrics of the charanam are very elaborate, given that it is generally longer and has many lines. There are also many melodic intricacies which can make the audience say "Ahaa..." (a way of saying "how beautiful"). Some composers add their mudra, or signature word, in the charanam. Sometimes krithis have a samashti charanam, which is basically the aspects of an anupallavi and charanam put together and sung as one long stanza. At the end of the charanam, singers follow the same method as they do after ending the anupallavi or pallavi.

Chitta swaram and swara sahityam are two additions that some krithis have. The chitta swaram is a brisk set of notes sang with Carnatic solfege (swarams) after the anupallavi and charanam. The swara sahityam is

similar to the chitta swaram. It is sung after the anupallavi with swarams but after the charanam, it is given lyrics which are sung to the same tune.

Manodharmam, or improvisation can be done to krithis in varying length and intricacy based on the ragam, talam, and length of the krithi. Before starting the krithi, singers can sing raga alapana using the phrases ta, dha, ri, and na. Raga alapana

gives an intro to the ragam that the krithi is in and can sometimes be sung very elaborately. Neraval is the improvisation of a line in the krithi and kalapana swarams are improvised solfege sung to the same line.

There are many beautiful krithis that you can listen to. Mamasada Janani, Tulasidala, and Makelara Vicharamu are brisk krithis. Shri Kanthimathim is a krithi with a samashti charanam and Marivere Gati has a swara sahityam. Chakkani Raja Margamu in Karaharapriya and Kapaali in Mohanam are longer krithis with more sangathis (variations). Krithis are a vital part of Carnatic music and each one is unique in its own way.



**About Carnatic Music**

By **Veena Krishnan**

## Pianist Jon Nakamatsu performs Schumann Piano Quintet with acclaimed Schumann Quartet of three brothers from Germany

*New venue – St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Glen*

By **Ted Lorraine***San Jose Chamber Music Society*

The San Jose Chamber Music Society welcomes lovers of classical music to its new venue—St. Francis Episcopal Church—with its lively acoustics, 246 comfortable chairs, neighborhood setting, good sight-lines, and a superior 9'2" Bechstein concert grand piano.

The Church, at 1205 Pine Avenue (corner Newport Ave.) in Willow Glen, is the Society's 2021-22 new home for its 35th season of concerts in San Jose by top ensembles from the Bay Area, across America, and around the world.

On Sunday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m., the Society presents the remarkable Schumann family string Quartet of three brothers - Erik Schumann (violin), Ken Schumann (violin) and Mark Schumann (viola) as well as the viola player Liisa Randalu from Germany, playing string quartets of Beethoven and Janacek and along with pianist Jon Nakamatsu - Robert Schumann's beloved Piano Quintet.

The Schumann Quartet - in residence 2016-2020 at Lincoln Center, New York City - is acclaimed for playing that is "personal and profound" (BBC Magazine) with "fire and energy" (Suddeutsche Zeitung). They thrive on musical adventure and audience bonding,



Jon Nakamatsu

**Program**

The November 21st concert opens with Beethoven's String Quartet in A Major, No.5 from his first set of Quartets - Opus 18 (1798-1800) written at ages 28-30. Beethoven honors the musical style of mentors Haydn and Mozart, but also shows his own

See *CONCERT*, page 15

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For more information: <https://aka.ms/STEMDay2021> To Register: <https://aka.ms/STEMDay2021-RSVP>



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## Times Community News

### LETTERS

## National STEM Day coming Nov. 8

Editor,

I'm excited to share that I'll be celebrating National STEM Day 2021 with Microsoft!

I was invited to lead a math workshop to demonstrate how beautiful math can be and how



it's found everywhere we look.

Join me for some "mathemagic" where I'll do a quick demo of mental calculations, but (unlike most magicians) I will soon reveal my secrets and teach you how to do it too! Moreover, we'll do some crafts to talk about some of the amazing properties of a Möbius strip, one of the math's most popular objects, and we'll actually get to see it in action! You won't want to miss it.

Make sure to register (either you or your kids) and please share with anyone else who may be interested! Visit <https://aka.ms/STEMDay2021-RSVP> and see the bottom of page 11 for more information.

