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FEBRUARY 2022 ■ VOL. 18, NO. 2

Willow Glen *Times*

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Fatal collision involving a vehicle and 3 pedestrians on Foxworthy Avenue

Officers responded to the area of Almaden Expressway and Foxworthy Avenue for a traffic collision involving a vehicle and three pedestrians on January 18th at approximately 8:24 p.m.

A 2017 Toyota sedan was traveling northbound on Almaden Expressway in the number one lane in the area of Foxworthy Avenue. The Toyota struck three adult pedestrians that were crossing Almaden Expressway outside of any marked crosswalk. The pedestrians were crossing from the west side towards the east side of the expressway. The investigation also revealed that the vehicle had a green light at the intersection.

The three adult pedestrians were transported to local hospitals with various injuries. Two adult males were pronounced deceased shortly after their arrival. The third pedestrian, an adult female, is being treated for moderate injuries and is expected to survive.

The driver of the Toyota, and adult male, was also transported to a local hospital with moderate injuries considered to be non-life threatening. There is no indication of drug or alcohol influence.

This is the 6th fatal collision and victims number 6 and 7 of 2022. This is also pedestrian fatality number 4 and 5 of 2022.

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

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Templeman #3566 of the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

The Biz Beat: For 40-plus years, Hickleebee's in Willow Glen has brought stories to life

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Sitting comfortably in an aisle of Hickleebee's bookstore, Calvin, 11, shares a book with his 9-year-old brother, Malcolm. The boys look right at home, which isn't surprising since their mom Emily Liu-Elizabeth has been bringing them there since they were born.

Liu-Elizabeth herself has come to the shop since she was a little girl.

"Bookstores are places for kids to come where they feel safe," she said, "and where they can find all these wonderful books."

Hickleebee's is a family-owned business run by two sisters, Valerie Lewis and Monica Holmes. Lewis is the face of the bookstore and works with authors, while Holmes runs the office and transports books to book fairs and conferences. Many of the staff are former teachers and librarians.

Together, they have created a magical place for children. On the walls cavort characters from children's stories like "Where the Wild Things Are" and "Madeline." There are surprises around every corner, like the key to "The Secret Garden" and the acorn that fell on Chicken Little's head. The sisters hope to inspire curiosity in children, leading them to read these classic tales.

The bookstore has hosted a who's who of authors, many before they were well known, including J.K. Rowling. When Rowling paid



Joy Steuerwald and her son, Harrison Prioste, enjoy Hickleebee's picture books and supporting a small business. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

Hickleebee's a visit in 1998 before the release of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," only a handful of customers came. When she returned a year later, Harry Potter had become a household name and Hickleebee's, which sold 1,000 tickets for the event, had to turn people away.

Saving the store

Although Hickleebee's has outlasted the book behemoths, they almost shut down for good during the summer of 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic struck. The bookstore pivoted to online orders, but couldn't make up for a \$150,000 loss from canceled book fairs. Facing ruin, they turned to the community for assistance through a GoFundMe campaign. The community responded, raising enough in two weeks to keep them going.

"It was overwhelming," Lewis said. "I was in tears."

In addition to receiving help from publishers, authors and editors, children came in to donate their allowances, teenagers held a bake

sale and one woman donated her federal COVID relief check.

In the aftermath, the sisters added merchandise like stuffed animals, greeting cards, science kits, crafts projects, puzzles, games, toys and even reading glasses to help the store survive.

Joy Steuerwald regularly comes from Fremont to shop for picture books with her son, Harrison Prioste. Steuerwald said they love the feel of the store and never leave disappointed.

"It's really interesting," Prioste said. "You can't get bored here."

For more than four decades, Holmes said the sisters have taken pride in the beloved bookstore and how it attracts customers from throughout the region.

"How many people get to wake up in the morning and look forward to going to work?" Lewis said.

Cathy Nichols, who has been at Hickleebee's for about 15 years, said on any given Saturday, children will sit on the floor reading books or listening while parents read to them.

"It's a great community place to come to,"
See HICKLEBEES, page 11



Hickleebee's owners Valerie Lewis and Monica Holmes enjoy working together at the Willow Glen bookstore. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15

Mailbox

Wolves need our protection

Dear Editor,

The recent news that 20 wolves from Yellowstone National Park have been killed by hunters and trappers is heart-breaking evidence of the need for the Biden Department of the Interior to finally act and protect these wolves as senators, congress people, scientists, a former director of the USFWS, Tribal leaders, and activists have been imploring them to do.

Hunters in Montana can sit just feet outside of Yellowstone National Park using bait and recorded calls to lure wolves out of the protected area to their deaths. In Montana, they can kill as many as 20 wolves each (10 by gun and 10 by trap). In Idaho, there is no limit.

The Biden Administration could have prevented this slaughter and must act before it gets worse.

