

Sierra Club  
sues San Jose  
over riverside  
development  
**SEE PAGE 4**



**WASC accreditation**  
Center for Economic Mobility  
brings value to the community  
— **SEE PAGE 14**

Nearly half of  
Silicon Valley kids  
need supportive  
services to survive  
**SEE PAGE 12**



MARCH 11 – MARCH 24, 2022 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 6

# Evergreen Times

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**J. Manuel Herrera**, currently serving for over 32 years on the ESUHSD Board of Trustees, opened the Budget Process and Fiscal Outlook Board Meeting Study Session held February 15.

## East Side Union High School District continues to address recurring budget deficit woes

By Times Media editorial staff  
revealing budget study session held at the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) special board meeting February 15 revealed the reoccurring situation of looming budget deficit planning.

### District composed of 11 traditional high schools and more

The following is currently listed on the website:

**Eleven traditional high schools:**  
*See DEFICIT, page 19*

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## Long-standing East San Jose youth baseball league loses fields in fight over Reid-Hillview Airport

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**E**astridge Little League is scrambling to find a new place to play baseball.

After 50 years of kids playing baseball at Reid-Hillview Airport's fields, the tradition is coming to end thanks to Santa Clara County officials.

The decision to close the airport's baseball diamonds is being blamed on lead aviation fuel contamination and federal regulations.

County officials told the league late last month they would have to stop hosting games on March 28 while giving Eastridge Little League three months to remove all of their baseball equipment and belongings.

The decision has left the Eastridge Little League community "heartbroken" and now wondering where they'll play next.

The little League, it seems, is being caught in the crosshairs of a years-long battle over Reid-Hillview Airport in East San Jose.

Santa Clara County has been pushing to close the airport for years because of fears over lead contamination from the fuel that is used in the small planes that have been flying in and out of the facility which dates back to the 1930s.

The Federal Aviation Administration has been fighting with the county to keep the airport open but essentially lost that battle after the



Eastridge Little League is "heartbroken," said Little League coach and former player **Johnny Cisneros**. *Photo Credit: Eastridge Little League/Facebook*

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted in 2018 to stop accepting federal grants that help pay for



airport operations which will most likely lead to the airport's closure in 2031..

Eventually the airport land will be transformed into housing once the facility is shut down, but that decision will probably be debated until the land's contamination issue is resolved.

"Heartbroken... I played there my whole life. It's kind of emotional for me. It's really hard," Eastridge Little League coach and former player Johnny Cisneros told the Mercury News. It's unclear who made the final call to close the fields with the FAA blaming Santa Clara County and vice versa.

"The FAA did NOT request that the Eastridge Little League relocate from its current location. In fact, we work with airports on these issues frequently to find a solution that works for everyone," FAA spokeswoman Marcia Alexander-Adams

told the Mercury News.

County Supervisor Cindy Chavez said, "That's not what they told me. They directly told me it was a violation of our contract with them to have non-airport uses on that site."

The league is making the most of the decision and will proceed to hold its 50th Anniversary celebration at the Reid-Hillview fields on March 26. This will be a bitter sweet event, marking their last ever Opening Day Ceremony with a big parade with live music.

The league is asking former players and coaches to come out to speak about their favorite moments and memories. The final games at the fields will happen on the next day, March 27.

*Below: Eastridge Little League is scrambling to find a new place to play baseball. Photo Credit: Eastridge Little League/Facebook*

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Times **Local News**

## High school volleyball coach arrested in alleged connection with sexually abusing a minor

*Suspect previously worked as a volleyball coach at Evergreen Valley High School*



filed last month from a female who reported that she was involved in an inappropriate relationship with Washington when he was coach of the Stingray Volleyball Club from around 2012 to 2015, according to police.

A former girls' volleyball coach who is reported to have worked at Evergreen Valley High School, Independence High School, Overfelt H.S. and the Stingray Volleyball Club in San José was arraigned in Santa Clara County Superior Court Tuesday, March 1 on a felony charge of committing "lewd and lascivious acts" with a "14 or 15"-year-old girl.

During the investigation, detectives with the San José Police Department's Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force/Child Exploitation Detail determined that the victim was involved in an inappropriate relationship with Washington.

The suspect, **Jared Washington** (inset) was currently working as a staff member at Overfelt High School. He was immediately removed from East Side Union High School District school sites after the arrest and is on paid administrative leave pending the investigation, according to East Side Union spokesperson, Linda M. Ornelas.

Detectives also discovered other possible victims and witnesses, who told police that they were subjected to similar "inappropriate activities" and grooming during the same time period, according to police.

Washington was arrested on a complaint

Persons with information regarding this incident or any other similar incidents are urged to contact Detective Zantotto #3657 of the San José Police Department's ICAC/CED Unit at (408) 537-1379 or at 3657@sanjoseca.gov.

## Study finds homeownership builds equity

By **Johnny Khamis**

A recent study on Homeownership in Silicon Valley conducted by the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Institute for regional studies recently concluded that, "Homeownership represents a significant portion of the overall wealth in Silicon Valley, but the gaping divide between wealthy and non-affluent households is reflected in homeownership rate disparities."

down payment hurdle is surmountable – may provide monthly payments comparable to renting while providing adequate space for larger families, and opportunities for wealth creation."

Today, homeownership is still widely considered the American Dream for many people. It builds equity, both literally and figuratively. According to the Federal Reserve, homeowners have an average net worth that is 40 times greater than renters. They build equity in their homes and can take advantage of tax incentives such as deducting mortgage interest and property taxes, all of which help build financial security.

As I have always stressed while serving on the San Jose City Council, we must reduce barriers to allow for more rapid production of "For Sale" housing. One example of a barrier is a consumer protection law that makes it extremely expensive to insure against product defects over a 10-year period. We must also prevent new bureaucratic laws such as San Jose's new COPA law that could make it increasingly difficult to become a homeowner.



Owners are also usually able to secure a fixed monthly mortgage payment. They don't have to worry about the uncertainty of rising rents outpacing their earnings. For many families, paying their mortgage is like forced savings. Each payment and every home improvement goes towards increasing equity in their home. Additionally, homeowners tend to put down roots in the community and take pride in it. Their children thrive in a more stable housing situation.

Under COPA, the sales cycle is extended and forces owners of multi-unit apartments of five and up to sell in a 140-day timeline (100 days for two to four units) to allow nonprofits and government entities the opportunity to make an offer before residential rental properties hit the market. This extended timeline creates a risk of sellers losing motivated for-profit buyers.

The Joint Venture Study also talks about the many barriers that must be addressed in order to increase homeownership rates. Barriers include availability of affordable For-Sale units and the difficulties inherent in a competitive market. These barriers are reflected in the declining share of young families who are homeowners in Santa Clara County, and the increasing average age of homeowners. According to the study, "Large down payments relative to income are among the most significant barriers to homeownership in Santa Clara County and are heavily influenced by rising median home prices."

Realtors and lending agents are knowledgeable about resources available to first-time homebuyers. We need to connect potential buyers with lenders and realtors to help educate them about First Time Homebuyer Programs. Thankfully, the Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS® (SCCAOR), the Santa Clara County Housing Trust, FHA and other agencies are working to find answers to help first-time homebuyers more easily enter this red hot housing market.

Santa Clara County, working through the Housing Trust has put forward the Empower Homebuyer Program, a program funded by the Measure "A" parcel tax. Empower Homebuyers is a down payment assistance loan for first-time homebuyers in Santa Clara County. If a homebuyer has at least 3% of a home's purchase price saved up, an Empower loan can provide the remaining 17% – enabling a down payment of 20% on a home with a sale price of up to \$800,000.

While the for-sale inventory at lower price ranges has represented a relatively small share of listed homes, mobile homes and condos/townhomes are options that – assuming the

Finally, SCCAOR's Down Payment Assistance Fund, set to launch later this year will integrate with other down payment and loan programs to bridge the gap in the rising housing market.

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## Cortese's low carbon construction bill aims for climate restoration

State Senator Dave Cortese (D-Silicon Valley) has introduced SB 1297 to continue his innovative work on climate restoration.

Cortese is working with stakeholders from environmental justice groups, labor, and industry to craft a plan for California to not only adapt to, but to reverse climate change.

"It's part of a movement to restore our climate," says Senator Cortese.

"SB 1297 is a vital opportunity for California to chart a global path forward in climate restoration. Removing carbon from our building and construction materials and using them to sequester carbon can be done safely, permanently, and economically – with an incredibly high impact."