**Apoorva Panidapu**

*Surf.*

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#### Rebuilding Days

Our Rebuilding Day program provides major and minor repairs and renovations resulting in life-changing improvements for the homeowners and organizations served.

#### Safe At Home

Safe at Home program addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home.

#### Ways to get involved

**Volunteers** Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, April 17 & 24, 2021, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

**Contractors** We work with contractors that possess CA contractor specialty (Class C) in painting, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or electrical.

**Donate** Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at [www.rtsv.org](http://www.rtsv.org) today.



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Times **Feature****TENNIS TIPS****Coaching yourself after a loss**

By Ken DeHart

*PTR International Master Professional  
& USPTA Master Professional*

Coming off the court after a loss can be devastating!

I don't particularly want to hear from my family, friends, or teammates that it is OK or I played well.

I need a little private downtime to look at the experience with an objective point of view.

I need to come down out of my "competitive zone" and enter my "real-life zone." That usually takes about 15-30 minutes depending upon who I lost to and how important the match was to my team.

Immediately coming off the court is not a time to go into analyzing your performance. You will most likely find it quite negative and unrealistic.

Coach Wayne Bryan of the world's #1 ranked doubles team always said his first question for the boys was, "where do you want to go eat?" The critical part was to get away from the emotional evaluation, realize life will go on.

Later after experiencing a more realistic view of your performance and that of your opponents, you can create a game plan to rebuild your confidence or shore up your weaknesses with your coach.

Here are the five questions I would typically ask myself as I began to evaluate my match performance:

1. What did you do the best today? Best shots, best adjustment, the best way you won points, or even what you liked about the way you played? A typical response would be "nothing, I couldn't do anything well."

2. What did your opponent do well? Their best weapons, challenging parts of their game, and the adjustment they made against you? A typical response would be "everything, they were so lucky."

3. What was the weakest part of your game today? Was it a specific shot, strategy, movement, mental or physical? A typical response would be "everything, I tried all kinds of changes, and nothing worked today."

4. What was the weakest part of your opponent's game? Was it their strategy, a particular shot, movement, 2nd serve, placement? What did they do that allowed you to play well against them? A frustrated response would be, "nothing, they were so

lucky, they made every shot and ran down every ball and got every let cord for a winner."

5. Finally, if you could go out there right now and replay the match, what would you change and why?

The first four questions are usually an emotional response, especially if players are not given time to "come down" or have not been trained to look at the match objectively by their coach or parents before this time.

Think about how you would like to be coached by someone else and how you would want them to talk to you - then treat yourself that same way with your self-talk and assessment. Each one of us is different and has specific ways we like to communicate after a positive or negative competition.

These guided questions are more productive than general open-ended questions like; what happened, why didn't you, did you forget to, and non-specific questions.

Now focus on a couple of simple skills to work on and achieve positive results quickly to rebuild your confidence. Focus on the positives you saw in the match or progress made toward new skills you have been working on in the past few weeks. An example would be to mention that you got 75% of your first serves in play or managed time between points well.

Ask a friend or your coach's opinion about what they think you should work on based upon the last performance. Be specific with skills like footwork, technique, or strategy that need work.

Remember that those watching you play experienced the same emotions that you were going through on the court. They know you could have and wanted to perform better. When you come off the court, they want you to know they love you and search for ways to say it is OK. That is a challenge for them to understand how best to communicate with you positively. You might even tell them how you prefer to communicate following a win or loss. They are learning along with you.

Remember, only one player or team wins in a tournament if that is how you choose to look at winning and losing. But, if you met some of your performance goals - you won too. That last match was not the end but one more step on their journey. It is better to build yourself up than tear yourself down following a loss.

We learn more from a loss than a win in that we try to change what caused the loss and unpleasant experience. It is also essential to recall how it felt to win and study why you won so you can repeat the performance.