In August, Dan Ashe (the former Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under President Obama) wrote a Washington Post OpEd urging Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to act and issue emergency protections for gray wolves as permitted under the Endangered Species Act. Mr. Ashe outlined exactly why she should act and under what authority.

To date, President Biden and Secretary Haaland have ignored the former USFWS Director and his pleas to act. He followed up in December with a letter signed by directors of zoos and aquariums in his role as CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. This also has been ignored by Biden and Haaland.

We learned last year that Secretary Haaland has twice opted out of scheduled meetings with Tribal leaders seeking to speak with her in support of re-listing gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act and engaging in Tribal consultations before any future policy decisions are made.

Secretary Haaland and President Biden owe the country better. In her role as Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Secretary Haaland is entrusted with the caretaking of our natural spaces and the species that live in them. She is not living up to that mandate.

Please join me in writing to the Department of Interior at doi.gov and ask that Secretary Haaland finally act to stop this unsustainable killing of gray wolves in the Northern Rockies before it is too late. It took our nation decades to bring these wolves back. Idaho and Montana can destroy this progress in just months if the Biden Administration continues to ignore them.

Mark Mason

San Jose Officers fatally shot suspect near Rose Garden after he fired at police, Chief says

32-year-old Robert Carter, armed with a "ghost gun", was shot and killed by multiple San Jose Police officers near San Jose's Rose Garden after he shot at a passing car and pointed his weapon at other officers on Jan. 19 according to Chief Anthony Mata.

Mata said in a Jan. 21 police briefing that Carter died while pointing a gun at officers after a crime spree that ended when multiple officers opened fire on him.

The fatal exchange occurred after a pursuit that began at approximately 6 p.m. Jan. 19 when a police helicopter crew spotted a stolen Toyota Camry driven by Carter in the area of Story and King Roads.

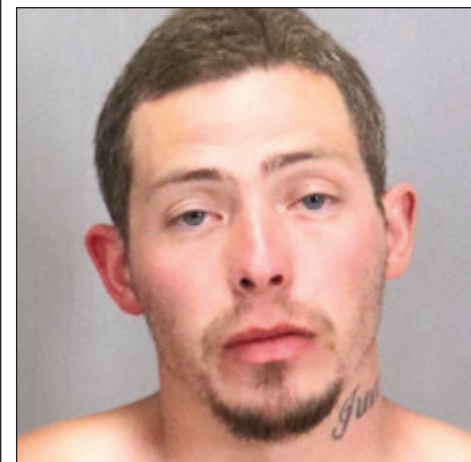
Carter headed to Santa Clara via Monroe Street and pulled up alongside a stopped vehicle with its door open and pointed a gun at the driver, who ran away. The suspect then entered the vehicle but was unable to drive off in it, so he went back to the stolen Camry and continued driving, eventually colliding with another vehicle that had two people inside in the area of Park Avenue and West Hedding Street in San Jose, according to Mata. The people in the vehicle that was hit by Carter suffered minor to moderate injuries, police said.

Mata said the suspect then got out of the vehicle and ran along Park Avenue with a gun in his hand and appeared to try to stop a passing car by pointing a gun at it, then fired the weapon in the direction of a vehicle as well as an approaching officer, who returned fire but did not hit him. He then ran toward West Hedding Street and allegedly pointed the gun at another officer, who fired at him and struck him at least once. He ended up in the front yard of a home and again pointed a gun at police, causing officers to open fire again, striking

him multiple times.

Carter succumbed to his injuries shortly after arrival at a hospital.

Mata said Carter's gun was a "ghost gun" without a serial number and that he was not allowed to possess a firearm because of prior felony convictions.



Robert Carter, who was shot and killed by San Jose police in gunfight Jan. 19. San Jose Police photo

IN MEMORY

Barbara M. de Wit June 27, 1921 - Jan. 19, 2022

Resident of Willow Glen

Barbara de Wit passed away peacefully in her home on Wednesday, January 19.

She had lived in Willow Glen since moving here from Utah in 1941.

She was active in PEO, the San Jose Historical Society, and the Willow Glen Methodist Church.

She is survived by her two sons, Ray (Walnut Creek) and Gary (Fresno), four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

No service is planned. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name should be made to the Willow Glen Methodist Church.

Franklin Scott Ruffo

1961-2022
Resident of Willow Glen

Graduate of Willow Glen High School

Frank passed away unexpectedly on January 13, 2022. He was a lifetime resident of San Jose, CA and was a graduate of Willow Glen High School.

He spent his teenage years working on cars and being surrounded by friends. Briefly working for his father in the Masonry business after high school, he moved on to West Valley College. Eventually ending up at Heald College and graduated with an associate degree in electrical engineering.

