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Almaden Times

APRIL 1 – APRIL 14, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 7

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Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors terminates county relationships with Russia

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors today took a strong stand to condemn Russia's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by voting unanimously to terminate the County's relationship with the governments of the region of Moscow, Russia and the City of Moscow.

"What we are saying is that our government can't work with you until your government is treating humanity with the kind of dignity and respect that we all deserve," said Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

Santa Clara County has had a sister county relationship with Moscow since 1994. The County also has sister county relationships with Florence, Italy and Hsinchu County, Taiwan, Republic of China. During today's meeting Supervisor Chavez asked the County staff to explore establishing a relationship with an appropriate jurisdiction in Ukraine.

"We ought to be thinking about how we can create and extend a partnership in a more formal way with Ukraine," said Chavez.

ROBOTICS WINNERS

Almaden's Leland 604 Robotics Team wins San Francisco Regional competition

Leland Robotics Team also wins 'The Innovation in Control Award'

By Helen Arrington
Special to the Times

Almaden's Leland High School's 604 Quixilver Robotics Team won the San Francisco Regional competition at St. Ignatius College Preparatory on March 20. This is the team's 21st season participating in the FIRST program.

A field of 41 high school teams competed at the event including teams from Brazil and Turkey. Team 604 was seeded number one making them an alliance captain. The Leland team chose the second seeded team 846 Funky Monkeys from Lynbrook High School in San Jose to join their Alliance. Their third alliance pick was a rookie team 8852 from Drew High School in San Francisco.

The Leland Quixilver Robotics Team also won The Innovation in Control Award which celebrates an innovative control system or application of

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Almaden's Leland High School's 604 Quixilver Robotics Team won the San Francisco Regional competition at St. Ignatius College Preparatory on March 20.

AVCA 2022 San Jose Primary Mayor Candidate Forum April 11

Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) will hold an in-person and live streaming event on April 11 at 7 p.m. to introduce the primary candidates for San Jose Mayor to voters in Almaden Valley.

"This is our first in-person meeting since Santa Clara County put in place COVID-19 restrictions," said Shiraz Kotadia, president of AVCA. "It's important that our community has the chance to meet the candidates for San Jose Mayor in person and to see how they respond to questions."

We look forward to welcoming our members and other residents of Almaden Valley to this open forum."

The four leading candidates for

Mayor have confirmed their attendance:

- Cindy Chavez, County Supervisor
- Dev Davis, City Councilmember
- Matt Mahan, City Councilmember

• Raul Perez, City Councilmember
After a moderated discussion, voters will have the opportunity to submit written questions for the candidates. Topics are expected to include

rising homelessness, increased crime, soaring inflation, structural budget deficits, shortages of affordable housing, trash-filled streets, rising rents, and the on-going drought.

The forum will be held at the Westgate Church South Hills Campus, 6601 Camden Avenue. The doors will open at 6:30 pm and the forum will begin at 7 p.m.

Since 1961, AVCA has brought Mayors, Councilmembers, County Supervisors, District Attorneys and other government officials to speak to Almaden residents.

Details on the streaming portion of the AVCA event are available on the organization's website and Facebook page: <https://www.avcasj.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/avcasj>



2022 Mayoral candidates (left to right): Cindy Chavez, County Supervisor; Dev Davis, City Councilmember; Matt Mahan, City Councilmember; and Raul Perez, City Councilmember.

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More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



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.

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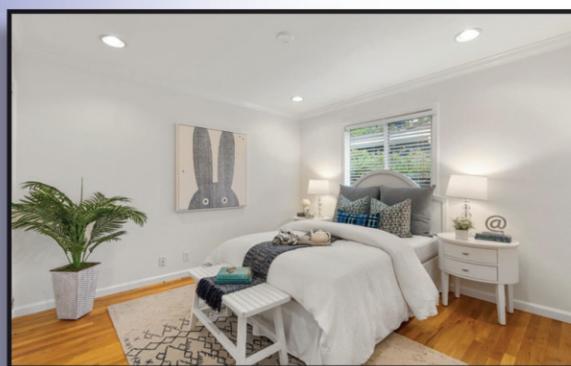


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cur | rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.



Women's Club Annual Virtual 5k Art & Wine Community Event to be held June 26 – July 3

100% of proceeds are awarded to local schools and charities

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Almaden Valley Women's Club 2nd Annual Virtual 5k Art & Wine Community Event will be held June 26 – July 3, 2022.

"We understand the importance of the Almaden Art and Wine Festival as a community event," said President, Beth Swartz. "However, at the beginning of the year we were unsure of the feasibility of the event and decided to focus instead

on a hybrid community Virtual 5k event."

Last year the group hosted its first Virtual 5k along with two other community events. Those events raised more than \$40,000 which the club was able to give back to the San Jose and Almaden communities in the form of grants and scholarships.

Denise Myrick, VP of Fundraising, points out that while the Virtual 5k event is not on the scale of the festival, it still speaks to the mission of the women's club. "The Virtual 5k is an opportunity to bring the community together by getting outside and walking or running on one of our suggested routes," she says. "In addition, we continue to support our community through the grants and scholarships as well as involving the artists in our community to be part of our virtual art show and our young artists to submit artwork for our annual logo contest."

The Virtual 5k is a fun family event that the entire community can participate in from June 26 – July 3. Suggested routes will be provided or participants can use their own route. Because it is virtual, the event will be open to everyone providing for a larger registration and funds to be raised for our community. As always, AVWC is committed to fundraising and community service, and 100% of our proceeds are awarded to local schools and charities.

For details about this 2022 community event or if you would like to donate, please visit www.almadenwomen.org or email: avwcmktg@gmail.com.



PRESERVATION PROJECT - The Umunhum Conservancy and Midpen is having a recognition event on Saturday, April 2, at 10 a.m. on the summit of Mount Umunhum. Midpen will be recognizing the Umunhum Conservancy's \$100,000 donation toward the completion of the radar tower preservation project which is now complete.