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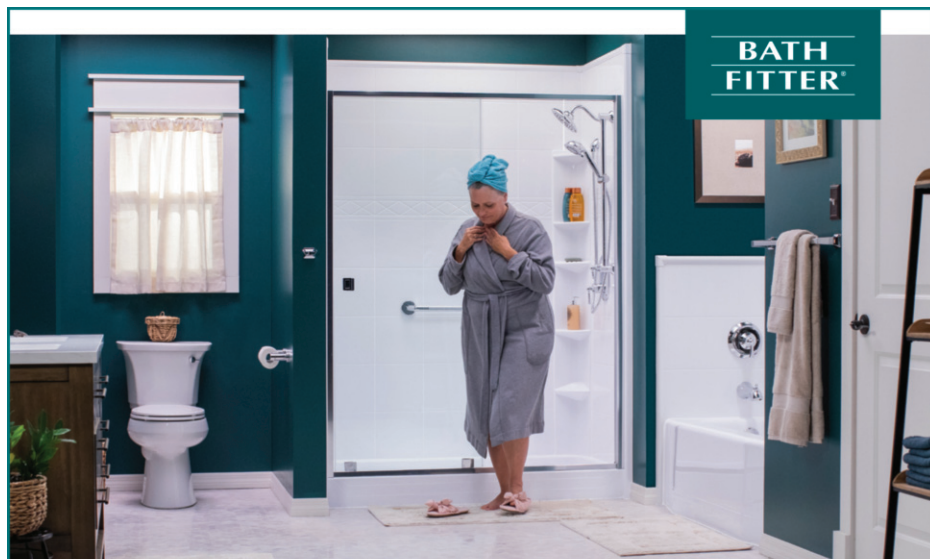
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### Times Feature

## Films

*Continued from page 1*

for our students is nothing less than moon shots, that they aim for the moon, for what seems all but impossible. This is a perfect example of our students leaping upward to national recognition for their inspired creativity!"

The 1:11 High School Film Festival partnerships provide a platform for young high school filmmakers to showcase their work, inspire others, network opportunities, awards recognitions, and prizes. Hosted by NC State Centennial campus, the festival brings together the many excellent high school film programs in the area and around the world. The 1:11 High School Film Festival strives to provide a larger audience, industry insider feedback, and a hub of creativity for the devoted young filmmakers. Each year, the Festival receives films submitted by student filmmakers from around the world.

"This speaks volumes to the success of the Multimedia Pathway at Mt. Pleasant High School and how the program and staff nurture our students' talents," said Glenn Vander Zee, ESUHSD Superintendent. "We are committed to supporting our students, staff, and our career technical education pathways. We are also grateful for Mr. Cava-da's 22 years of dedication as an educator at Mt. Pleasant High School and his leadership in the program."

Here are the links to the student films on YouTube:



A scene from "And the Journey Begins" by Ricardo Tovar Herrera.

"**And the Journey Begins**" by Ricardo Tovar Herrera

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiH-i4soxQ8&ab\\_channel=ESUHSD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiH-i4soxQ8&ab_channel=ESUHSD)

"**The Alabaster Awakening**" by Brian Diaz

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=20RZVL-CkBuU&ab\\_channel=ESUHSD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20RZVL-CkBuU&ab_channel=ESUHSD)

"**The Start**" by Diego Lazaro

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=et90LaBE m7l&ab\\_channel=ESUHSD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et90LaBE m7l&ab_channel=ESUHSD)

"**Trapped in the Tank**" by Dominic Tra-pani

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vhkD1f0 vBo&ab\\_channel=ESUHSD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vhkD1f0 vBo&ab_channel=ESUHSD)

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Times **Feature****Concert***Continued from page 11*

developing musical personality, vision, and creativity.

The second work is Leos Janacek's String Quartet No.1 "Kreutzer Sonata", (1923), in which Janacek, inspired by Tolstoy's novel La Kreutzer Sonata, depicts the psychological drama's "spontaneous ebb and flow of human emotions" in his distinctive modern but tonal musical language.

The concert closes with a special treat - as Silicon Valley's world-touring star pianist Jon Nakamatsu joins the Schumann Quartet to perform Robert Schumann's beloved Piano Quintet - an experience not to miss! Jon Nakamatsu wins unanimous praise worldwide as a true aristocrat of the keyboard. "Graceful singing [and] assertive muscularity" says The New York Times.

**Tickets**

Tickets are available in advance at the Society's website - [sjchambermusic.org](http://sjchambermusic.org) - where you can also download the season brochure to learn about the rest of the 21-22 Season. General tickets are \$52 or \$45, and Seniors \$49 or \$42. Student tickets are \$12. All seats are reserved. SJCMS also sells tickets at the door starting 6 p.m. (an hour before the 7 p.m. concert start time.) Ticket requests may also be left on the Box Office voicemail at 408-286-5111.