Frank was a beloved, caring, devoted husband to Colleen Ruffo, and their love spanned almost twenty-two years. Dedicated Dog-Dad to Liesl & Thor. Loving brother to Ernie Ruffo (Patty), Judy Cordano (Mike), Kirk Ruffo (Amy) & Brother-in-law to Sharon & Gene Stottrup. Cherished Uncle to Christian Ruffo, Dane Ruffo,



Lauren Ruffo-Hiestand (Scott), Kelsey Cordano, Casey & Sara. Great Uncle to Payton, Waylon, & Harlyn Hiestand. Nephew to Ronald Ruffo & Lois Bertolacci. Preceded in death by his parents, Marie & Ernie Ruffo.

Even in recent years Frank spent a lot of his free time modifying his Jeep, Hellcat, and Hot Rods. He was a dedicated employee of Ruckus Wireless for close to two decades, serving as Principal Hardware Engineer. Frank was a loving caretaker who tirelessly took great care of his parents in the final years, hours, & minutes of their lives.

Friends and family would agree their world was a better place with Frank in it. He was taken entirely too soon leaving a hole in many hearts.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to the American Heart Association.

Constance Marie LoBue Scarpelli Aug. 6, 1931 - Jan. 18, 2022

Resident of Willow Glen and Indian Wells

A native of San Jose, California who married V. Michael Scarpelli of Spokane, Washington. She was the first child of Rose and Sal LoBue. The LoBues were a longtime San Jose family in the agriculture and produce packing business.

Constance attended Sacred Heart Grammar school, moving on to Notre Dame High School in San Jose. She then enrolled at Lone Mountain College in San Francisco, earning a Bachelors' Degree in Drama/English. Upon graduation from Lone Mountain College, she began her teaching career in San Francisco as a Kindergarten instructor.

In August, 1953 she married V. Michael Scarpelli, the couple settling back in San Jose in the Willow Glen neighborhood. Constance and Michael began raising a family in San Jose, and then in 1969 she received her teaching credential from San Jose State and was immediately hired by the San Jose Unified School District to teach English at Roosevelt Jr. High School, con-

tinuing on to Peter Burnett Jr. High before joining the faculty of the San Jose High Academy in the early eighties. Her teaching career spanned some twenty-five years between the three schools.

In 1983 Constance established the Bulldog Foundation which honors an outstanding member of the community and creates a Perpetual Scholarship in that individual's name. Over the years, the Bulldog Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to help students achieve their academic goals.

For her decades of work in education, Constance received the Italian American Heritage Foundation Achievement Award in 2006. In addition, she was bestowed proclamations and commendations from the United States Congress, the California State Legislature, Santa Clara County, and the City of San Jose for the years she spent working with youth and their families in downtown San Jose.

Constance was appointed Commissioner of the Florence Commission of Santa Clara County in 1995.

Throughout her life, she was beloved by those fortunate enough to know her. Constance was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and

great grandmother, a true matriarch of the family. Within the communities of San Jose and Indian Wells, she was adored by students, colleagues, and friends.

Connie had a flair for the dramatic, which included her charisma and fashion-

able style.

Constance is survived by her three children Michele, Corin (Peter Lewis), and Craig (Julie Scarpelli). There are four grandchildren Mario Lewis (Stephanie), Arwen Lewis, Jessica Scarpelli, and Melissa Scarpelli, and two great grandchildren Charlotte Lewis and Andrew Lewis.

Family and friends attended a Funeral Mass February 3, 2022 at St. Christopher Catholic Church 2278 Booksin Ave., San Jose.

All donations in Connie's name can be made to the San Jose High School Bulldog Foundation, www.sanjosehighfoundation.org. Checks can be made to the Bulldog Foundation, Care Of San Jose High and sent to San Jose High, 275 North 24th St. San Jose, CA 95116-1109.





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San Jose ranks among Top 25 Places for Valentine's Day holiday

With Valentine's Day just around the corner and America's sweethearts having spent \$21.8 billion on the holiday last year, the personal-finance website WalletHub just released its report on 2022's Best Places for Valentine's Day as well as accompanying videos.

It also released its nationally representative 2022 Valentine's Day Spending Survey, which found that 70 million Americans expect their partner to spend less this year compared to last year.

To determine the most romantic yet affordable cities for celebrating the Day of Hearts, WalletHub compared 100 of the largest U.S. cities across 27 key metrics, ranging from florists per capita to forecasted precipitation to the cost of a three-course meal for two.

Celebrating the Day of Hearts in San Jose (1=Best, 50=Avg.):

- 37th – Restaurants per Capita
- 4th – Cost of Three-Course Meal for Two*
- 36th – Chocolate Shops per Capita
- 1st – Percentage of Residents Who Are Fully Vaccinated
- 43rd – Jewelry Stores per Capita
- 16th – Florists per Capita
- 2nd – Avg. Beverage Price*
- 46th – Greeting-Card Stores & Gift Shops per Capita

*Cost data adjusted for the median household income of the city.