OpEd

Hands of the poor

By Kevin Larsen
Evergreen Valley

The Owl Warming Center is a place where individuals can be kept safe at night as an alternative to living on the street.

The OWL is a place set up in a private location that temporarily takes in the poor on cold nights. It serves food and offers a safe haven for the less fortunate.

I had noticed a woman living on the street last month sitting on the ground with all of her worldly possessions. The things she covets are things you and I might not think to hold on to. All things kept in bags gotten from stores. Each item placed carefully in and checked upon often like a robin delicately overseeing a nest of eggs.

I notice she takes out a large egg shaped decoration. It was covered with glittery things and the color light blue. Shimmering, it had the value of perhaps less than one dollar. I must admit, for me, just looking at it from afar made me smile. I understood why one would want to keep it.

She tucked it gently into the mouth of a small store plastic bag which was mostly full. I see her take the empty paper towel roll and carefully push it in the same bag. Each thing had its place. She seems to be focused on her world and not willing to make contact with others nor look at them.

I began to wonder why she kept so much. Over the



If you look closely, you will see the quiet elderly woman tending to her worldly possessions.

weeks I saw her in the same area and her positions seemed to grow. How does she move it all from place to place, I wondered.

Today I see three piles of plastic bags and understand she transports it all to the bus stop bench. I say to myself, no wonder why Valley Transit Authority (V.T.A.) is removing so many benches. But I am against that and believe benches need to stay.

Some days, I held out two dollars and she prayed for me by putting together her hands and tilting her head down. I never made eye contact because I thought that too intrusive for her. Upon looking at her hands I thought them to be noble in nature. They were brown skinned and I could see by their use what they had done over perhaps 80 years. I had a feeling she had helped many in making meals and taking care of children. That was just a hunch. I imagined what recipes she had remembered and the special joy she gave her family with them.

See OWL, page 21

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Times **Notebook**

Emerson College student Carla Pelino of Almaden Valley earns NEWMAC Academic All- Conference Team honors



Emerson College student **Carla Pelino** of Almaden Valley earned New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Academic All-Conference team honors for the Women's Basketball program. Students were selected from a certain GPA standing, achieving a minimum of 3.5.

The last game of the season was the NEWMAC quarter finals in which the team lost to Babson. The loss ended in a score of 73-49.

Pelino is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2023. She is also a former member of the Emerson Women's Basketball Team. She appeared in 24 games (2019-2020) for the Lions and in her first year she averaged 9.7 minutes per game, 2.5 points per game, and 1.3 rebounds per game, and shot 32.3% from the field.

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups.

San José Receives \$1M for Mental Health Response Team From President Biden's Budget

Mayor Liccardo announced the City of San José will receive \$2.6 million from the Omnibus Appropriations Bill signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2022, including \$1 million that will fund San José Police Department's Mobile Crisis Assessment Team.

Originally started in 2020 from a federal Department of Justice grant for a pilot, MCAT is comprised of sworn officers trained in de-escalating mental crisis episodes and approaching mental health emergency calls through an informed, considerate approach.

"These essential investments in MCAT will allow SJPD to continue treating emergency mental health calls with dignity and help residents access proper treatment. I am thankful to Representative Zoe Lofgren's continued advocacy for our community as well as Representatives Anna Eshoo and Ro Khanna for prioritizing funds for San José Public Library programs."

MCAT officers respond to crisis calls with Santa Clara County's Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) and, in addition to easing those undergoing mental emergencies and physical stress, help find treatments for residents as an alternative to either short-term or repeat incarceration.

Representatives Ro Khanna (CA-17) and Anna Eshoo (CA-18) also secured \$1.5 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Fund to go towards the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN)

Caregiver Support Network run by the San José Public Library. FFN provides quality workforce development training directly to over one hundred caregivers of young children allowing their working parents to focus on work instead of the stress of burdensome childcare costs.

Supervisors assess need for older adult caregiving

Santa Clara County Supervisors have voted to conduct a comprehensive study of older adult caregiving needs and capacity in Santa Clara County.

The referral for the study, brought forward by County Supervisors Joe Simitian and Cindy Chavez, seeks to identify:

- Who needs caregiving and what services are needed;

- Who is currently providing caregiving services; and,

- What gaps and barriers are preventing people from both accessing those services and providing them.

"Finding compassionate caregivers for our aging loved ones is a concern for many of us," observed Simitian. "We know the ranks of providers have been thinned coming out of COVID, and we know the need for services can only grow as our population ages. Now is the time to assess the nature and extent of the challenge; that way we can get ahead of the problem and identify real solutions."

Santa Clara County projects that by 2030, just eight years from now, the older adult population (age 65 and up) will make up 20% of the total county population. The proposed study is designed to inform the strategies used to address the inevitable increase in demand for caregiv-

ing services, as well as the likely shortage in providers.

"It is so important for Santa Clara County to get ahead of this before the number of older adults outnumber children by 2030," said Chavez. "I believe we can use our robust door-to-door operation that was battle tested during the pandemic for this work as well."

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our existing network of caregiving services has been significant. Programs such as senior nutrition, for example, were negatively affected as the County was forced to reduce or suspend in-person congregate food offerings. In-home Support Services (IHSS) were also stressed as the pandemic strained the already limited number of caregiving providers.

The Board of Supervisors directed County Administration to solicit the feedback of other stakeholders interested in this study.



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Times **Community News**

Tenants and housing rights activists protest for a halting of rent payments and mortgage debt caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in LA. Photo by Lucy Nicholson, Reuters

How long are Californians waiting for rent relief? Protection from evictions disappears April 1

Study says only 16% of applicants have been paid

By **Manuela Tobias**
CalMatters

A new study says that California has sent rent relief to only 16% of applicants, who are waiting months. The state disputes the analysis, but according to its figures, only 41% of applicants have been paid.