Current Covid health and safety protocols of the County and the Church require all attending the concert to show proof of full

vaccination before entering, and to wear a face-mask at all times while at the venue, inside and out.

Also this season, to reduce the time the audience is gathered together, the concert will be shortened to about 75 minutes - and there will be no intermission, and no pre-concert talk. With the SJCMS chamber music series and other performances now scheduled at St. Francis Episcopal, the church is serving as a center for music events for the community of Willow Glen, San Jose, and other areas of Silicon Valley.

The Church has 20 on-site parking spaces, four of them for Handicapped placards. And there is ample audience parking on the neighborhood streets.

The Society's remaining concerts this season at St. Francis Episcopal Church also include:

- Feb.5, 2022, the Poulenc Trio (piano, oboe, bassoon, from Baltimore MD);
- March 13, the St. Lawrence String Quartet (resident at Stanford University) performing Haydn and Dvorak.
- April 10 the Catalyst Quartet (from NY City) introduces us to masterful Black composers Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Florence PRICE - and Haydn and Terry Riley
- May 1 the Delphi Piano Trio (Bay Area top players) perform music of women composers - Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Lili Boulanger, and Californian Gabriela Lena Frank.

*Editor's note: Ted Lorraine is Artistic Director for the San Jose Chamber Music Society.*

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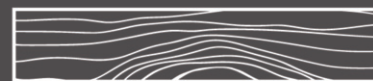
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Times Feature

Estimated 56% of dogs in the U.S. are obese

Did you know that obesity is diagnosed in an estimated 56% of dogs in the United States and is the most common medical disorder in veterinary practice?

Wild Earth's CEO Dr. Ryan Bethencourt shares the risks of obesity in pets, how to determine if your pet is overweight, and simple solutions involving weight loss strategies.

From chronic inflammation, respiratory disorders, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, and reduced life expectancy and quality of life, there are several harmful effects of obesity in pets. In fact, in a 1999 longevity study conducted on dogs, researchers found dogs fed 25% fewer calories than average lived about two years longer.

**Is your pet overweight?**

It can be hard to tell if your pet is a healthy weight because people rarely know what to watch for. Did you know that the ribs of your dog should be easily felt with only about a ½ inch cover and that a lack of abdominal tuck or obvious waist can be a clear indication of an overweight dog? Be sure to watch for these signs, paired with low energy levels and trouble breathing to determine if your pet falls into this category.

**Solutions**

There is no perfect one-size-fits-all solution for ensuring your dog is a healthy weight, but it is important to take the first steps and consult with a vet to determine a feeding plan that's right



for your pet.

Staying active and increasing walk and play time is great for your pet and yourself! Exercise and outdoor time is crucial for controlling a dog's weight and simply incorporating regular exercise into their daily routine can improve energy levels and weight. Try taking longer, more frequent walks, socializing at the local dog park, or tossing a Frisbee around in the backyard!

Finally, following a high protein diet with ingredients you can trust will keep your dog feeling fuller longer without all those harmful additives in most pet food and keep their energy levels up throughout the day so they are able to be more active!

If you'd like to learn more about Wild Earth and how they are transforming the way we feed our dogs, I'd love to provide you with more information or connect you with Dr. Ryan Bethencourt. He is a fantastic interview subject!

To learn more about Wild Earth plant-based dog food, visit [www.wildearth.com](http://www.wildearth.com)

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Times **Local News****CAREER COLUMN****The next generation of workers**

By **Angela Copeland**  
*Special to the Times*

It's hard to overstate how happy I've been that the workforce is more remote now than ever before.



Working from home opens up options for many people. People are no longer confined to the job market in their town. They can live anywhere. And, they don't have to commute, or go into an open office.

**Teams bond through virtual world**

People will argue that working from home just isn't the same from a culture perspective. I would argue right back that culture can be created in new ways. Yes, it's different. And, yes, it takes time. But, it is possible. Teams can bond through the virtual world.

But, there's one detail to consider. Since the pandemic started, one thing has happened. College graduation has happened. And, it's happened twice: May of 2020, and May of 2021. This means that there are two full classes of college graduates out there who started working after working from home was the way to work.