Valley Currents

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

Business PAC announces San Jose mayor, City Council endorsements

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Silicon Valley Biz PAC (Political Action Committee), which represents local business interests, endorsed two San Jose City Council candidates in the upcoming 2022 contest for Mayor of San Jose.

As stated on their website, the motto for the Silicon Valley Biz PAC is, "Help us advocate today for a better tomorrow."

The PAC is supporting both Councilmembers Dev Davis and Matt Mahan in the contested mayoral race. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo terms out this year.

The organization is also endorsing San Jose Downtown Foundation Board President Ramona Snyder for District 1, small business



owner Irene Smith for District 3, San Jose Planning Commissioner Rolando Bonilla for District 5, San



Jose Fire Captain Bien Doan for District 7 and Councilmember Pam Foley, who's running uncontested

for District 9.

"COVID really showed us what type of leadership the San Jose business community needs," said PAC executive director, Victor Gomez during a recent interview with San Jose Spotlight. "Many businesses in Silicon Valley have been hanging by a thread since the pandemic began. We're looking for candidates that certainly understand how important small business is to the San Jose community."

The Silicon Valley Biz PAC, formed in 2019 by former members of the now-disbanded Silicon Valley Organization's PAC.

PAC, which has a long history of endorsing candidates with business-friendly backgrounds, has raised \$125,000 for this cycle so far, according to Gomez.

Flooding can happen during a drought; make sure you're ready

By Director Linda LeZotte
Valley Water Board of Directors

As we welcome a wet start to the winter season, it's important to remember that flooding can happen anytime it rains. While our community continues to cope with the impact of the extreme drought conditions in Santa Clara County, we must also be ready for minor floods.

Historically, floods have followed droughts. The 2017 Coyote Creek flood followed a five-year drought with heavy rainfall, unleashing Santa Clara County's worst torrent since 1997. Valley Water's work on projects that reduce the risk of flooding is ongoing.

We are excited to share that the completed construction of Valley Water flood protection projects in Lower Silver Creek in East San Jose eliminates the mandate for thousands of homes and businesses to carry flood insurance. In 2021 we also completed the Per-

manente Creek Flood Protection Project which benefits the City of Mountain View, an effort nearly two decades in the making.

We invite you to take steps to prepare for the risk of flooding in your home or business. Visit valleywater.org/flood-ready to see if you are located within a flood-prone area as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If you are in the flood zone please review our emergency preparedness guide, download apps that will alert you of any imminent flooding, and investigate flood insurance. Please watch our stream gauges during upcoming rains if you live near a creek by visiting the above-mentioned website. Obstacles in creek beds can increase the risk of flooding, so we encourage all residents to report any blockages to us via our Valley Water Access System, also located at valleywater.org.

Remember, climate change has



Water District

Linda J. LeZotte,
SCVWD Representative



made extreme weather the new normal, and we all must be ready for more extended droughts and

heavier floods. Don't get caught off-guard; be flood-safe even during dry years!

Willow Glen Times

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Times **Feature**



Coming Soon: Community Budget Meeting

Addressing the shortfall and softening the blow on our residents and first ever opportunity for Zoom (over the internet) voiced public comment at Community Budget Meeting

By Mayor Sam Liccardo
Special to the Times

As we await the official release of the City of San José's proposed 2022-2023 Operating Budget, the Mayor's Office is checking in—reminding our residents and workforce that while many areas of economic activity have recovered since 2020, we aren't out of the woods yet.

The City experienced solid revenue growth this last year, and projections are improving; however, the budget still faces a structural shortfall when considering the number of important, community-serving initiatives that were funded on a one-time basis in response to the pandemic.

We will need to make some tough decisions in the weeks ahead to develop a balanced budget that sustains the City's delivery of core services and continues pandemic-era programs that lack ongoing funding. The need for community engagement is critical to solicit feedback and offer insight into the budget process as we work together to identify community priorities.

Due to the recent surge in Omicron cases, we will offer the first community budget meeting by phone, website through Zoom and Facebook. In addition to the date and time listed below, please find unique options for sessions dedicated to Vietnamese and Español language. For more information and updates, please visit www.sjmayor.org/budget.

Community Budget Meeting

Date and Time:

Thursday, February 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join on Zoom: <https://sanjose-ca.zoom.us/j/94745225883>

Call-in*: +1(408) 638-0968,

Meeting ID: 94745225883#

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SamLiccardo

Note: For telephone call-ins, press *9 to request permission to speak.

Please share this information with your neighbors and friends to help our community encourage inclusive feedback. Contact the Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Email: mayore-mail@sanjoseca.gov; Website: www.sjmayor.org.