In Santa Clara County, Cortese led the charge to declare a county-wide "climate restoration emergency that demands immediate action to halt, reverse, restore and address the consequences and causes of global warming" and on Earth Day's 50th Anniversary, along with Earth Day Network, and the Foundation for Climate Restoration, launched a local

*See CLIMATE, page 6*

# Valley Currents

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

## Sierra Club sues San Jose over riverside development

By Dave Poeschel

Many believe the Sierra Club was forced to file a lawsuit against San Jose.

By approving a plan from Boston Properties, Inc. to build a massive glass facade office building—16 stories, 283 feet high, 800 feet long and with three levels of underground parking that egregiously provides no setback buffer between the building and the steep banks of the Guadalupe River and its forest—the City Council embraced a project that does not comply with the General Plan's mandatory riparian protections, and thus it violates state planning and zoning law.

Protecting our public resources of the Guadalupe River, including this site on the eastern bank of the river across from the Children's Discovery Museum and Discovery Meadow, should be a top priority for city leaders. For decades, residents, conservationists and city representatives worked together to develop policies and a general plan that sustain the ecosystem services of wildlife habitat, flood control, clean air and water and recreation that riparian corridors—our streams and their forest—provide.

### Building to cause negative impact to Guadalupe River

Key are requirements that building developments be set back from the corridor's edge. And by accepting what the Environmental Impact Report calls "cumulative significant



The riparian forest remains vital in the Guadalupe River next to the Boston Properties, Inc. proposed office building site. It consists primarily of native western sycamores, coast live oak, northern California black walnut and Fremont cottonwood trees. Photo courtesy of Dave Poeschel.

and unavoidable impacts to the Guadalupe river," the council showed utter disrespect for the river that this city was founded upon and to the residents who love and depend on the river.

The impacted lives and \$100 million worth of damages caused by the 2017 flooding is but one of many examples of the long term costs associated with these short-sighted City Council actions, bowing to special interests just as their campaigns for reelection and mayor are launched, despite the important science behind stream policies and in the face of increased extreme weather events with climate change.

### Riparian corridors help the environment

Riparian corridors are critical habitat linkages between large open lands for insects, terrestrial animals, migrating birds and salmon and steelhead fish migrating between the ocean and stream spawning habitat. Wildlife need cover and food sources in the grasses, shrubs and trees of protected streams that concrete channels fail to provide. The endangered fish need cool water shaded by a healthy forest.

### The natural environment of river helps our physical and mental health

People, too, need the river's nature for peaceful, passive recreation that is so beneficial to physical and mental health. We need to expand our tree canopy to protect

there are no natural pollutant filters. Without setbacks, flash runoff from hardscape causes flood waters to rise quickly. Without setbacks, wildlife have nowhere to escape the rising waters. Without setbacks, subterranean aquifers and underground hydrologic flows are disrupted. Without setbacks, noise and artificial night light disrupts natural feeding and mating behavior of insects, birds and other life resulting in decreased populations.

Without setbacks, the unnatural shading, reflective heating, noise generating and reflecting of building facades degrade riparian plant growth and make trails unpleasant for humans.

Bird strikes into glass windows account for about 1 billion bird fatalities every year in the U.S. If we want to stroll the Guadalupe River Trail and find bird song rather than carcasses, we need buildings to be set back from the river.

### 95% of our riparian forests have been lost

We've already lost 95% of our riparian forests that once sprawled out for miles from winding streams, yet greed seems to be everlasting. We deserve a mayor and City Council that will follow the science that can protect and restore rather than follow special interests to the very brink.

*Editor's note: Dave Poeschel is the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, Guadalupe Regional Group Conservation Committee chair and resides in San Jose.*



A nearby stretch of the Guadalupe River demonstrates what the future may hold without a building setback buffer for the river. Previous council failures to protect the natural river led to expensive concrete channelization at enormous public expense. Photo courtesy of Dave Poeschel.

against the urban "heat island effect," especially in the concretized downtown. But rather than protecting us against the increased temperatures with climate change, our mayor and City Council have allowed tree canopy cover to decrease from 15.36% in 2012 to 13.54% in 2018 citywide. The trend continues today.

Without riparian corridor building setbacks, streams have no flexibility to adapt to erosive flood events and soon concrete is poured.

### River setbacks help our environment

And without setbacks,

**EvergreenTimes**

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Times Community

## Nithya Badrinath makes Dean's list at Tufts University

Tufts University announced that **Nithya Badrinath** (inset) of Evergreen Valley, Class of 2022, has been named to the Dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester.

Nithya is an International Relations major concentrating in International Security, and Psychology. She works as an assistant



in the office of Massachusetts State Representative Christine Barber.

Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts en-

joys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions.

## State Senator Cortese's statement on state sanctions on Russia

Chair of the California Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, State Senator **Dave Cortese** (D-Silicon Valley) made the following

statement after Governor Gavin Newsom sent a letter today to the leaders of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and the University of California retirement system regarding divestment from Russian-based companies and assets:

"I am proud of our Governor for acting swiftly and calling for the divestment of state public funds from Russia, in line with



bipartisan requests from those in the state legislature," says Senator Cortese (left) who, yesterday announced he is joint-author of a bill requiring California to divest Russian investments.

"California must continue to vehemently denounce Russia's violent invasion of Ukraine and put pressure on Russia to end this unjustified and reckless attack."

Cortese announced he will be joint-authoring a bill with Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire which would require California, its agencies, CalPERS, and CalSTRS to divest from Russia and Russian-state entities following the unprovoked war against Ukraine.

This bill would:

- Require the State and its agencies, CalPERS, and CalSTRS to divest from Russian assets and financial institutions.
- Urge companies operating in California to divest and separate themselves from the Government of Russia and Russian businesses
- Request companies operating in California to report their investments and business connections with the Government of Russia and Russian businesses.
- Block the awarding of state contracts to any company that is conducting business with Russia.

## Happy Women's Month, Santa Clara County!

By Supervisor **Otto Lee**

March marks Women's History Month, and as the father of three young daughters, this month is personally important to me. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the many achievements that women have contributed to our society. It is also a time to reflect on how much more work we have to do to truly make things equal for women and girls.

Living in Santa Clara County, we have a rich history of strong, female leaders who have broken countless barriers for young girls, children like my daughters. The first woman appointed to the County's Board of Supervisors was Louise Schemmel Ayer in 1935. A little over 40 years later, the Board would see an impressive shift. Susie Wilson was the second female Supervisor elected to the Board in 1978. After the next election cycle in 1980, two more women, Zoe Lofgren and Becky Morgan, were elected to the Board. For the first time in Santa Clara County history, the Board of Supervisors constituted a female majority.

Zoe Lofgren and Becky Morgan both continued their political careers beyond Santa Clara County. After completing her

tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Zoe Lofgren was the first woman ever elected to represent California's 16th Congressional District, impressively beating out her more heavily favored male opponent. As a United States Representative, Congresswoman Lofgren has fought for the reproductive freedom of young women and



### County Report

Otto Lee, District 3 County Supervisor

girls, helping to strike down anti-choice legislation that would take away their right to choose. Becky Morgan had a similarly notable career. In 1986, as a California State Senator, she introduced legislation that saved Caltrain by establishing the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board.

These trailblazers have paved the way for the next generations of strong women to follow them. Currently, for the first time in County history, all five of the Supervisors' Chiefs of Staff are women: Christine Stavem (D1); Betty Duong (D2); Wendy Ho (D3); Mayra Flores (D4); and Kristina Loquist (D5). In addition to the powerful, female leaders that lead staff operations, Santa Clara County expanded gender-based resources. The Division of Equity and Social Justice encompasses 6 different departments that include the Office of Women's Policy, the Office of Gender-Based Violence and the Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs, which all provide vital resources to historically underserved populations. These departments have been crucial in leveling the playing field for women and LGBTQ+ women and persons by providing these

historically underserved and underrepresented populations with vital resources. Furthermore, this shows Santa Clara County's commitment to making a more equitable community for our women and girls.

San Jose has been touted as the 'Feminist Capital' from the late 1970s through early 2000s because of the high number of elected women to local government. However, there is still significant work that needs to be done around the country. After almost 250 years as a sovereign nation, the people of the United States elected Kamala Harris, the first woman and woman of color to represent our country's Executive Office as Vice President. The advancement of one woman breaks glass ceilings for future generations of girls.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first created in 1923 and was brought before Congress in every session until it was finally approved in 1972 after being pushed by a new wave of female lawmakers like House Representatives Shirley Chisolm (D-N.Y.) and Martha Griffiths (D-MO). In order to be incorporated into our Constitution, 38 out of the 50 states must ratify the legislation. Nearly 50 years after passing through Congress, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. The ERA has not yet been enacted as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution, showing that our fight for true equal rights for women is far from over.