Sure, some students were doing internships during college. They may have been going into an office. But, many college students never get the opportunity to do a single internship. They were still working in food service, or another similar industry. These newly minted graduates are being tossed into a world of Zoom, many working from their parents' homes.

**The new normal**

We need to consider the long-term implications of this unique phenomenon. And also, it reinforces the idea that things aren't going to go back to the post pandemic normal. This really is the new normal. There are college graduates who can't imagine how things might be different in person.

So, what does this mean for you, and your business? I'm not sure of the right answer, but one thing is for certain. We need to consciously make team building a priority. We need to try to be better communicators. We need to create structure. And, we need to make an effort to train employees.

I'm a big supporter of teaching yourself. But, in an office, it's easier to do when you can look around at what coworkers are doing. These new graduates don't have that luxury. They're walking straight out of college and into their dining room table, trying to piece together what it means to be a full-time employee.

Today's workers were already not terribly loyal to one company. Imagine if you never met the people you were working

with. Imagine how lonely and confusing it might be to work solo from the beginning. College often doesn't even train students on basic things, like balancing a checkbook. How do we expect new graduates to come ready to know what they're doing on day one?

**They are our future**

My takeaway for you is this. If you are working with a recent college grad, take the time to get to know them. Ask them if they need help. And, try to mentor them if you have the chance. They are our future, after all.

*Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at [copelandcoaching.com](mailto:copelandcoaching.com).*

## City of San Jose Dept. of Transportation awarded \$110k grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety education

The City of San José Department of Transportation is the recipient of a \$110,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) that will prioritize the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

"All traffic fatalities are tragedies, and when the victim is walking, riding a bike,

or has mobility challenges it is even more appalling," said John Ristow, City of San José Director of Transportation. "With the OTS funding, we are able to spread awareness of unsafe behaviors, teach street safety, provide protective equipment, and hear the lived experiences and local knowledge that can help our department identify solutions."

"Our roads are increasingly riskier for people who walk or ride their bike," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "The goal of this funding is to reverse the growing trend of bicyclist and pedestrian-involved crashes by educating the public on safe road behaviors."

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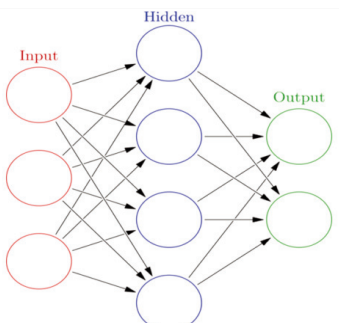
Times Feature

## Dig a Little Deeper into AI (Part 3)

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 advanced towards the end.

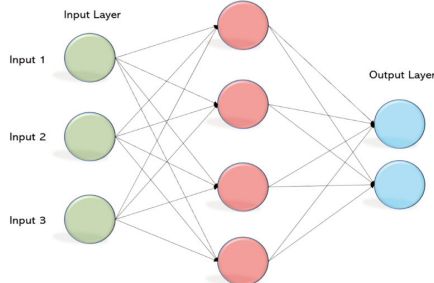
In the last issue, we talked about how machine learning is changing the world as we know it. But while machine learning has been a fantastic tool, it's not powerful enough yet to mimic human intelligence for more complex data. NOOOOO, WHAT DO WE DO?!?!?! Alright, take a breather pal. Don't forget that some of the smartest people in the world work on these problems! Since machine learning isn't enough, drastic times called for drastic dives: we're going to dive deeper into...deep learning!



it's like adding a degree of specificity.

Let's think about an example to make it make sense: Have you ever marveled at the ability of your Photos app to recognize your face in your emo phase 10 years ago? That's deep learning hard at work! To learn how to recognize human faces, the first layer of the neural network takes pixels from some example images, passes on this information, then the next layers learn the concept of how pixels form an edge. They then pass this knowledge of edges onto the next layers, which then learn the concept of a face, and so on this process of layering knowledge continues until the neural network algorithms recognize specific features, and thus specific faces!