Only 16% of nearly half a million renters who applied for rent relief from the state of California have been paid, according to a new analysis released today. And the clock is ticking: Under state law, landlords will be able to evict tenants who failed to pay rent by April 1.

Of more than 488,000 households who applied for assistance since the program launched in March 2021, about 180,000 were approved. Four percent were denied, and more than half of the applicants are still awaiting a response, according to the study, produced by the National Equity Atlas, Housing Now and the Western Center on Law & Poverty using state data.

But even most renters whose applications were approved are still waiting for a check, according to the analysis. Of the 180,000 households whose applications were approved, just more than 75,000 households were paid. And they still need more help: 90% of those households have reapplied for more money.

The number of people paid, according to the study, is significantly lower than what is shown on the state's public dashboard — 191,000 households “served” and \$2.2 billion paid.

Monica Hernández, a spokesperson with the California Department of Housing and Community Development, disputed the report's findings and said that the state's dashboard has “the most current and accurate numbers.”

Of 467,000 complete applications to date, 191,000 payments, or 41%, have been made, she said, and each week more than \$80 million is going out to more than 8,000 households.

The study's authors said they stood behind their analysis, which shows that \$900 million has been paid (“application complete, paid” in the state's data), while another \$1.15 billion

has only been approved (“application complete, payment pending”).

“It doesn't matter if you have a piece of paper that says you're approved, you need the money,” said Madeline Howard, a senior staff attorney at the Western Center and co-author of the report. “It doesn't reflect the experience of the tenants who are living this day to day.”

The study also found that applicants waited a median of more than three months to get an approval, and another month to get paid — 135 days total. The wait times have been getting shorter, however: Households who applied for aid last March waited about six months to get paid, while those who applied in October faced a wait time of just less than four months.

In her emailed response, Hernández said that the wait time measure “does not account for the different rules that different applications applied under at different times” or “for incomplete, duplicate, or potentially fraudulent applications that we are just now clearing out of the data.”

California received about \$5.2 billion from the federal government to help renters stay housed and keep landlords paid. The state is in charge of administering about half of that, while 25 cities and counties are administering the rest. The new study focuses on the state program, which covers nearly two-thirds of Californians.

In January, the state received \$62 million in additional federal aid, or only 3% of the nearly \$2 billion it requested in November. On March 15, the department announced it had received an additional \$136 million. Still, California received one third of the funds reallocated by the U.S. Treasury, which Hernandez said spoke to federal officials’ “confidence in our ability to distribute funds to households in need in a timely fashion.”

According to Hernández, a budget bill the Legislature passed in February that allocates General Fund dollars to state and local rent relief programs “means that every eligible applicant seeking assistance for eligible costs submitted and incurred on or before March 31, 2022, will be assisted.” The state law allows the state

See *EVICTIONS*, next page

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Times Feature

Tech Jargon of the week Cold Wallets

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:

Cold Wallets

A wallet is simply a method to store virtual money. Like you can keep non-virtual money in a bank account or under your mattress, you can keep virtual currencies in hot and cold wallets.

There are different kinds of wallets – hot wallet, cold wallet, etc.

Cold wallet is an offline wallet provided for storing bitcoins. With cold wallet, the digital currency is stored on a platform that is not connected to the internet, thereby, protecting the wallet from unauthorized access, cyber hacks, and other vulnerabilities that a system connected to the internet is susceptible to. Unlike a physical wallet, which can hold any currency if it’s paper, a cold wallet cannot store all cryptocurrencies. Each cold wallet has its own unique range of cryptocurrencies it is compatible with. This means that if a cryptocurrency is sent to the wrong wallet, the amount sent is lost forever.

Cold wallets offer the best method of safeguarding cryptocurrencies because they store crypto assets offline and literally put it in the hands of the owners. Other wallet types are susceptible to hacking, phishing, and damage which can easily lead to loss of funds. While people might choose other wallet types for

cryptocurrencies they move or trade frequently, cold wallets are ideal for long-term storage.

Cold wallets are devices built to store users’ private keys securely. Most look like a USB drive and can be accessed via desktop apps. The private key given to any bitcoin user is a unique string of alphanumeric characters required to access the user’s address. The address is the user’s unique ID that is required to make transactions and receive bitcoins from a sender. Two people making a transaction with bitcoin, where one is a seller and the other a buyer, will have to share their addresses with each other to complete the transaction. The buyer of the commodity or service sends the required number of bitcoins to the seller’s divulged address as payment, and the blockchain verifies the validity of the transaction and confirms that the buyer or sender really has those funds to send. Once the payment has been delivered to the address, the seller or receiver can only access the funds through his or her private key. It is, therefore, imperative, for private keys to be kept secure because if stolen, the user’s bitcoins or altcoins could be unlocked and accessed from the address without authorization.

Cold wallets cost money. Prices for common hardware wallets range from \$50 to \$200. Not a big price to pay if you own many cryptocurrencies, but ridiculous to safeguard a few Satoshi. Additionally, if you lose your cold wallet or break it beyond repair, it is all gone.

Remember, if you want to hold onto your cryptocurrencies, keep them safe!

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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Evictions

Continued from previous page

to pay people quicker as they wait on the Treasury, but it also means that if the federal government doesn't foot the bill, California will.

That also means March 31 is the new deadline to apply for rent relief, according to an email from HCD spokesperson Alex Traverso on March 9.

The new study is the most complete look yet at how rent relief is going in California.

The full data set was not released to the Western Center through the state Public Records Act until after the center announced its intent to sue the Department of Housing and Community Development, which administers the program with the help of a private contractor. Repeated Public Records Act requests for the full data set had previously been denied. These groups have been tracking California's eviction and rent relief efforts from the beginning.