**From the
Mayor**
Sam Liccardo



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Prestigious recognition for Gifts for Teens

By Cheryl Markman
Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens announced that its project has been selected as one of the six finalists for consideration for an Impact Grant from The 100 Women Charitable Foundation for 2021.

All six finalists will receive grants, with three finalists receiving very large monetary awards, to be voted on by their members in early March. The grant application involves a six month long, four-step process.

The prestigious award will help GFT fill bags for needy local teens.

As the competition was fierce, this award underscores the fact that Gifts



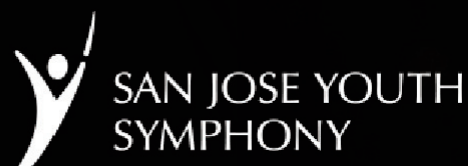
for Teens service project is valued in the community and that others care about needy local teens, be they impoverished, homeless, in foster care or suf-

fering from addiction. In general, it brings attention to AAUW's activism and outreach efforts in our community.

But the work never ends as Gifts for Teens is already collecting bag contents and donated funds to support our 2022 efforts.

Early spring cash donations are greatly appreciated and help GFT take advantage of bargains and sales throughout the entire year.

Donations are always welcome and checks should be written to ISPF-AAUW, GFT or donations can be made by using the PayPal button found on the organization's website: www.gifts4teens.org.



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March 31 & April 7 Thursday (4-9 pm)

April 1 & 8, 2022 Friday (4-9 pm)

April 2 & 9, 2022 Saturday (all day)

The deadline for submitting the audition applications is:

Thursday, March 24, 2022

QUESTIONS? Reach out to sjys@sjys.org.

SJYS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN 91-2166427) that has scholarships and financial aid offerings available based on a showing of need.

Times **Community News**



A Lighthouse food pantry volunteer and Pastor **Ralph Olmos** unload a truck. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

San Jose food pantry raises funds to pay for pricey city permit

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

After facing closure for having to pay San Jose up to \$15,500 for a special use permit, a local food pantry has raised enough funding overnight to remain open.

The Lighthouse Ministries Food Pantry, which serves families, seniors, disabled and unhoused people, was told by the city it would have to raise funds for a permit or cease operations on Feb. 14.

City spokesperson Cheryl Wessling said the cost of the special use permit is necessary for environmental and planning review, public notification and outreach and a public hearing, all which require staff. Complaints from neighbors about driveways being blocked and other parking issues related to the food pantry can be addressed in the permitting process.

The city threatened to charge the food pantry \$2,500 a day until the permit is paid for. If the permit was not paid for by that deadline, the city would charge a reinspection fee of \$231.

A day after San José Spotlight wrote about the potential closure, the GoFundMe campaign to save the food pantry exploded, with one anonymous contributor donating \$10,000. The campaign had raised \$16,662 as of Tuesday night.

A longtime San José Spotlight reader reached out to "Community" actress Yvette Nicole Brown on Twitter, asking her to retweet the article to raise support and funds for the food pantry to her nearly 500,000 followers. Brown retweeted the article, helping to bring more attention to the issue.

The food distribution center, located at E. Julian and 17th streets in San Jose, feeds more than 1,000 people a day six days a week, providing fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, eggs and dairy to those in need.

Pastor Ralph Olmos said he couldn't

believe the outpouring of support Lighthouse received. Now the food pantry that so many rely on can keep its doors open, he said.

"It's amazing," he told San José Spotlight on Tuesday afternoon. "The people are speaking."

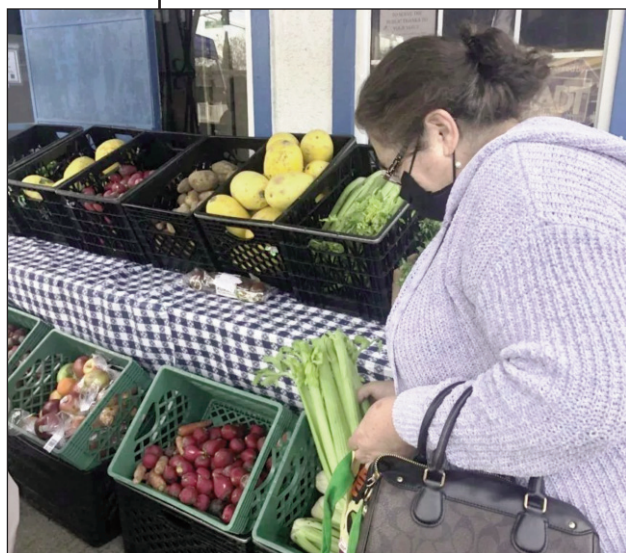
Olmos said the Lighthouse volunteers expressed excitement throughout the day as the GoFundMe total kept rising.

"I want to say thank you to everyone who's taken the time to show support for Lighthouse," he said. "I feel a lot of gratitude in my heart that the people are embracing us."