While we won't get into the math behind these magical tools (that's outside of the scope of this article), let's quickly talk about the most common types of neural networks! Multi-layer perceptrons (MLPs), otherwise known as feedforward neural networks, consist of an input layer, hidden layer(s), and an output layer. These models are trained with huge amounts of data and are key to things like translation software, computer vision (which is how machines can analyze visual digital inputs), natural language processing (which we'll talk about in a sec), and more!



Deep learning also often uses convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which are very similar to feedforward networks. The difference is that each neuron in a CNN layer receives input from a specific area of the previous layer and nothing else—this area is called the receptive field. CNNs leverage linear algebra (especially matrix multiplication) and are generally used for visual data, like image/pattern recognition and computer vision.


In these two types of networks, signals go through the layers just once. But what if it went through more than once? Recurrent neural networks (RNNs) have feedback loops, and are generally applied to things with time-series data, like predicting sales or looking at the stock market.

In order for deep learning to be effective, it has to be accurate. But in order for it to be accurate, it needs massive amounts of data and processing power to train with this data—which aren't always readily available. However,

*See GEMS, page 21*

### Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
A program that can sense, reason, act, and adapt

**MACHINE LEARNING**  
Algorithms whose performance improve as they are exposed to more data over time

**DEEP LEARNING**  
Subset of machine learning in which multilayered neural networks learn from vast amounts of data

### The Deep Blue Learning of the Se-AI

In the mid 20th century, many people were brainstorming what the best way to emulate intelligence would be for AI. I don't know if it was incredibly genius or incredibly vain that they decided that the answer was to mimic our own brains. To be specific, people started trying to create a mathematical model for the human brain!

Let's say we want to teach a baby how to identify a cat. Now, this baby doesn't know anything, so she randomly points at all sorts of objects, stating, "CAT." Luckily, we can tell her, "No, that's not a cat," or "Yes, that's a cat!" if she gets it right. Slowly but surely, the baby will gain an understanding of how to identify a cat based on their features, even across different types and breeds. Unknowingly, this baby is narrowing down an abstract concept (a cat) by constructing a hierarchy where each layer of abstraction is informed by the knowledge of the previous layer. Weird, huh?

Basically, deep learning takes this simple concept of inputting an abstraction into multiple layers of neurons, which progressively extract more and more specific features from raw data based on which neurons "fire" off to give an output. These layers of artificial neurons are what we call a neural network—a majorly simplified version of our brain.

The "deep" part of deep learning refers to the depth of layers in the neural network. And as the number of layers increases, so does the neural network's ability to learn more and more abstract concepts—because





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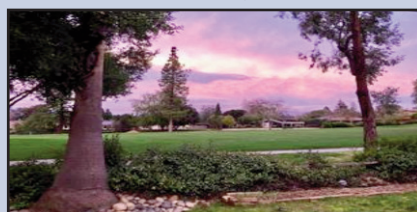
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At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, 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 7:30 AM and 10:45 AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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## Times Feature

## Gems

*Continued from page 18*

since deep learning can create outputs and distinguish patterns directly from unlabeled and unstructured data (which is most of our data), it is an immensely powerful tool.

Okay, I think we've dived deep enough in the ocean of deep learning, let's switch to something else before we get crushed by pressure!

### Trick or Treat Learning

DOGGOS. They're smart and adorable, but they can be mischievous and destructive. What's the best way to train them? T-R-E-A-T-S. (I'm spelling it out because otherwise I would summon all dogs in a 1 mile radius.) Though simple, the underlying strategy is to define an interactive reward system that helps your dog learn using trial and error with constant feedback.



This is exactly what reinforcement learning (RL) is, but for machines! Reinforcement learning is related to both machine learning and deep learning, but it uses rewards and punishment as feedback to teach the machine (instead of just telling it what the correct response would be). This technique works best in robotics or when teaching agents (machines) how to play video games, with the goal of maximizing the agent's total reward.

We won't really get into the specifics of reinforcement learning, but one of RL's most famous accomplishments is when Google DeepMind's AlphaGo became the first computer program to defeat a world champion, Lee

Sedol, at the incredibly challenging game, Go—where the number of possible positions on the board is greater than the number of atoms in the universe.

Reinforcement learning is continuing to be used in industrial automation (like MIT's mini robot cheetah), to teach AI gameplay, and optimization in stock and healthcare!