I am proud to live and serve such a diverse community that values, upholds and empowers women. As your Supervisor, I reaffirm my commitment to fighting for the next generations of daughters, just like I do for my girls every day.

## Masks optional at all East Side Union High School District schools and facilities effective March 12

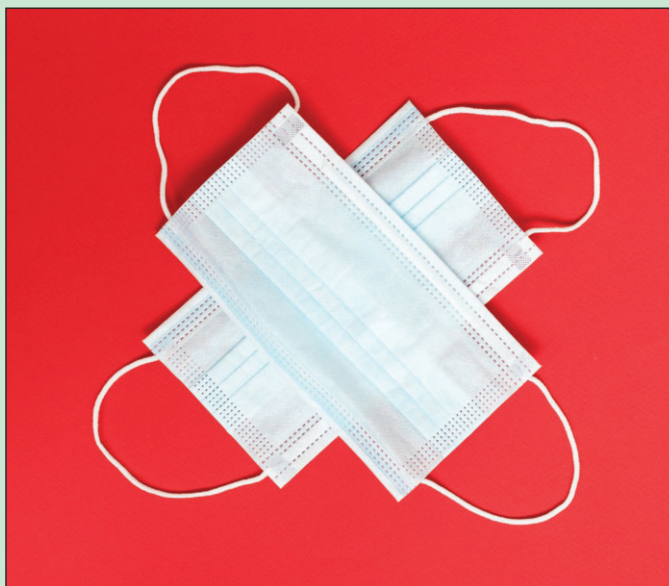
With declining case rates and hospitalizations in Santa Clara County, school districts are embarking on a new phase of their response to the COVID-19 virus.

As of March 12, all East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) schools and facilities will follow the new state and county guidance that masking is strongly recommended but no longer required indoors.

In a written ESUHSD state-

ment sent to parents, Superintendent Vander Zee, stated, "Any student or employee may wear a mask if they choose. This applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated students, staff, guardians, and individuals in all our sites, buildings and classrooms."

Zee said the district will continue our mitigation strategies of monitoring symptoms, testing, contact tracing, vaccination and ventilation.



## Climate

Continued from page 4

governments campaign that called on all cities and counties to adopt climate restoration.

SB 1297 calls on the state to develop a strategic plan to advance carbon reduction across all building and construction materials and maximize carbon sequestration. Notably, this would greatly expand the reach of our state's current embodied carbon reduction goals and include materials such as cement, concrete, aggregate, lumber, cross-laminated timber, steel, and more. It would require stakeholder input and for state agencies to develop plans, accounting frameworks, and otherwise encourage the use of building materials where feasible with low or negative embodied carbon emissions, to help maximize the level of carbon sequestration in the built environment.

As stated in SB 1297, California uses enough aggregate, concrete, and other building materials that it could store all carbon emissions from major industrial sources in the built environment.





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April 2 & 9, 2022 Saturday (all day)

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Thursday, March 24, 2022

QUESTIONS? Reach out to [sjys@sjys.org](mailto:sjys@sjys.org).

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Times Arts

### Philharmonic Orchestra's Spring Concert to feature Competition Winners and Harp & Jazz Ensembles

Philharmonic Orchestra's Spring Concert will feature Competition Winners and the Harp & Jazz Ensembles on Saturday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. at the California Theatre.

Program:

- Suppé – Light Cavalry Overture
- Mozart – Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, K. 218 (Greyson Haryanto, violin)
- Castro – Concerto for Harp Quartet and Orch. (featuring SJYS Harp Ensemble)
- Elgar – Cello Concerto in E minor (Hudson Fey, cello)
- Kalniņš – Symphony No. 4, "Rock Symphony"
- Bolvin – Free Climb, featuring the SJYS Jazz Ensemble

The Orchestra has performed with many internationally renowned artists in concert and on tour. They include Jon Nakamatsu, Gold Medal winner of the 1997 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Axel Strauss, professor of violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Taylor Eigsti, renowned jazz pianist and two-time Grammy Award nominee, and Max Zorin, critically acclaimed violinist and faculty member of the Penn State School of Music.

In addition to the standard symphonic repertoire, the orchestra has collaborated

with many local and international leading arts groups, among them, the San Jose Symphony Orchestra, the Asian Youth Orchestra, the Okayama Youth Orchestra, San Jose Taiko, Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra, Mariachi Cobre, San Jose Children's Musical Theater, the Batucada nana Latin Ensemble, the Crystal Children Choir, the Homestead Jazz Ensemble, the Latin Jazz Ensemble from San Jose State University, and the Los Gatos Ballet in its annual full productions of The Nutcracker.

Online tickets available now for purchase by visiting: [www.sjys.org/product-category/tickets](http://www.sjys.org/product-category/tickets); tickets are also available for purchase at the California Theatre Box Office on concert day one hour before the Concert (3 p.m.)

### Saratoga Symphony to perform free concert March 13 at McAfee Center

Enjoy a classical music orchestra FREE concert with exciting rhythms and beautiful melodies Sunday, March 13, 3:00 p.m. at the McAfee Center (located at Saratoga High School).

Conductor Dr. Jason Klein will provide a talk about each music piece for the audience before it is performed to add concert pleasure. Julian Brown, is the featured violin soloist.

**Concert program**

Jubilee Overture (1818) by weber; Violin Concerto No. 2 (1877) by Bruch, with violin



*The concert program will feature Jubilee Overture (1818) by Weber; Violin Concerto No. 2 (1877) by Bruch, with violin soloist Julian Brown; and Symphony No. 7 (1821) by Schubert / Weingartner*

soloist Julian Brown; Symphony No. 7 (1821) by Schubert / Weingartner

**Tickets**

No tickets or reservations needed and there will be open seating in theater. Dona-

tions appreciated. [www.saratogasympphony.com](http://www.saratogasympphony.com) and Julian brown, violin soloist: [www.julianbrown.xyz](http://www.julianbrown.xyz) Note: Masking required to attend.

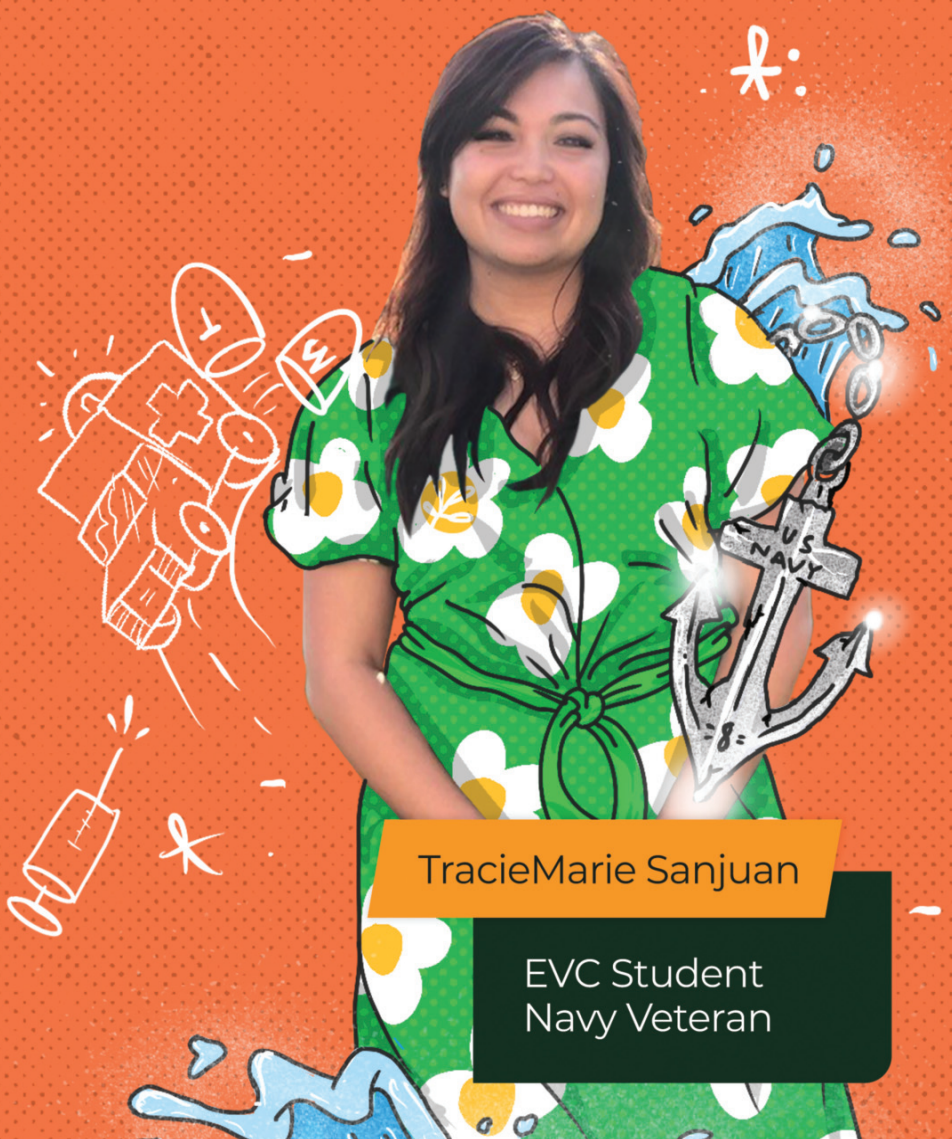


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Times **Features**

# Do you love your job?

By **Angela Copeland**



**W**e recently celebrated the month of love. Every year, I write about why it's important to love your job. This year, let's look at it another way. If you don't love your job, it may be time to break it off. It's time to end that toxic five day per week relationship. You wouldn't put up with this in a romantic partner. Why are you putting up with it at work?