Olmos said he will use the funding to pay for the permit and improve the look and feel of the farmer's market-style food pantry.

Lighthouse Distribution Center manager Tony Covarrubias said Tuesday it's a blessing that people are willing to step up to help keep the food pantry running. He said they're giving food back to the people who thought they'd have to go without it.

"From the bottom of my heart, I'm really grateful," Covarrubias told San José Spotlight. "There are still people out there who care, who have a good heart to help others who are less fortunate."



Food pantry patrons state the "Pantry" helps them get by on limited retirement funds and produce is healthy for them but often is expensive to buy. Photos by Lorraine Gabbert.



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Santa Clara County
PUBLIC HEALTH

Times **Community News****Windows and Patio Doors!**

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We have three programs to help our neighbors in need**Critical Repairs**Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.**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 today.**Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley****408-578-9519**1701 South Seventh Street #10, San Jose CA, 95112
rtsv.org | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter**Steinway Society – The Bay Area announces Winter programming for 2022 season**

Steinway Society has announced its first two LIVE programs of the 2022 season.

The first two live programs are Vyacheslav Gryaznov, Saturday, February 12, and Yeol Eum Son, Saturday, March 12 at the McAfee Performing Arts and Lecture Center 20300 Herriman Avenue Saratoga, CA starting at 7:30 p.m.

Oacheslav Gryaznov (called Slava by his friends) thrilled the audience in his West Coast debut with the Steinway Society in 2016, receiving three encores, and was one of the featured artists in the 2021 Home Concert Hall series. He has performed to great acclaim throughout the U.S., Russia and Europe, including Carnegie Hall and the Berlin Philharmonic. Gryaznov studied at the Moscow State Conservatory for his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and he earned the Yale School of Music's Artist Diploma in 2018. He is on the teaching faculty of the Moscow Conservatory's piano department. In 2014, Gryaznov signed with Schott Music, where his work is the publisher's top ten best-selling piano editions.

February 12 Program

Mozart, Nine Variations on "Lison dormait", K. 264/315D

Mahler/Gryaznov, Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Liszt, Rhapsodie Espagnole

INTERMISSION

Gryaznov, Transcriptions

1. Borodin, Notturmo, from String Quartet No. 2

2. Tchaikovsky, Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a

3. Rachmaninoff, Songs

1. Night is mournful, Op. 26, No. 12

2. How fair this spot, Op. 21, No. 7

3. Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 14

4. Italian Polka

Glinka, Valse-Fantaisie in B minor

A leading international artist, Yeol Eum Son has excited patrons in her two previous San Jose appearances. She is highly regarded as a

brilliant virtuoso whose playing has a rare balance between enormous kinetic energy and substantial gravity.

Yeol Eum performs a widely eclectic and rich repertoire—ranging from Bach and Mozart to German and Russian Romantics, and the twentieth century music of Gershwin, Szymanowski, Ligeti, and Salonen. She performs as a soloist and with the world's leading orchestras. Yeol Eum placed second at the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition and the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Her discography includes the music of early 20th century composers Berg, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, and Ravel, as well as recordings of the complete Chopin Etudes, Chopin Nocturnes for Piano and Strings, Schumann's Fantasy in C, Kreisleriana, and Arabesque, and a new all-Kapustin release—marking a year since the composer's death.

March 12 Program

Baldassare, Harpsichord Sonata No. 5 in C Major, T:27

1. Andante

2. Allegro

3. Allegro Assai

Mendelssohn, Piano Sonata in G minor, Op. 105

1. Allegro

2. Adagio cantabile e lento

3. Presto

Prokofiev, Piano Sonata No. 3 in A minor, Op. 28

1. Allegro tempestoso

INTERMISSION

Ravel, Sonatine

1. Modéré

2. Mouvement de menuet

3. Animé

Kapustin, Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 54

1. Allegro molto

2. Scherzo: Allegro assai

3. Largo

4. Perpetuum mobile: Allegro vivace

Ticket Prices: \$42 to \$65 for live performances; Streaming Tickets: \$40 per household. Link is live for 48 hours from the time of the live concert.

Purchasers may choose to watch the event live or the recording afterward.]

Purchase Tickets: <https://steinwaysociety.com> Box Office: 408.300.5635. Email: office@steinwaysociety.com

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Photo courtesy of **Conductor Carlos Vieu** and Symphony San Jose

Symphony San Jose presents Feste Romane

Symphony San Jose presents *Feste Romane* on Sat, Mar 26 at 8:00 p.m. and Sun. March 27 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose.

This multifaceted concert features Respighi's *Feste Romane*. The program also includes two pieces by Brahms and a new lyrical double concerto performed by renowned classical violinist Rachel Lee Priday together with its composer, Juan Pablo Jofre, playing the haunting bandoneon.