### Is ABC Really That Easy?

Okay, it seems like we're already doing some really cool things with AI through machine learning and deep learning...why don't we already have something as advanced as J.A.R.V.I.S.? Well, we don't realize it, but there's a LOT that goes into having a simple, organic conversation with someone else, and it is really hard to teach a machine how to replicate it. The branch of AI that tackles giving computers the ability to understand human language, text, and communication is called natural language processing (NLP). (This kind of understanding is called natural language understanding (NLU)—these AI people really love their acronyms, huh!)

What makes you laugh? I don't know about you, but my sense of humor is completely broken—the most random things make me laugh. Humor is not at all straightforward and depends a lot on context and references and environment and tons and tons of other things (like inside jokes), and shows why NLU is so hard to achieve. So, while I desperately want to see an AI standup comedian on SNL, chances are that won't happen any time soon. :(

Teaching an understanding of texting is equally, if not more, challenging. My mom can't keep up (though she would argue she is a Very Cool Mom), so how in the world could a machine even hope to parse all the whims of

internet culture?! Take, for example, a keyboard smash. Seems simple, right? WRONG.

Keyboard smashes can be used to explain shock/excitement and other emotions that hugely depend on context, but not only that, it has to look right. For example, AGDFJKAHG looks fine, but YUUIUUIUYO doesn't really look right and does not give what needed to be gave.

If this distinction makes no sense to you, I have some unfortunate news for you...you are old. But that's okay! It just shows how hard it is to make things like this make sense to a machine. (Think about all the strange conversations you've had with Siri or Alexa.)

So, if machines ever manage to take this one small step for man, yet giant leap for machine-kind in human communication, they'll be exponentially more intelligent and capable of traditionally human skills, like critical thinking, forming connections, and maybe even writing sensical essays/stories! This advancement would pull artificial general intelligence (which we talked about earlier) into the realm of possibility and doomsday will be upon us...I mean we'll have new friends!

### AI-ght, What About The Future?

If we've learned anything from this long, long article, it's that AI isn't robots trying to take over the world, it's humans trying to understand and replicate our own intelligence to make life easier and to accomplish things that would otherwise take us years to do in a matter of minutes.

AI is even being applied to analyze art as easily as a human, create art (like poetry and paintings), and even prove mathematical theorems! It has accelerated research across all fields, such as DeepMind's AlphaFold 2 which,

in mere hours, can predict a protein's 3D structure—which has been a huge challenge in biology.

While AI is capable of greatly changing the world for the better, we also have to seriously consider the potential effects of it for all people—not just the often privileged people creating it.

### To Be or Not To Be Ethical

As the world starts embracing AI and adopting it on a wide-scale, bias in AI systems could disproportionately affect certain groups. For example, there have been application systems discriminating against women and those with non-European names, and a criminal justice algorithm that mislabeled Black defendants as "high-risk" twice as often as it mislabeled white defendants. Questions on how society wants to use AI must be addressed while continuing to identify and eliminate human biases from AI. The more of us, particularly women and BIPOC, who engage in shaping AI's development, the better chance we have to develop a better, fairer future with AI.

Finally, if there's anything else I hope you learned today, it's that AI eats data for breakfast. It needs tons and tons of data in order to get smarter, so that it can more accurately find patterns in all sorts of different situations—like cultivating your Daily Mixes on Spotify to finding recommendations for you on Netflix.

This means that the future of AI is reliant on data privacy. If it doesn't have data to teach it, AI can't get smarter. So, all users and people must know that their personal data will be secure and protected if companies ever want to