I know, it's hard to do. Your job has been so reliable. It's stable. It's gotten you through two years of a pandemic. You don't want to be left in the cold with no job.

But, are you really happy? Does your job put you first? Or, is your job like a partner who's draining you?

You spend too much time with your job not to love it. In fact, you may spend more time with your job than with your spouse.

If you're having cold feet about your job, this is the time to make a change. And, by this is the time, I mean - right this minute! The job market is the best that it's been in a very long time. Economists say that it hasn't been this great since the late 1960s. New job postings are showing up every day online.

You've probably heard that old saying. People don't quit companies, they quit bosses. It's true. If you don't love your company or your boss, do yourself a favor. Look and see what's new in your job field. You may be surprised.

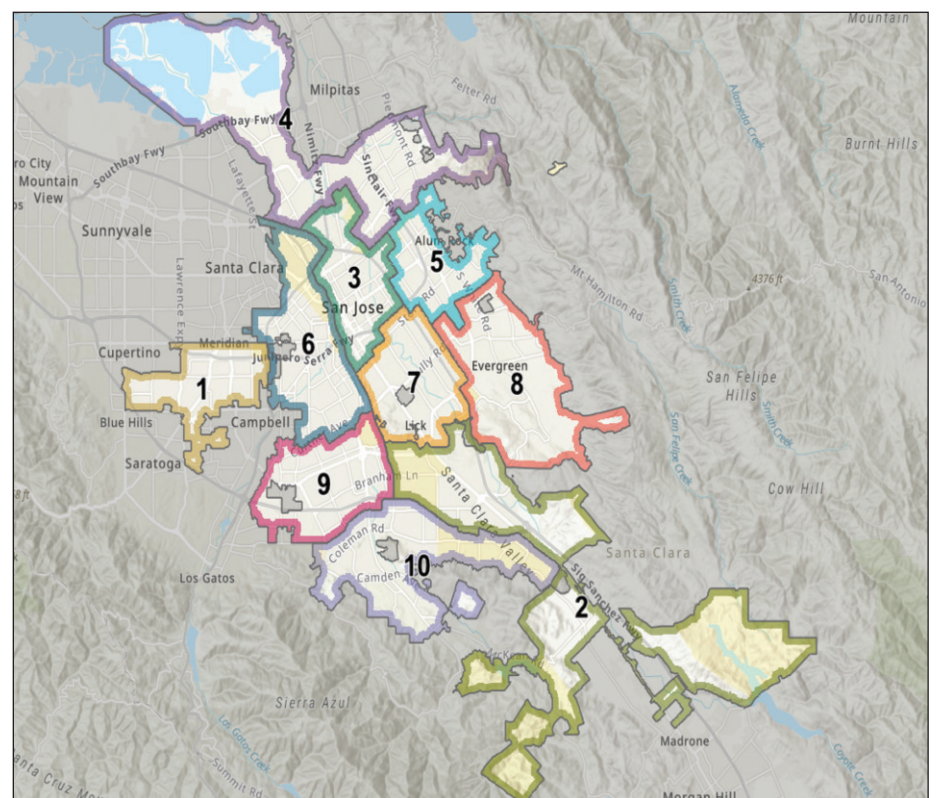
Make a list of all the things you want in a job. What would make you really love your work? Do you want to work for a great boss? On a great team? Do you want to work on a product that you can get behind? Are you looking for a company with integrity? Do you want to work from home, or in person?

Write down your goal list and start looking for it. What you're hoping for is out there. Don't stay committed to a company that's not committed to you. Look for something better, something more fulfilling. Make your happiness at work a priority.

Breaking up with your job isn't as hard as it sounds. Don't tell anyone until you've secured a new job. Once you've found a new job, wait until you've accepted it in writing to tell your boss. Thank them for the opportunity and let them know you've found something new. Give at least two weeks of notice, but not more than four. Things can get stressful if you give too much notice. After you've shared your news verbally, confirm it in an email. And, come up with a plan about how and when you'll share the great news with the larger team.

Before long, the breakup will be complete. And, you'll be off to a bigger and better opportunity that you love!

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



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Silicon Valley households with children are struggling to make ends meet. Photo courtesy of San Jose Unified School District.

**Nearly half of Silicon Valley children need supportive services to survive**

By **Lorraine Gabbert**

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

**S**ilicon Valley households with children are struggling to make ends meet, and the data is eye-opening.

Joint Venture Silicon Valley recently released its 2022 Silicon Valley Index, shedding light on the stark challenges these families face. In Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, approximately 46% of children live in households that don't earn enough money to cover basic needs, the study said.

Russell Hancock, CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley and president of the Silicon Valley Institute of Regional Studies, said these families wouldn't survive without assistance.

"It's staggering, he told San José Spotlight. "Here we are, in the world's most wealthy region, but almost half our children are living in households that aren't self-sufficient."

In Silicon Valley, Hancock said 244,000 of 534,000 children, or more than 45%, live in households below the standard of living. The majority of these children—51%—are Latino, while 25% are Asian Pacific Islander. Costs add up with needed additional housing, food, clothing, school and day care, he said.

Joint Venture defines Silicon Valley as Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties, and part of Alameda County including Fremont. The report's data comes from a variety of sources, including the census and California's Employment Development Department.

Officials from Joint Venture Silicon Valley, which analyzes regional issues affecting the economy and quality of life, found wealth disparity is growing. While jobs are back to pre-pandemic levels in the region, income inequality has widened, inflation has skyrocketed and housing prices have soared.

Nearly 33% of all Silicon Valley households do not earn enough money to meet their most basic needs without assistance, according to the study, compared with 30% in San Francisco and 32% in the general Bay Area. Households with children headed by limited-English speakers face the greatest struggles, with an estimated nine out of 10 living below self-sufficiency levels. This includes 87% of Latina single mothers and 82% of families with four or

more children. Hancock said in Silicon Valley, a couple without children needs to make a minimum of \$18.54 per hour per adult to be self-sufficient, but it would barely cover a small apartment and basic needs.

In 2021, a family of four with two school-aged children would have to earn \$33.13 per hour per adult to meet its basic needs. In Santa Clara County, a single adult with an infant and preschooler would need to make \$76.75 per hour to survive, according to the study.

"Having a job isn't enough," Hancock said. "Just because you're employed doesn't mean you're making it. It's not the job that matters as much as the income."

Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, chief community impact officer for FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, which supports the healthy development of children through age five, said the pandemic exacerbated and highlighted existing problems.

"Families with children are doing worse than everybody else," she told San José Spotlight. "Parents are working, but can't afford to pay for basic essentials. They're having to access what the nonprofit agencies provide or they're not doing things like taking their kids to the dentist."

FIRST 5 distributed 3 million diapers in two years during the pandemic, she said.

It also distributed 13,824 cans of baby formula.