CalMatters has requested similar data from the state through several Public Records Act requests and had been repeatedly told the data did not exist.

"We don't track data and create a report on dates that folks applied and then they received a response. What we do is we're able to look at the age of applications within the system and make sure that all applications are assigned by a certain date," Geoffrey Ross, deputy director for the Division of Federal Financial Assistance at the housing department, told CalMatters.

Hernández said that statement was accurate at the time.

A state ban on evictions for non-payment

of rent went into effect at the start of the pandemic and was extended several times. That protection ended last October — with one condition. Through March 31, landlords would be blocked from evicting tenants over non-payment of rent through Sept. 30, 2021, if they had applied for rent relief from the state. That additional layer of protection disappears on April 1.

"I'm really confused as to why we haven't heard anything to extend the eviction protections," Howard said. "People are waiting. They don't have their money."

The state rent relief program continues to face other challenges that have persisted from its inception, according to another recent survey of 58 tenant organizations across the state by Tenants Together, an advocacy group. Ninety percent of survey respondents reported difficulties accessing the application and 82% reported difficulty getting information about their applications.

The survey found that California's most vulnerable tenants — including non-English speakers, seniors, and people with informal leases — continue to face the greatest hurdles to getting rent relief.

"There's I think a lack of understanding in the Legislature that people become homeless after they're evicted from their homes," said Shanti Singh, legislative and communications director for the group that conducted the survey.

Editor's note: Manuela Tobias is the housing reporter for CalMatters. Her stories focus on the political dynamics and economic and racial inequities that have contributed to the housing crisis in California and its potential. You can reach Manuela by email: manuela@calmatters.org.

Report: Top 5 most popular Italian restaurants in San Jose

The website: Liz Fe Lifestyle has released an analysis of their top best Italian restaurants in San Jose. Here are the top 5 Italian restaurants with a brief description.

1. Paesano Ristorante Italiano

Paesano serves affordable meals prepared in traditional Italian style cooking and ingredients. The place has natural lighting and quality staff that happily heeds to all guests' needs. An Italian chef prepares their meals, guaranteeing you to find everything, including veal parmigiana, Italian sausages, and carpaccio.

2. The Old Spaghetti Factory

The Old Spaghetti Factory is a good place to visit for family outings. Most of their meals are shared and include chicken parmigiana and spaghetti with meatballs, among other dishes. The place is beautifully decorated and stained with glass displays, giving it the perfect atmosphere for events or group dinners.

3. Palermo

Palermo is a popular restaurant well known because of the perfect variety of Italian delicacies that it offers. It has a good reputation, and people trust them and their food. Additionally, it employs Italian chefs to prepare

their sweet Italian meals. The restaurant also caters for weddings and other special events.

4. Vin Sato Ristorante

The restaurant is perfect for dates and social gatherings. Their meals mainly comprise Italian cuisine. Established in 2015, Vin Sato Ristorante has built its name as an all-in-one restaurant for all Italian dishes, courtesy of its Italian chefs and hospitable staff. They treat their guests like family to ensure they retain them.

5. Il Fornaio San Jose

Want to experience a sense of Italy outside Italy? Then visit the Il Fornaio restaurant. As proof of their competence in providing delicious delicacies, the restaurant has won an award for the best Italian cuisine that fits any budget and size. The restaurant also offers deliveries across San Jose to meet your food needs without physically visiting the location.

For more information, visit: <https://lizfelifestyle.com>



A Savory Meal for *Spring Celebrations*

FAMILY FEATURES

From picnics and family reunions to al fresco meals on the patio, flavor and freshness can make springtime dishes truly mouthwatering. As you plan your spring menu for time with loved ones, think outside the box with recipes that can feed a crowd.

One easy way to elevate your warm weather entertaining is with a lean, delicate protein like grass-fed lamb available at Whole Foods Market from Atkins Ranch, a leader in environmental stewardship and one of the first members of Land to Market, which advocates for regenerative agriculture – a type of outcomes-based land management that seeks to heal landscapes instead of degrading them. In fact, many of the lamb ranchers set aside areas for conservation purposes to focus on regenerating land and water to keep the environment as pristine as possible.

The lambs are raised just as nature intended: 100% grass-fed and free to roam on pastures in fresh air and sunshine, culminating in a result that's better for you, the animals and the planet.

As the first lamb producer in the world to achieve Non-GMO Project verification, Atkins Ranch is also the first to achieve Global Animal Partnership Step-4 certification for farm animal welfare. If you're unfamiliar with lamb, consider these cooking tips and pairing options for a deliciously divine spread at your next springtime soiree.

How to Cook Lamb

For cuts like legs, shanks, shoulder roasts and stew meat, slow cooking is the answer. This Herb Crusted Bone-In Leg of Lamb, for example, is roasted for about 3 hours to reach a juicy tenderness complemented by fresh herbs and a mint sauce.

Turn to the grill or stovetop for a quicker cooking method with cuts such as chops, rack and ground lamb. Cooking over an open fire allows the smokiness to meld with lamb's naturally rich flavor.

What to Pair with Lamb

With its rich, meaty flavor, lamb is a perfect main course for spring meals. Try balancing it out with these sides:

- **Salad** – Like many proteins, lamb is complemented well by fresh greens. Toss baby spinach with a light vinaigrette and fresh fruit, like strawberries, for a true springtime salad.
- **Sweet Potatoes** – The subtlety of a sweet potato dish is nearly a must to pair with lamb. Sweeten the meal even further by mashing with orange juice and zest for a lightly tangy side.
- **Asparagus** – A classic side for many spring meals, roasted asparagus is easy to prepare whether in the oven or on the grill.

Find more grass-fed lamb cooking tips and recipes at AtkinsRanch.com.