The program:

Johannes Brahms: *Schicksalslied* (Song of Destiny)

Juan Pablo Jofre: *Bandoneon Violin Double Concerto No. 1* (with Juan Pablo Jofre and Rachel Lee as soloists)

Johannes Brahms: *Nanie*

Ottorino Respighi: *Feste romane*

Conductor: Maestro Carlos Vieu"

Box Office: 408.286.2600 or www.symphonysanjose.org or visit the Box Office between 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre.



Rachel Lee Priday

The California Theatre is located at: 345 South First St., San Jose.



Juan Pablo Jofre



Hicklebee's owner **Valerie Lewis** shows off a collection of author's artifacts. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

Hicklebees

Continued from page 1
she said.

The bookstore, located on Lincoln Avenue in Willow Glen, opened in March 1979 with four long-time friends: Jan Gottlieb, Lewis, Georgia Osborne and Vicki Villarreal. They jumped in without any business experience, soliciting advice from librarians and reaching out to publishers for catalogues.

When Villarreal and Osborne returned to teaching, Gottlieb and Lewis ran the store. Soon Holmes joined them. Gottlieb moved away in 1991, and it's been just the sisters at the helm ever since.

Part of Hicklebee's longevity is its strong community support. When it relocated in 1989 from across the street, an ambulance driver shuttled books on a gurney while teachers directed traffic. Six months later, when the magnitude 6.9 Loma Prieta Earthquake shook the books off the shelves, a line of community members came to help

put them back.

"We give out to the community," Lewis said, "and they give back to us, and that is how we've survived."

Running an independent bookstore isn't without its challenges. The sisters have had to contend with big chain bookstores and being undercut by Amazon. Lewis said the store's reputation for its personal service and specialty children's books sets them apart.

Customer E. Clay Buchanan agrees. He appreciates the staff's recommendations and being able to flip through a book in person.

"When you're online, it's not the same as having the book in your hands, especially a picture book," he said. "And you can talk to someone about it. You can't get that online."

Editor's Note: To create a wonderful book shopping experience go to Hicklebees. Location; 1373 Lincoln Avenue San Jose, CA 95125. Phone; (408) 292-8880. Also, one can sign up for their free weekly newsletter and learn about upcoming events by going to www.hicklebees.com.



The Delphi Trio, courtesy of the San José Chamber Orchestra.

San José Chamber Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season presents 'Unbreakable' March 20

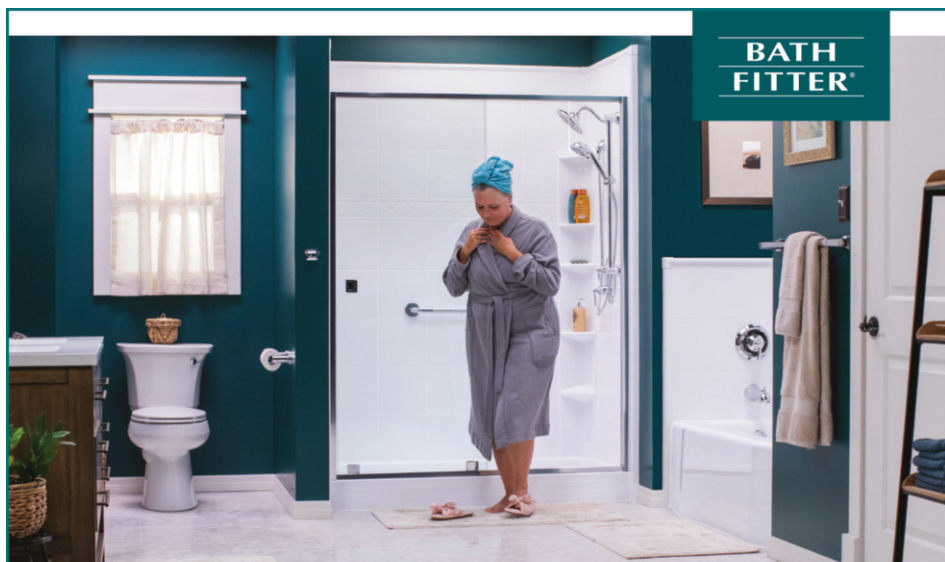
San José Chamber Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season presents 'Unbreakable' featuring the Delphi Trio on Sunday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. at St Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Avenue, San Jose.

The program includes Beethoven's Triple Concerto and the World Premieres of Clarice Assad's Triple Concerto, Ahmed Alabaca's Unbreakable, and the world premieres of new works by composers Clarice Assad and Ahmed Alabaca.

About the Venue: St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Avenue, San José, 95125:

SJCO returns to San Jose's newest small venue at St. Francis Episcopal Church in San Jose (Willow Glen). The venue includes comfortable seating, space for distancing, gorgeous acoustics and more. There is easy access off Highway 280 and Meridian Avenue with ample street parking available.