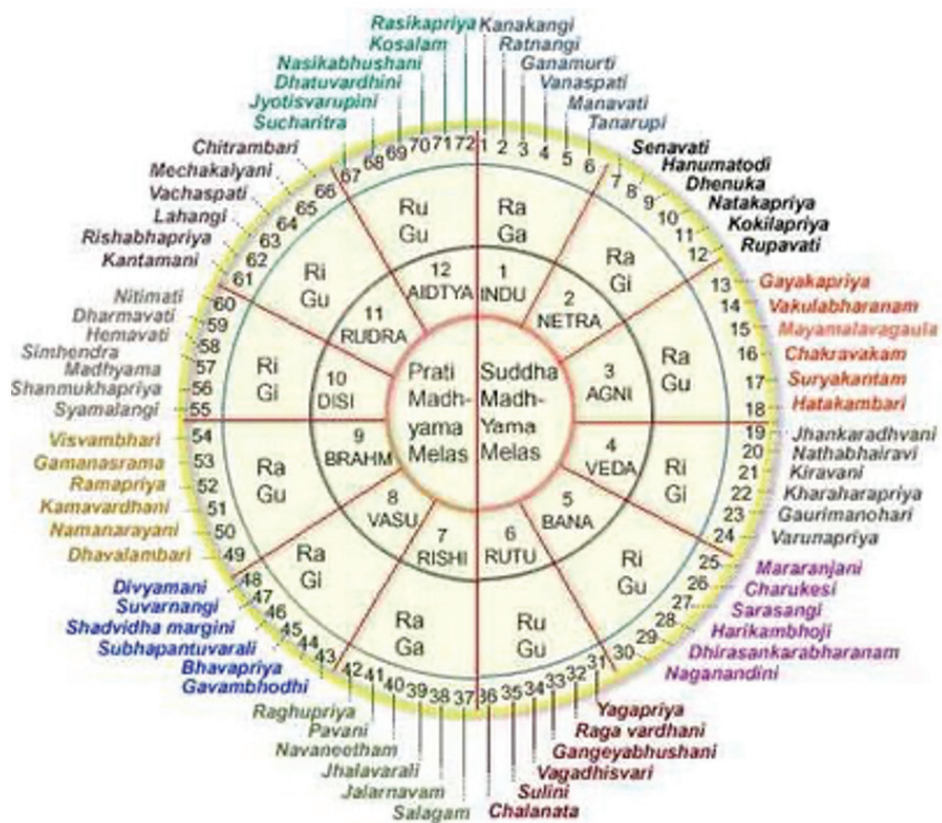
Mahaney-Gurahoo said family child care providers, many who are women of color, don't earn much and that more than 300 day cares closed in Santa Clara County during the pandemic. According to FIRST 5's annual report from March 2020 to September 2021, the organization awarded \$5.28 million in stabilization funding to 528 child care providers. She said FIRST 5 also partnered with the city to provide \$11 million in child care scholarships to low-income families with children under age five.

Mahaney-Gurahoo said private infant care can cost almost \$20,000 a year. She said with young children, it's more cost effective to stay home and as a result, women left the workforce during the pandemic.

"It's a perfect storm," Mahaney-Gurahoo said. "It's all the things that have always been true and a tidal wave of increasing need."



Times **Community News**



# The Classification of Ragams in Carnatic Music

By Veena Krishnan

Ragams are the basis of Carnatic music; a scale with a unique pattern of notes going up and down.

Carnatic ragams are used as a base for melodic improvisation, and for composing. People must strictly follow the guidelines and notes that make up the ragam. Ragams have a detailed classification system.

First, they are broadly split into melakarta ragams and janya ragams. Melakarta ragams contain only one of each of the seven notes (Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni – compared to solfege in Western music) in the aarohanam and avarohanam (going up and down). Melakarta ragams are also known as Janaka ragams, or parent ragams, as all other ragams with less/more notes or twisted progressions fall under a specific melakarta.

In Carnatic music, the most common melakarta classification system has 72 melakarta ragams. They are divided in half based on the madhyamam/Ma (corresponds to “Fa” in the solfege). 36 ragams have shuddha madhyamam/lower ma and 36 have prati madhyamam/higher ma. They are further divided into 12 chakras based on the first 4 notes of the ragam (constant). The chakras are Indu, Netra, Agni, Veda, Bana, Ruthu, Rishi, Vasu, Brahma, Disi, Rudra, and Aditya. Each chakra has 6 ragams which are further grouped based on the last 4 notes of the ragam (Pa and upper Sa being constant).

Next comes the janya ragams. These are derived from the melakarta ragams. They are identified based on the melakarta they

share the most resemblance to and how many notes are in the aarohanam and avarohanam. Some types of janya ragams are Upaanga, Vakra, and Bhaashanga ragams. Upaanga ragams simply omit some notes from its melakarta ragam. Ragams with twisted progressions in the aarohanam or avarohanam are Vakra ragams. Bhaashanga ragams mix notes from two different melakarta ragams. Many janya ragams have been “discovered” over time, but other combinations are still waiting to be found. Currently, a few hundred janya ragams are in use.

Some common melakarta ragams are Hanumatodi/Thodi, Dheerashankaraabharanam/Shankaraabharanam, Kaamavardhini/Pantuvarali, Charukeshi, and Mayamalavagowlai. Some janya ragams are Hindolam (Upaanga ragam), Kathanakuthuhalam (Vakra ragam), and Bhairavi (Bhaashanga ragam).

This article provides an overview of the classification of ragams, one of the fundamentals of Carnatic music.

***Carnatic ragams are used as a base for melodic improvisation, and for composing.***



**About Carnatic Music**  
By Veena Krishnan



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Times News

# SJECCD Center for Economic Mobility receives WASC Accreditation

San José – Evergreen Community College Districts (SJECCD) announced that the Center for Economic Mobility, San José’s continuing education institution, has been granted accreditation status by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The Center for Economic Mobility (CEM) offers continuing education, including financial literacy, career development and readiness, adult education, workforce development, community and contract education, parent and family education, and K-12 programs.

The educational focus of CEM is serving students and community members with an equity mindset, leading to increased pathways to high-skill, high-wage, high-demand careers in the local workforce. The institution works closely with K-12 school districts, community-based organizations, regional industry, and state and national networks to leverage services and resources.

"We are honored that the WASC accreditation team saw the value the Center for Economic Mobility brings to our community through the outstanding programs and services it provides," said SJECCD In-

terim Chancellor Raúl Rodríguez. "The accreditation process challenged us to be self-critical and provided valuable advice and guidance that will help us improve our students' experience. I want to thank the WASC team for their support."

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to meet the needs of the community, CEM created the Parent Academy to empower and equip parents and caregivers with educational and digital tools and resources to increase student achievement, promote parent self-advocacy, and prepare parents for employment or college-level coursework.

The Center's most recent offering is Latinx in Finance, an eight-week program dedicated to educating bilingual students for employment in the financial services sector and helping employers hire culturally and linguistically competent students of all backgrounds. The industry-driven program is supported by Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, and Unidos US.

The accreditation announcement was made after CEM completed a detailed report and hosted an initial visit by fellow educators to examine the programs in relation to student learning and well-being based on WASC criteria.

"The visiting committee commends CEM for their dedication, support and willingness to go beyond what is expected in order to assist its students in completing their courses and creating a new pathway in their lives," the accreditation team announced.

WASC accreditation validates the integrity of an educational entity's programs and transcripts and assures a community that the organization's goals are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable education program. Furthermore, WASC accreditation is a certification to the public that the institution is committed to continuous improvement and high-quality learning and well-being for all students.

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Disclaimer: Etching the catalytic converter does not guarantee it will not be stolen, nor is it guarantee of recovery...but it could help!



Times **Feature****TENNIS TIPS**

## Five times to hit down the line in doubles from the deuce court

By Ken DeHart

Usually you play doubles by hitting cross court away from the net player.

Deuce court players return cross court to the opponent's deuce court. Your goal here is to keep the ball away from the opposing net player.

You hope your cross court return will put your partner at the net in a possible poaching position, however, there are times you want to go down the line. This knowledge can put you on the offense quickly.

Let's take a look at when it is appropriate to do a COD or Change Of Direction shot from the deuce court.

1. The 1st point of the match on a serve out wide to your forehand. This is a great time to send a message to the opposing net player. You will not poach on my return early in the match, in fact you have to hesitate about poaching the whole match because I might go down your line again. Down the line is best if the serve is wide and you can move forward into the return and take away the opposing net player's time to react to your shot. (Communicate to your partner that if you get a wide serve, your intention is to make the net player pay on a first serve or 2nd serve.)

2. When the serve comes into your body and you can run around the ball to play your forehand. This is a good shot because the net player will usually be moving toward the center to poach on your return. Their movement to the center can open up a down the line return for you in this situation.

3. When you receive a ball above the net high and you are moving forward. Moving forward reduces the opponent's time to reach to your shot with each step forward you take. This also increases the speed of your shot. (This position can put the net person on their heels and force them to wait to see what you plan to do with your aggressive opportunity.)