Herb Crusted Bone-In Leg of Lamb

Prep time: 3 hours

Cook time: about 3 hours (depending on size and doneness)

Servings: 15

- 1 Atkins Ranch bone-in leg of lamb (about 8 pounds)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 8 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1/4 cup white wine

Herb Crust:

- 2 large egg whites
- 2 tablespoons minced rosemary leaves
- 2 tablespoons minced thyme leaves
- 2 tablespoons ground peppercorns
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt

fresh mint sauce, for serving

About 2 hours before preparing, remove leg of lamb from fridge to ensure even cooking. Remove gland to prevent gaminess during cooking.

Preheat oven to 325 F on convection setting. Score skin of both sides of leg of lamb.

In bowl, whisk olive oil, garlic, Dijon mustard, salt and white wine. Brush onto both sides of lamb, pressing into scored crevices.

Place leg in roasting pan on roasting rack. Insert cooking probe into thickest part of meat, not touching bone. Cook about 1 hour and 20 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 95 F.

Reduce oven temperature to 300 F and cook to desired doneness. For medium-rare doneness, remove lamb once probe reaches 125 F.

To make herb crust: In bowl, whisk egg whites until evenly foamy with tiny bubbles. Brush onto both sides of lamb.

In separate small bowl, mix rosemary, thyme, peppercorns and salt. Press herb crust mixture onto areas brushed with egg whites. Place back in pan and cook about 5-7 minutes until crust is formed and browned. Remove from oven and rest 30 minutes.

Carve lamb, arrange on platter and serve with fresh mint sauce.

Times **Feature**

Low-income seniors may apply for special property tax exemption

By Sean Eastwood
Staff writer

Santa Clara County seniors, 65 and older, could qualify to be exempt from paying the Safe, Clean Water property tax if they own their home and live in it as a primary residence.

Valley Water offers an exemption for qualifying low-income seniors from the Safe, Clean

Water special property tax. The tax was renewed and approved by the voters in November of 2020.

The application period for the 2022 Safe, Clean Water low-income senior property tax exemption is open from April 15, 2022 - June 30, 2022.

Program Criteria for 2022

Santa Clara County seniors could be exempt from the tax if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Born before June 30, 1958.
- Have a total household income for 2021 was below \$62,292. Total household income



is the total gross income for every person over 18 years old who lives in the home. It excludes capital gains.

- Live in and own the home the tax is assessed on.

Please note that mobile homes in parks and homes that are in an irrevocable trust are not eligible.

Seniors who meet the requirements, should complete the application, and return with proof of age, such as a copy of a driver's license, copy of birth certificate, copy of passport, or copy of a medical card that shows date of birth. We request that no original documents be sent.

Applications can be submitted via regular mail or as a legible scanned copy via email.

For more information about the Safe, Clean Water low-income senior property tax exemption, or to apply, please visit our website at valleywater.org/senior-parcel-tax-exemption

To apply for the tax exemption application is available online at valleywater.org/senior-parcel-tax-exemption

Editor's note: The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program was renewed and approved by voters in November 2020 and is based on six key community priorities to ensure a safe, reliable water supply while supporting the public health and public safety of our community. More information can be found online at: valleywater.org/safecleanwater

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Times Arts



Teresa Castillo stars as Maria and Noah Stewart appears as Tony in Opera San José's company debut of Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's "West Side Story" (April 16-May 1, 2022) at the California Theatre in San Jose. Photo Credit: David Allen

Opera San José concludes season with West Side Story April 16 – May 1, 2022

Presented live at
The California Theatre

Opera San José will close its 2021-2022 season with West Side Story, Arthur Laurents, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Jerome Robbins's classic American tale of two star-crossed lovers and the prejudices that keep them apart.

West Side Story will be sung in English, with English and Spanish supertitles, with performances April 16 – May 1, 2022 at the California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street, San Jose.

Bursting with passion, humor, vibrant dancing, and some of the most memorable music ever written, this stunning production of West Side Story — the company's first-ever musical — will be conducted by Christopher James Ray, staged by director Crystal Manich, and choreographed by Michael Pappalardo.

Acclaimed singers from across the U.S. have been cast to bring the leading roles to life, including soprano Teresa Castillo as Maria, tenor Noah Stewart as Tony, mezzo-soprano Natalie Rose Havens as Anita, baritone Trevor Martin as Riff, tenor Jared V. Esguerra as Chino, baritone Antony Sanchez as Bernardo, and Philip Skinner as Doc.

"West Side Story is one of America's most important works; it absolutely belongs on our stage. Our job is to promote not only promising new talent and incubating new artists, but also to amplify American works, particularly those which speak to our current societal issues," says General Director Shawna Lucey. "The musical gestures of West Side Story are grand, perfectly suited to the operatic stage, where we can bring them to life with outstanding voices and orchestration."

Inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story is one of America's most iconic musical works, conceived by Jerome Robbins with soaring music by Leonard Bernstein, inventive lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and a book by Arthur Laurents that is by turns witty, funny, and heart-wrenching. Opera San José's produc-

tion will feature the original book and music, with the incandescent music performed by some of America's brightest young operatic singers.

Puerto Rican born, Emmy Award nominated director Crystal Manich, who first watched the film version at age 12 and has been a fan ever since, says, "At its core, I have always believed that the show could benefit from a Puerto Rican director, infusing other cultural elements that are not on the page. Opera San José has given me the opportunity to finally tackle the show that I have been waiting to direct for almost 30 years. It is a show that deserves to be reexamined, in the same way that I examined the film as an adolescent: over and over again."

A breakthrough work in American theatre, West Side Story exposes the gritty rivalry between two teenage street gangs, the US-born "Jets" and the newly transplanted Puerto Rican "Sharks," competing for supremacy in the streets of New York City. When a young man falls for the younger sister of his archrival, their forbidden love turns to tragedy.