Tickets: sjco.org/ or 408 295-4416; Note: no tickets sales at the door. Single Ticket Prices: Adult: \$50; Senior (62 and above): \$45; Student: \$15; Covid-19 info: Proof of vaccination required. Masks required. Subject to change. For more information visit: sjco@sbcglobal.net



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Community News



The Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on March 31, 2020 as officials work to make a temporary homeless shelter on the site during the COVID-19 outbreak. Photo by 111th Group aerial photography.

Santa Clara County plans Major League cricket stadium at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

By Times Staff Writers
Publisher

Santa Clara County’s law makers are moving forward with plans to build a 15,000-person cricket stadium at the county fairgrounds located on Tully Rd. in San Jose.

Major League Cricket (MLC) and the county announced they are in an exclusive negotiating agreement to move forward with lease negotiations and design approvals for a new stadium that will be constructed on a 14-acre site located on the fairgrounds.

“Cricket is a sport that’s increasing in popularity in the U.S. and Santa Clara County,” said Supervisor Otto Lee in a statement. “The addition of an international cricket venue to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds would help attract large numbers of visitors from around the world to the region. We look forward to finalizing plans with Major League Cricket to move forward with this exciting development for Santa Clara County.”

MLC spokesperson Tom Dunmore said

“The addition of an international cricket venue to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds would help attract large numbers of visitors from around the world to the region.”

– Supervisor Otto Lee

the fairground is an ideal location for a cricket stadium adding, “We love the idea of adding to that land and helping develop that portion of San Jose.”

County officials have attempted to revitalize the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds site for many years. In 2019, the Board of Supervisors voted to explore and evaluate a long list of options, including a baseball stadium, cricket field, county park, and a hotel among others—with a vision to create a space for public events and recreation.



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Times **Feature**

Tech Jargon of the month:
Voice Recognition

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Voice Recognition
Voice recognition software is an ever-increasing part of our lives, though thankfully not like the sci-fi movies of the 80’s or 90’s led us to believe. Whether its Siri or Cortana on our phone, or Amazon Echo or Google Home in our living rooms, we are talking to digital assistants more than ever.

Their popularity is derived from the numerous benefits they provide to our professional and personal lives. Using voice recognition software, we can quickly respond to emails, record speeches, surf the internet, get the latest weather updates, and get the latest news, to name but a few. While, for those with physical and visual impairments, this software can assist with everyday tasks, such as reading out messages, playing music and adjusting the lighting and thermostat in the home.

So, what is Voice Recognition and how does it work?

Put simply, voice recognition is an alternative to typing on a keyboard. You talk to a computer, or a smartphone and words ‘magically’ appear on a screen. The software behind this technology ‘takes’ the soundwaves in the air and translates them into their digital representation, which a computer or a smart device can understand. Voice recognition is part of the family of ‘behavioral biometrics’, used to

authenticate identity and can be used as an alternative to the traditional PIN and password.

Although this new type of technology has become widely available to the public, the question of how it works is still frequently asked. Voice recognition software programs work by analyzing sounds and performing tasks based on the information that is given to them via voice. Broadly speaking, there are four different approaches a computer can take if it wants to turn spoken sounds into written words:

1. Simple pattern matching (where each spoken word is recognized in its entirety—the way you instantly recognize a tree or a table without consciously analyzing what you’re looking at)
2. Pattern and feature analysis (where each word is broken into bits and recognized from key features, such as the vowels it contains)
3. Language modeling and statistical analysis (in which a knowledge of grammar and the probability of certain words or sounds following on from one another is used to speed up recognition and improve accuracy)
4. Artificial neural networks (brain-like computer models that can reliably recognize patterns, such as word sounds, after exhaustive training).

In practice, the everyday speech recognition we encounter in things like automated call centers, computer dictation software, or smartphone “agents” (like Siri and Cortana) combines a variety of different approaches to get the results.

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

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Three local high school juniors first place winners at Silicon Valley DECA conference

At this year's Silicon Valley DECA conference, three local juniors from San Jose placed 1st in the Franchise Business Plan division.

The juniors from Basis Independent Silicon Valley (BISV) chose Dairy Queen as their franchise pick at this year's conference held at the Santa Clara Marriott January 7-9. Last year the juniors chose Krispy Kreme.

What is DECA state competition?

DECA conferences are targeted, highly-focused learning experiences for students and advisors that support National Curriculum Standards and the development of 21st Century Skills. The State Career Development Conference (SCDC) is the biggest and most exciting California DECA event of the year.

There were more than 600 students total in attendance and they competed in more than 20 different business related events.

Students earn medals for their test score, a role play interview with a local business professional and earn a spot at the DECA state



Pictured (left to right) are DECA Conference first place winners Neetika Mishra, Riya Pai, and Aashirya Rai.

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