*See GEMS, page 22*

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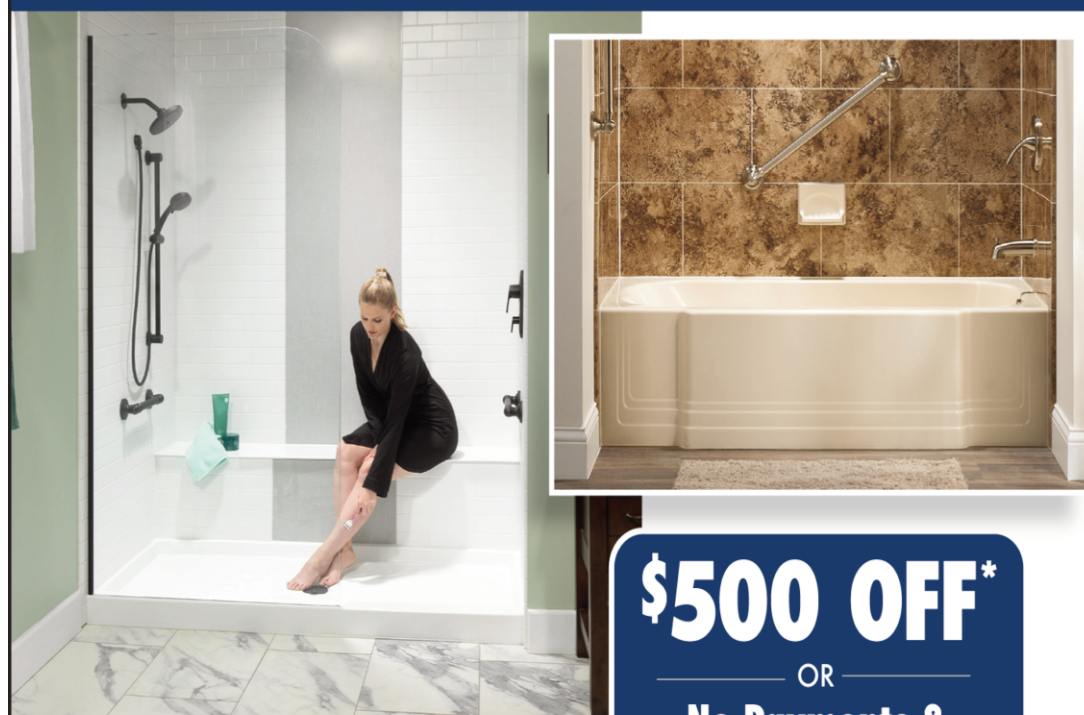
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## Gems

*Continued from page 19*

use it for large-reaching AI. Thus, corporations will have to commit and be held accountable to creating safe and secure products.

To continue addressing these future concerns for AI, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence launched in 2020, to ensure that AI is developed with democratic values and human rights in mind and to foster the public's trust in it.

But, it's interesting to note that AI is based on the assumption that human intelligence can be understood and exactly quantified to the extent that one could replicate it in a ma-

chine, which creates some controversy on whether we can make AI that are indistinguishable from humans. This forces the question: "What makes us human?" Would AI have the ability to feel, and thus suffer?...Man, I don't have time for another existential crisis.

And that's it folks! You're now ready to become a millionaire in the tech world...but don't quote me on that.

I've got one last question for you: will you be my AI-friend? Because I can be your dataBAE. <3

*Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvapwrits@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvapwrits@gmail.com).*



**Sold in 4 days with multiple offers**



## *6685 Buggywhip Court, San Jose*

Part of the spectacular Copperwood community, this lovely end-unit townhome is in great demand! Inside, its open concept floorplan makes for comfortable everyday living and remote work, while its private patio is the perfect place to entertain guests and enjoy cool autumn evenings. The home has been tastefully-remodeled throughout, providing a modern Silicon Valley living experience. Copperwood features a community pool, relaxing spa, and lush greenery all around. Its central location in Almaden Valley means you can enjoy all that the South Bay has to offer, whether it's fine dining, excellent schools, top-tier golfing, and exploring some of the best trails the entire Bay Area. You do not want to miss out on this one!

### Home Summary

- Two bedrooms
- Two full bathrooms
- 1,124 square feet of living space
- Single-story, extensively-remodeled, end-unit townhome
- Part of the wonderful Copperwood development in Almaden



*Offered at \$968,000*



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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.*



COMPASS



# 1052 Via Valiente Almaden Valley

\$1,875,000

4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2430 Sq Ft | 8436 Sq Ft Lot

Almaden Valley home on a generously-sized homesite with mature landscaping, privacy, pool, and spa. Gleaming hardwood flooring, ceiling fans, fireplace, wet bar, lots of natural light and double pane windows. Lots of trees and foliage around the perimeter including, roses, geraniums, palm trees, fig, orange and sour cherry fruit trees. Graystone, Bret Harte and Leland Schools. The new owner of this home will have membership at the Almaden Cabana Club.



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