The original 1957 Broadway production, conceived, directed, and choreographed by Robbins, marked Sondheim's Broadway debut, and ran for 732 performances. It was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and won two, losing the top prize to its blockbuster competition that year, The Music Man. A 1961 musical film adaptation of West Side Story, co-directed by Robert Wise and Robbins, was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won 10, including Best Picture.

For more information or to purchase tickets (\$55-\$195), visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm). Vaccination requirements are subject to change according to local city, state, and county mandates and OSJ health and safety policies. Please visit Opera San José's COVID-19 safety and health protocols for the most up-to-date information concerning COVID protocols: operasj.org/health-and-safety/.

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Rebuilding Days

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

Safe At Home

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

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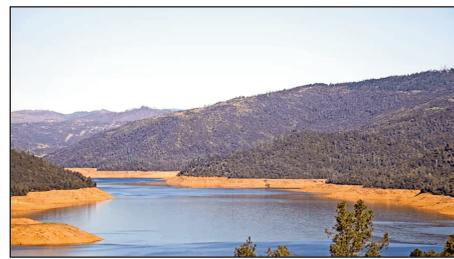
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Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. Image via California Department of Parks and Recreation

Finally, progress on vital Sites Reservoir project

By **Dan Walters**
Calmatters

The likelihood of a \$2.2 billion federal loan increases the possibility that the Sites Reservoir, a vital step in protecting California's water supply, will be constructed.

Simple logic tells us that as climate change alters precipitation patterns, California must expand its capacity to capture and store water.

Even if the overall amount of precipitation remains unchanged, we will receive more of it in the form of rain and less as snow, which means the natural reservoir of the Sierra snow pack will decline as a water source.

We can prepare for that decline by creating more storage, either in new reservoirs or by replenishing underground aquifers. However, despite the urgency of the situation — one underscored by the current drought — California politicians have been lackadaisical about doing what needs to be done.

Local and regional water authorities have been more diligent. Southern California's recent construction of more storage capacity is one reason it is less affected by the current drought than Northern California.

Belatedly, increasing storage is moving upward on the political agenda. Recently, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency invited sponsors of the Sites Reservoir project, which has been on the back burner for decades, to apply for a \$2.2 billion loan that would cover roughly 40% of the project's estimated cost.

Along with some state water bond money and commitments from prospective users of the project — Southern California water agencies,

mostly — Sites is now in position to put together a financing package to make it a reality.

"We've definitely turned the corner and we have a nice tailwind at our back," said Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority. Brown is not related to former Gov. Jerry Brown, whose Colusa County retirement home, incidentally, is not far from Sites.

It's not going to happen immediately, despite the urgency of the situation. Just assembling the loan package and getting approval could take several years and there are other hurdles to clear. Nevertheless, the strong possibility of a federal loan is a huge step forward.

If it becomes reality, the reservoir would be constructed on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, west of Maxwell. It would have a capacity of up to 1.8 million acre-feet of water, about half the size of the state's Lake Oroville, but unlike Oroville, would not dam a major river.

Sites would be an off-stream reservoir, similar to — and slightly smaller than — the San Luis Reservoir in the Pacheco Pass west of Los Banos. During periods of high precipitation and runoff, Sacramento River water would be pumped into Sites, then released back into the river as needed for agriculture, residential use or to maintain flows for fish.

As an off-stream reservoir, Sites escapes at least some of the traditional opposition to big water projects from environmental groups, but there is some criticism that it could be used to divert water during low precipitation periods.

"It's just a, kind of, different way of thinking about it," project boss Brown told the Associated Press. "There's a lot of fear and distrust and we have to operate in a way that we, you know, secure trust and address the fears."

The good news about Sites should be kept in perspective. It's just one of many steps that California must take to protect its vital water supply from the potential ravages of climate change.

It's entirely possible that climate change will not only change the mix of precipitation — more rain and less snow — but reduce the overall volume of water that falls on California, thus making more storage even more crucial while forcing us to rethink the entire pattern of water use.

Nothing is more critical to California's future.

Editor's note: Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He began his professional career in 1960, at age 16, at the Humboldt Times. You may reach Dan by email: dan@calmatters.org

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Times Features

The Collectors' Corner

by Matthew Frazier

In late June of 2006, I had reached a point of frustration as a freelance screenwriter here in San Jose and The Bay Area.

I had been working with independent movie producers who were failing to validate my work and were abandoning their projects left and right. I needed a change of pace and scenery while relegating myself to working on my own script and writing projects nights and seeking opportunities in a new field during the days, as a distraction. This was shortly before The Writers' Strike in Hollywood.

Almaden Valley Nursery

While submitting applications, cover letters, and resumes to hardware stores, home improvements centers, and other Retail Industry businesses in and around San Jose, my brother suggested I turn my attention to a small independent family-owned nursery where our own family had purchased a four-in-one fruit tree. The very next day, I printed out a copy of my cover letter and resume and headed down to Almaden Valley Nursery. I spoke with the staff and completed and submitted an application right there onsite that very afternoon.

About ten days later, the general manager called me in for an interview and I was offered a job three days later. While walking the property with the general manager during my first day, I was awestruck by the beauty and the symmetry of the property. The plethora of geometric configurations and vibrantly colored plants resonated with me at once.

One of the very first nursery consultants/salespersons I met there soon became a close friend and mentor. This salesperson was also an advocate of and custodian to a small section within the nursery called The Collectors' Corner. Of the different departments and sections within that nursery, The Collectors' Corner stood out the most.

The Collectors' Corner

The Collectors' Corner at that time was a small table roughly six feet wide and two feet deep, showcasing specimen plants from various regions of California. Today, it accounts for roughly half the nursery. These specimen plants were a collective representation of what one would see were they to travel to the various climates and zones of this state. I soon pledged my commitment to be an advocate and assistant to this beautiful attraction.