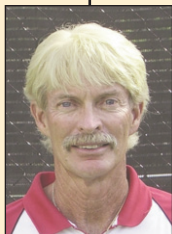
4. A ball to your backhand can entice the net player to move toward the center to cut off the angle of your shot. This will leave the alley more exposed for a heavy dipping topspin shot by you into their alley and their backhand volley.

5. Balls hit to your backhand in the deuce court is an invitation to poach with a forehand volley for the net player. For you, it is an invitation to lob down the line. Lob over their backhand with safe high target. Done early in the match or against a net player who has demonstrated a tendency to like to poach, this shot can be a game changer. Not only does it neutralize the net player but it makes the net players partner have to move to cover the lob. This makes the net player have to switch sides and move back toward the service line; perfect time for you and your partner to become the aggressive team by moving up to your service line. From here you will be able to intercept any shot by the opponents' deuce court player who ran to cover your lob return. Now you have become the offensive team in the point.

I am always glad to answer any questions you may have regarding your personal racquet. Please email me at: [kendehart@aol.com](mailto:kendehart@aol.com); or visit us on Facebook - Ken DeHart Tennis

### About Ken DeHart

Ken Dehart is Director of Racquets, Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club. He is a PTR International Master Professional, USPTA Master Professional, and a USA High Performance Coach. You may reach Ken at: 408-892-3806; [ken.dehart@scvcc.com](mailto:ken.dehart@scvcc.com); [kendehart@aol.com](mailto:kendehart@aol.com)



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Times Feature

**Tech Jargon of the week**  
**Deepfake**

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:

**Deepfake**

The deepfake technology has been on the US government’s radar for past few years. The Pentagon, through the Defense Ad-

vanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), is working with several of the country’s biggest research institutions to get ahead of deepfakes.

What is the deepfake technology and why are the nation’s best minds trying to solve it?

Deepfake is an AI-based technology used to produce or alter video content so that it presents something that didn’t, in fact, occur. The word, which applies to both the technologies and the videos created with it, is a blend of the work ‘deep learning’ and ‘fake’.

Face swapping has been done in films for years, but it required skilled video editors and CGI experts to spend many hours to

achieve decent results. The new breakthrough is that, using deep learning techniques, anybody with a powerful GPU, and training data, can create believable fake videos.

This is so remarkable that anyone with hundreds of sample images, of person A and person B can feed them into an algorithm and produce high quality face swaps — video editing skills are not needed. This also means that it can be done at scale and given that so many of us have our faces online, it’s trivially easy to insert almost anyone into fake videos.

What happens if we can no longer trust our eyes or our ears?

For more than a century, audio and

video have functioned as a bedrock of truth. Not only have sound and images recorded our history, but they have also informed and shaped our perception of reality.

Some people already question the facts around events that unquestionably happened, like the Holocaust, the moon landing and 9/11, despite video proof. If deepfakes make people believe they can’t trust video, the problems of misinformation and conspiracy theories could get worse. While experts say that deepfake technology is not yet sophisticated enough to fake large-scale historical events or conflicts, they worry that the doubt sown by a single convincing

See DEEPFAKE, page 21

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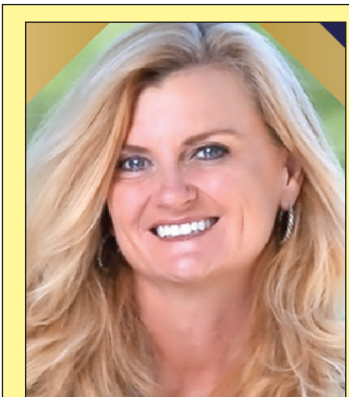
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Times Feature

# Celebrating Black Women in STEM (+ An International Women's Day Surprise)

By Apoorva Panidapu

Hi everyone! As a quick recap: this bi-weekly 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! Future columns may include social issues in STEM, its intersections with other subjects, and various other topics that are prominent in these fields.

Happy Women's History Month! As you know, February was Black History Month. So in honor of it, every Friday I shared my artwork of historic, bold, and inspiring Black figures who have paved the way for the world and society we know now. (I'll be continuing this for Women's History Month, as well!)

One of the biggest factors of bias in youth is the lack of diverse role models they know about, which is why Black History Month and Women's History Month are so important. How long have you known the name Albert Einstein? Or Isaac Newton? These are "staple" STEM figures. But what about Ada Lovelace, who is considered to be the first computer programmer? When did you hear the name Marie Curie? Or Katherine Johnson? These significant gender and diversity gaps in knowledge of STEM figures perpetuates the idea that these fields are for men. The lack of role models is not because they don't exist, but because they aren't talked about and taught about.

In this column, I want to highlight the extraordinary lives and accomplishments of three Black women in STEM history: Katherine Johnson, Dr. Gladys West, and Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price, whose portraits and stories I shared last month.

**Katherine Johnson**

*"It's not every day you wake up with a mission in your mind, but I had a mission and I was determined to accomplish it."*

Katherine Johnson was one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist, and is responsible for the success of the first U.S. crewed spaceflights. Her calculations and unmatched mathematical ability will always be a historical milestone of redefining what it means to be a "rocket scientist" and a wonderful reminder that STEM is and should always be for everyone.



On International Women's Day in 2020, I auctioned this portrait of Katherine Johnson and ended up raising \$1,000 for BEAM, a summer program for underrepresented minorities in STEM.

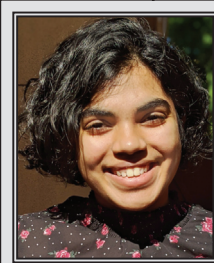
**Dr. Gladys West**

*"I'll be a role model as the Black me, as West, to be the best I can be, doing my work."*

Meet Dr. Gladys West, the woman behind the GPS you use every-

hind the GPS you use every day.

Dr. West is a mathematician and programmer whose incredible work in developing satellite geodesy models became the basis for GPS, changing the world we live in. She is also known for her



## Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu

precise calculations in modeling the shape of the Earth. During her career, she often did not get the recognition

she deserved because of the prevalent racism against African Americans, but she persisted in doing the work that she loves. From winning a scholarship to go to college to earning her PhD at the age of 70 despite suffering from a stroke, Dr.



Gladys West has always been a trailblazer, and her work will continue to inspire young girls for generations to come.

**Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price**

Meet Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price, a veterinary microbiologist who developed several vaccines for life-threatening duck (and other waterfowl) diseases.

Growing up, Dr. Price had difficult financial circumstances and was often the only Black student in her classes, but she



See GEMS, next page

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ASSISTED LIVING MEMORY CARE INDEPENDENT LIVING HOME CARE

Times **Feature**



**Gems**

*Continued from previous page*

always persevered, powered by her keen interest in science. Her mother, Teresa Price, who greatly valued education, raised her on her own and encouraged her academic talents. Dr. Price's research focused on studying microbial diseases with the hope of decreasing duck mortality. Needless to say, she was tremendously successful in achieving her goal—she created not one, but two vaccines! Her work has greatly advanced understanding on how to control avian diseases.

Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price was a veterinary trailblazer, and her story and success will always be an incredible inspiration for all of us who wish to change the world with our passions.

Now, for the surprise! For International Women's Day this year, I painted a portrait of **Maya Angelou** to honor her rippling impact on storytelling and society.

Not only was she an activist and acclaimed author, she was an actor, a screenwriter, a dancer, a composer, and the first

Black woman director. She is a perfect example of what IWD is all about: women's resilience, versatility, and empowerment. Having displayed incredible strength and perseverance throughout her life, Maya Angelou is someone that everybody can look towards to find inner strength. She inspires us all to have courage in what we do, to tell our stories as they were meant to be told, and to be the change we wish to see.

**One hundred percent of the funds from this auction, excluding shipping and auction fees, will go towards Nova Ukraine's Humanitarian Aid Fund, to provide aid and emergency care to refugees and citizens in the war zone in Ukraine.** Visit [apoorvaartgallery.com/iwd](http://apoorvaartgallery.com/iwd) for more information on how you can take part in the auction!

Remember that it's not just this month, but all year round that we should celebrate and learn about Black history and women's history, because it IS history.

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 [apoorvap-writes@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvap-writes@gmail.com).

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Times Feature

## Deficit

Continued from page 1

Andrew P. Hill, Mt. Pleasant, Silver Creek, Evergreen Valley, Oak Grove, William C. Overfelt, Independence, Piedmont Hills, Yerba Buena, James Lick, and Santa Teresa. **Five Alternative Education Schools:** Apollo, Calero, Foothill, Pegasus and Phoenix. **Twelve Charter Schools:** Ace, ALPHA, B Roberto Cruz Leadership, Escuela Popular, Downtown College Prep, KIPP, Latino College Prep, Leadership Public School, Luis Valdez Leadership, San Jose Conservation Corps, Summit Public School Rainier and Summit Public School Tahoma. **One Adult Education Center:** East Side Adult Education.