California is comprised of multiple zones, each of which has multiple micro zones. Through conversations with passionate customers and colleagues, I soon learned that San Jose and Santa Clara Valley was once oak woodlands, home to majestic and stunning heritage oaks and like plants.

The adventure of learning about native plants

Every Friday morning, Suncrest Nurseries

would arrive and deliver plants which I had not yet heard of nor seen. It was an adventure unloading those plants from the Suncrest truck and putting them into their respective homes. I began purchasing these specimen plants and giving them a home in our yard at our house and gifting them to family and friends along the way.

From late June of 2006 to late July of 2008, I worked at this nursery, advocating and consulting as an ambassador of California's native plants and especially those which are native to our very own valleys here in the South Bay, especially those of Santa Clara Valley. Along the way, I was invited to attend trainings and did a fair share of independent reading and research with respect to the anatomy and physiology of California's native plants and their communities.

Water and Stormwater Manager Certification

Since my term ended with that nursery, I have met and spoken with many who are passionate about restoring our environs and landscapes to what they were originally, before urbanization. Now, years later, I am an Independent Certified Water Manager through The Cali-



The Collectors' Corner showcases native plants from various regions of California.

fornia Landscape Contractors' Association and an Independent Qualified Stormwater Manager through EnviroCert International, Inc. I have found a way to join committees and subcommittees with non-profit agencies and organizations throughout The Water Industry. Water Conservation and Water Management are at the forefront of my education and training.

For those who live in San Jose, Santa Clara Valley, The South Bay, or anywhere else in this beautiful state, I encourage you to visit Almaden Valley Nursery and see The Collectors' Corner for yourself. Bring a guest or two if you can. With the statewide water crisis, implementing drought-tolerant and water-wise cacti, flowers, shrubs, succulents, and trees is of an immediate nature. Not only are these state-native and valley-native plants beautiful, they will save you hundreds of hours of maintenance and thousands of hydro dollars long-term in your botanical and horticultural endeavors, whether you be an architect, contractor, designer, or enthusiast. Thank you for your time this day. I wish you a very enlightening and pleasant experience in exploring this phenomenal feature of Almaden Valley Nursery.

To comment on this column, you may reach Matthew Frazier, Certified Water Manager by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com.



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager



Photos: Conductor **Anthony Quartuccio**. Cellist **Jiaxun Yao**. Photos courtesy of the artists and San José Chamber Orchestra.

San José Chamber Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season presents 'Eine Klein(e) Evening of Music'

Season concludes with three new works

San José Chamber Orchestra presents "Eine Klein(e) Evening of Music" Saturday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Avenue, San José.

This program features cellist Jiaxun Yao, an up and coming artist and winner from the 2020 Irving M. Klein International String Competition. Founded in 1985, it is recognized as one of the world's leading competitions for young string musicians. Open to string players ages fifteen to twenty-three, the competition takes place every June in San Francisco, California.

The program

"Eine Klein(e) Evening of Music" features the beloved Concerto for Cello by Robert

Schumann, with soloist Jiaxun Yao. Premiere of three short new works by local composers, written as part of SJCO's Responseworks Commissioning Project: Cycles by Kendrick Tri Huynh, Refuge by Kerry Lewis and Doom, Gloom and Zoom by Mona Lyn Reese, featuring Philip Brezina on fiddle.

Conductor: Anthony Quartuccio; Cello soloist: Jiaxun Yao.

The San José Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1991 out of the desire of local musicians (at the time playing with Opera San José) for an opportunity to play chamber orchestra repertoire and explore music written by living composers. More Info: <https://sjco.org/about/>

Tickets: sjco.org or 408 295-4416 (Tickets also available at the door)

Single Ticket Prices: Adult: \$50, Senior (62 and above): \$45, Student: \$15.



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Times **Local Wineries**

From 'Fixer Upper' to sought after winery Church Creek Cellars invites you to visit

We are excited to share Church Creek Cellars with you as our second feature to our Times Media winery column.

In our last issue we highlighted Kirigin Cellars, one of CA's oldest wineries, this time we feature Church Creek Cellars one of newest wineries along the Santa Clara Valley Wine Trail.

A family choice

In 2011, Church Creek Cellars owners Carl and Diana Borsody, in tow with their then 8-year-old daughter Chloe, bought the property that has now become their own boutique winery; they actually did not have plans to open or operate a winery. In fact, they purchased the property consisting of 10-acres with a fixer upper home to remodel the home, put the property in order and potentially sell it within five years and move elsewhere.

Carl was (and still is) working in high tech and Diana was a retired Southwest flight attendant – neither of them had any prior experience working with wine. And, Chloe, was onboard with any decision her parents made as long as it included horses and friends. Now,

11 years later, Church Creek Cellars is a staple amongst the Santa Clara Valley wine region. The Borsody's have no plans to leave; rather, they are adding to the ambiance of their family-owned winery. The creek that runs through the Borsody's property is called Church Creek; thus, the Borsody's named their winery after the creek.

Tractor fun

Diana shared what changed their trajectory was when her husband Carl got a tractor; and that was that. As the theme song for the former TV sitcom, Green Acres goes, "Green acres is the place to be.... farm livin is the life for me...land spreadin out so far and wide..." and just like that, Carl and his tractor led the family to relook at their own green acres and fixer upper home with a new vision. Within the first year of living on their property the Borsody's began to care for the existing grapes and then purchased an additional 10-acres adjacent to their property while leasing the other adjacent 10-acres on the other side of their property. Thus, Church Creek Cellars is comprised of more than 30-acres. You can view the beauti-



Church Creek Cellar owners - Carl, Diana and Chloe Borsody.

ful landscape as you sip your wine out on their wine tasting terrace.