### Budget Process and Fiscal Outlook Board Study Session February 15: Review of budget deficit

The following excerpts were transcribed from the introductory statement made by President of the ESUHSD school board, J. Manuel Herrera. All school board meetings can be seen on YOUTUBE.

ESUHSD Board of Trustee J. Manuel Herrera stated, "The board has a desire to be in partnership with the community and to ensure that the perspectives of key members of the education team are being heard, including the views of students and parents, bargaining unit representatives and district management and site administrators."

### Cognitive dissidence is created over what monies the district gets

Herrera told the board that recently there was a statewide school boards conference and at that conference many on the board heard for the first time a general description of public education funding in this cycle.

He stated, "One thing that we heard was there is a lot of money, money, more money for public education, an unexpected bonanza. At the same time, and this is why partly where I want to have a beginning conversation with key stakeholders at the table, at the same time, board members were told that this increase money will net out to significantly less of an increase to the base funding for public education than is initially apparent after taking into account various factors, including funds earmarked and restricted to specific programs. A substantial amount of one-time only funding [is] not available for ongoing expenses and Covid enhanced streams of funding, in the mix, that are restricted and [are] not on going. This can create a cognitive dissidence, it did for me, a narrative there is a lot of money but net-net not really or it's not what it looks like. So, in the past, the board has always learned as a board, what was true about the district's fiscal situation in meetings such as this because someone always brings forward information and perspectives that allows the board to engage in a line of inquiry that gets us closer and closer to the truth and it's important that we all as a team be on the same page as we move forward."

### Keen observation postponed layoffs for a year

Herrera continued, "I remember one budget session, two budget cycles ago when the board was on the verge of implementing layoffs. But, a keen observation by Thomas Britten-dahl (teacher at ESUHSD) regarding the interpretation of a technicality - I'll just leave it with that description at a board budget work session like this - suddenly opened up a plausible framework for postponing layoffs for another cycle, which the board ultimately decided to do. We postponed layoffs till another year and I've learned to value these conversations that are tabled like this when the board can keep learning and keep getting closer to the reality of the fiscal situation."

### The district is operating and has operated for many years with a structural deficit

Board President Herrera stated, "One reality that has emerged through all these budget work sessions for the past few years is that the district is operating and has been operating for many years with a structural deficit and yet we have been saved again and again from painful budget cuts and layoffs by the extraordinary role that unexpected one-time funds keep having, as in this case yet again this year."

### We keep buying time

"Two years ago, and one year ago our fiscal outlook was catastrophic but federal and state one-time funding pulled our district back from the cliff. Still, there is an ongoing structural deficit which means that there is the prospect of potential layoffs that hangs over us as a mandated corrective at some point in the future, in the near future. We keep buying time with the county fiscal oversight office using a strategy of postponing layoffs to the second year of a three-year budget cycle. And in conjunction we adopt a board resolution that commits the dis-

trict to achieving a target level of budget reductions while not yet specifying what positions would be cut back when it comes to that," stated Herrera.

### Budget situation influences the entire process of the district

"I'll conclude by saying," said board President J. Manuel Herrera, "That the board's goal is always to find ways to strengthen our programs and better compensate our staff while remaining true to fiscal realities and fulfilling the board's fiduciary responsibilities. This framework of understanding that we have a structural deficit, that the abundance of money doesn't actually translate into what it looks like is important for us to understand or for us to challenge and refute, because it is going to influence the entire process leading up to the adoption of a budget in June and there are some sharp minds around this table and if there is another way of understanding that overall framework, these are the sessions of which we will get to that as a group."

Mr. Herrera also stated that the next report to the board regarding the detail of fiscal matters will come at the second interim report in mid-March but prior to that it is important that the February 15 meeting was held to provide an orientation conversation to begin to understand an overall framework for our budget process in this cycle.

*Editor's Note: To learn more, go to the East Side Union High School Website. Also, one can watch all board meetings for ES-UHSD on YOUTUBE. Parents, teachers, classified workers, administrators and all members of the community are invited to speak at any school board meeting and write the leaders of the school district including board members about their perspectives and views for budget planning and more.*

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Visit us at our web site at [church@campbellucc.org](http://church@campbellucc.org) or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC**  
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[www.ccavucc.org](http://www.ccavucc.org). We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco

Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday. Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243  
Web:[www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)  
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine holy book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. Please visit our website to learn more. Jazāk Allāhu Khayran!

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[thepoint.church](http://thepoint.church)

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Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM  
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God is One  
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

**SAN JOSE GURDWARA**  
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful

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

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**Evergreen Times**



**Deepfake***Continued from page 16*

deepfake could alter our trust in audio and video for good.

Researchers at academic institutions like Carnegie Mellon, the University of Washington, Stanford University, and The Max Planck Institute for Informatics are also experimenting with deepfake technology. While not a part of DARPA's program, their work highlights different techniques with which artificial intelligence can be used to manipulate video.

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

**Kirigin Cellars – one of the oldest Wineries in CA**

**By Denelle Fedor**  
*Special to the Times*

*Times Media* is introducing a new Wine column featuring all things wine and those delightful wineries we celebrate in our community.

We begin by focusing on local wineries that are part of the Santa Clara Valley Wine Trail (SCVW). Did you know that SCVW is home to over 25 locally owned wineries and within 30 minutes of San Jose? We are excited to bring you an up close and personal look at each of these wineries as we begin our column to bring our readers a glimpse into local wineries and all things wine.

We start with Kirigin Cellars – one of the oldest wineries in California— located in Gilroy.

"Kirigin Cellars is old world-down to earth charm with modern amenities," shared Perri Johnson, Manager of Operations for Kirigin Cellars. "Our goal here at Kirigin is to provide great customer service so people want to come back again and again." They are definitely meeting and exceeding their goal as many guests return for tasting, picnicking and are part of their wine club.

Originally founded by Italian immigrant, Mr. Pietro Bonesio, Kirigin was originally named Uvas Winery. Uvas means grape, so the name was fitting. Mr. Bonesio was taught how to make wine from his father and brought his skills to the USA. Mr. Pietro and his wife,



Massimina, settled the 500-acre ranch that sat along the Rancho de Solis in Gilroy. Uvas winery continued for 60+ years and then was given to Pietro and Massimina sons Louis, Charlie and Victor.

The brothers renamed Uvas winery to "Bonesio Brothers Winery." They produced varieties that included Zinfandel, Grignolino and French Colombard. The Bonesio brothers sold the winery to Mr. Nikola Kirigin-Chargin before they retired in 1976. There is a historic plaque located on site in honor of the Bonesio Family. It is on the left side as you drive into the winery parking area.

Mr. Kirigin, a Croatian immigrant, was already a professional and distinguished winemaker with degrees in enology and chemistry when he bought the winery and renamed it Kirigin Cellars. Mr. Kirigin and his wife continued to live on the property and produced higher quality wines using his old-world wine making techniques. Mr. Kirigin felt that good wine should be affordable and available to everyone and loathed arrogant wine enthusiasts. Kirigin Winery continues this tradition by offering much sought-after wines at affordable prices.

In 2000, Dhruv Khanna, then a

member of the Stanford Cricket Team, was looking for land where he could play the game of Cricket. Instead, he found the best of both worlds; a historic winery called Kirigin Cellars that was for sale which included more than 30 acres of land. He purchased the entire property and over the course of the past 22 years has made numerous updates, improvements, and additions – including creating two cricket fields, four soccer fields (which Dhruv donates the use to Gilroy and Morgan Hill youth soccer) and in 2013 constructed a 7,000 sq. ft. event center where weddings and other corporate events take place. Mr. Khanna accomplished this while protecting and keeping the historic quality of the winery intact.

Kirigin's historic nature is not just its age. The main home is one of the oldest wooden structures in the county. The 1916 Tasting Room requires you to walk through a historic Vat and the Tasting Wine Bar made of original redwood vats. Kirigin still has the original working cellar, below ground, which naturally keeps the wine at just the right temperature in their specially made oak barrels. The stairs leading down to the cellar are original and have divots showing their wear during the more than 100 years of use.

In addition to Kirigin's bestselling wines like, Estate White, Malvasia Bianca and Grand Cuvee Champagne; Kirigin Cellars is well known for its unique

dessert wine called Vin de Mocca. This wine was invented by Mr. Kirigin for his wife when he still owned the winery. Mr. Kirigin added coffee, chocolate, orange, and fortified brandy to his red wine to create the incredible taste. Vin de Mocca is something everyone 21 and over should try when wine tasting at Kirigin's Cellars—it won't disappoint, and it also pairs well over ice cream. Vin de Mocca is affectionally called, "The Kissing Wine," shared Ms. Johnson. Vin de Mocca as well as all Kirigin wines are only available on-site and through their website.

Kirigin Cellars invites you to stop by if you haven't already. They welcome you to take in the healthy atmosphere and to explore the wines. It's one of the truly unique wineries in Santa Clara County – with its historic history, more than 30 acres of lawn and gardens, redwood trees; providing a vast landscape. Kirigin is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and can be reserved for weddings and corporate events. Call ahead to schedule a tour of the cellar. Picnicking on the grounds is free with a purchase of wine.

For more information and directions go to [kirigincellars.com](http://kirigincellars.com) and read about their wine store, events, gallery, wine club and more.

For more information, visit [kirigincellars.com](http://kirigincellars.com). Address: 11550 Watsonville Road, Gilroy, CA 95020. 408-847-8827

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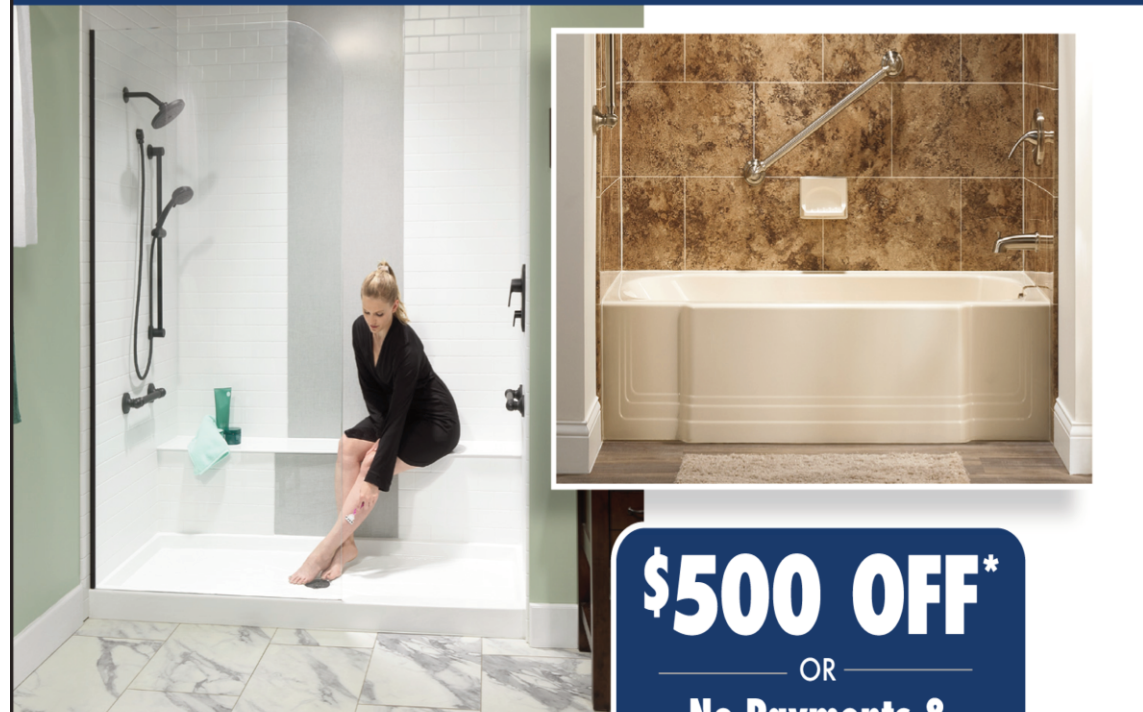
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### Cost Estimator

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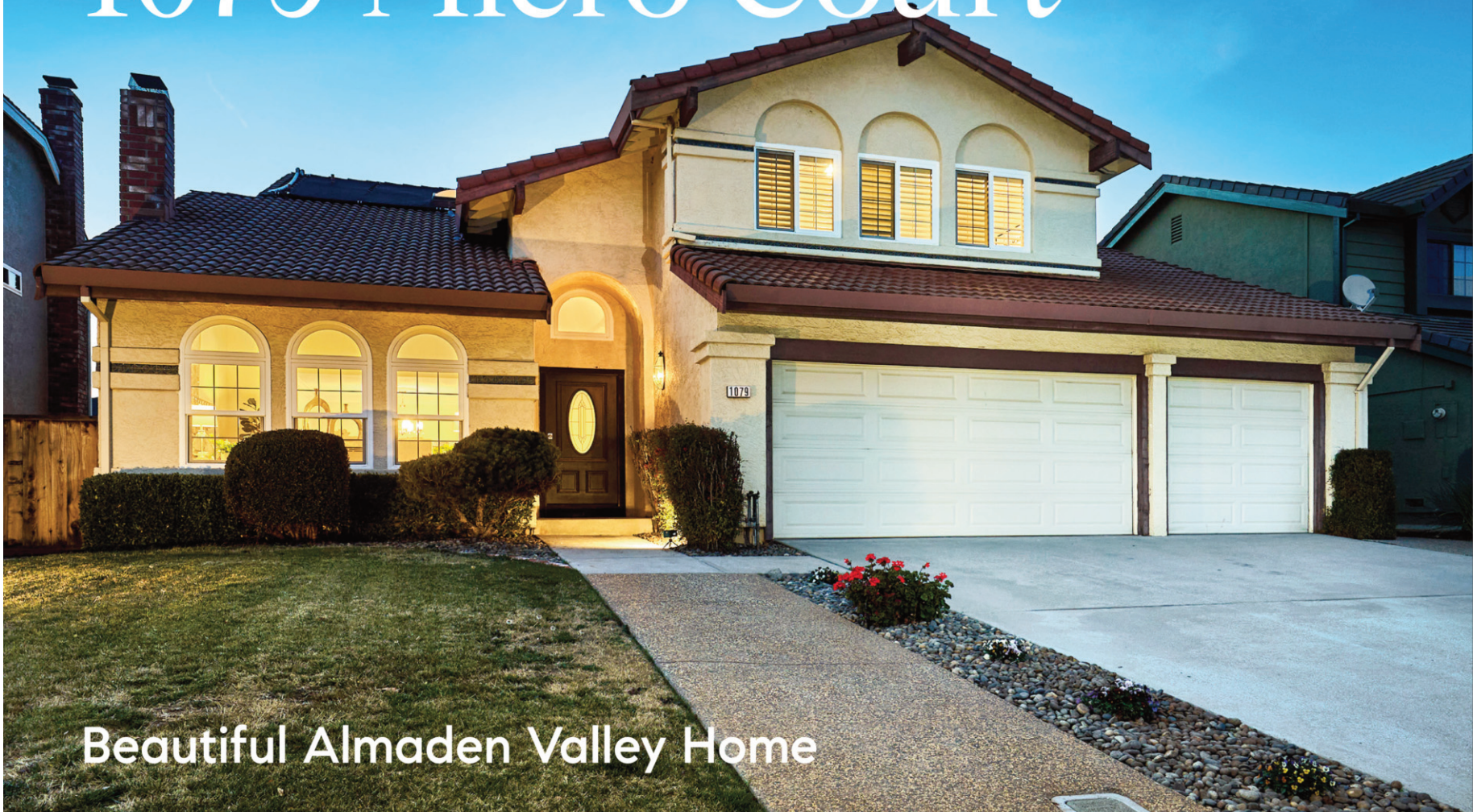
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# 1079 Micro Court



## Beautiful Almaden Valley Home

Price Upon Request | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3113 Sq Ft | 8543 Sq Ft Lot

Downstairs bedroom with adjacent full bath. Soaring ceiling. Living room has a vaulted ceiling, fireplace with stone surround and hearth, and three windows with transoms that provide plenty of natural light. Step down to a separate formal dining room with crown molding and a large window for natural light. Kitchen, dine-in area, and family room with new flooring. Newly updated kitchen has beautiful slab counters and backsplash, plenty of soft-close white cabinetry including a party with bottom pull-outs, crown molding, recessed lights, and a large stainless sink with a garden window for views of the backyard. Stainless appliances include a Midea dishwasher, free-standing range and a premier Hauslane range hood. The 5th bedroom is super large (no closets) and would serve as a great bonus room. Backyard is fenced for privacy and has outdoor spaces for entertaining. In-ground pool area and large yard. Graystone Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.



*The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2021 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.*

***If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.***

**Therese Swan**  
408.656.8240  
tswan@tswan.com  
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com  
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