Winemaking team grows

Carl and Diana met Rick and Tina Pronge at a dinner in late 2011. Rick shared that he was a home winemaker and the Borsody's shared that they had just purchased land that had existing vines which they now intended to develop into wine. Like a good wine paired with a good cheese, the Borsody's and Pronges' began working together. Rick became Church Creek Cellars winemaker. Rick's wife, Tina works in the winetasting room and their daughter, Allison Burrman is her dad's protégé as she is following her dad's footsteps learning how to make wine while working alongside him.

Church Creek Cellar's first vintage was created in 2012. The winery and tasting room officially opened to the public during Santa Clara Valley Passport (SCVP) weekend in 2018. One can purchase a "Passport Ticket" which allows you to visit participating wineries where you receive free wine tastings with a small snack while tasting. Opening during the 2018 Passport Weekend proved beneficial for Church Creek Cellars.

Award winning red wines

Church Creek Cellars are known for their bold reds and have received many recognitions and awards. The Borsody's were initially going to make wine on the side, thus they did not do large productions. Because of this, their wine has stayed in barrels longer than most which accounts for its full-bodied flavor. Church Creek Cellars has their 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Reserve for sale but has sold out of their 2015 Zinfandel. They recently begun a Rose' line including Rose' of Merlot, Rose' of Zinfandel and Rose' of Sangiovese which have proved to be very popular. Their wines are available onsite and at Rocca's Market in San Martin and Relish Kitchen in Gilroy. Wine Club memberships are available.

Every Church Creek Cellars wine bottle has a beautiful oak tree on the label. The oak tree pictured is located on the right side of the driveway as you enter Church Creek Cellars. Carl has named many of the wines including the 2016 Convergence and the Encore Dessert Wine which won a bronze medal at the 2019 Sunset Magazine International Wine Competition.

"Closing down during the pandemic was weird," shared Diana, "During the shutdown, our wine club customers would drive up and I would put their wine in their trunk and off they would go. It was vastly different than what



A beautiful setting at Church Creek Cellars.

I was used to -- having people stay here on the premises and enjoy the overall ambiance," shared Diana.

Visitors are flocking to Church Creek Cellars

Upon reopening, hundreds of people have flocked back to Church Creek Cellars to enjoy the wines, wine tasting room and beautiful outside deck overlooking the 21-acre vineyard. "It was good to have people back," shared Diana.

Church Creek Cellars is open every 1st and 3rd weekend from Noon to 5:00 pm. They are also remodeling the grounds by adding additional picnic areas, bocce ball courts and other

amenities that can be rented for weddings and other venues.

The Borsody's home that was originally supposed to be remodeled by 2016 took a back seat to the winery and is about 80% done. Carl and Diana are using their garage as a living room while the finishing touches of their remodel are completed. Chloe is in Boston studying music but is still an integral part of the family winery. Peewee, the Borsody's cat is a staple at the winery too. Peewee is known to have made friends with many of the gophers and is just as much a staple as the wine.

Pet friendly

Church Creek Cellars is a family environment where bringing your children and well-behaved dogs are allowed. Just be sure to keep your children and animals close by.

"Welovewhatwedo;weloveourcustomers,neighbors, and the overall community; we hope to see you here at Church Creek Cellars," shared Diana.

Editor's Note; Church Creek Cellars is located at 11495 Center Avenue Gilroy, CA 95020. The tasting room is open the first and third weekend of each month from noon to 5pm. You can learn more by visiting their website: ChurchCreekCellars.com; or call (669) 500-0295.



Pee Wee the Cat aka "the gopher friend maker."

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Times **Feature**

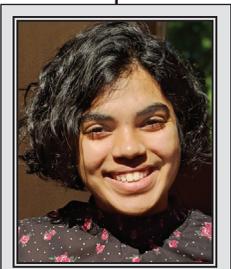
Why Size Matters: An Introduction to Quantum Dots (Part 1)

By Apoorva Panidapu

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

Does size matter? It's an age-old question in all sorts of areas. Is it always "the bigger the better"? (If you think so, you might like Texas!) Or, can small prevail over tall (like with egos/pimples)? Honestly, the answer to this debate varies person-to-person. (Maybe, just maybe, we'll come to an answer ourselves by the end of this discussion, so stay tuned!)

We constantly make observations about our macroscale world, which we can luckily explore whenever we want. But in the past century, scientists were ready to take things up a notch, or more accurately, down a notch. They started zooming in on the world to see where all the mysterious and interesting things happen on the micro and nanoscale.



Gems in STEM
By Apoorva Panidapu

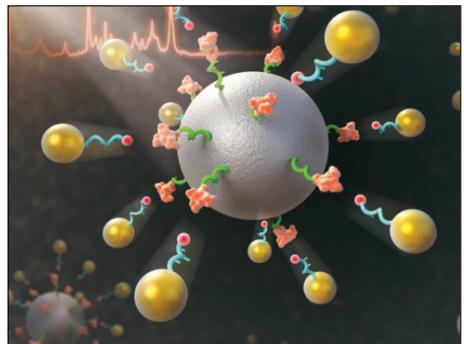
simistic worldview.) In this speech, Feynman remarked on the possibilities of miniaturized machines and encoding large amounts of data in tiny spaces, which seemed almost unfathomable at the time—which is what makes nanotechnology so exciting.

Because the nanoscale is so incredibly small (around 1 to 100 nanometers), manipulating matter in this world isn't too easy. It'd be super cool if we could boss a bunch of individual atoms around, from "turning" them on and off to store information or lighting them up with different colors (in what would be a fantastic glow show), or just directing them in some way. This isn't quite currently possible, but don't despair—we have the next next thing: quantum dots!

What are Quantum Dots?

Quantum dots, also known as artificial atoms, are tiny crystals that range in size from 2-10 nanometers. They're so small that we can basically think of them as a concentrated single point, which is why they are often called zero-dimensional. Quantum dots are made from a semiconductor material, which aren't really a conductor or an insulator, but can be chemically treated to behave like either (like silicon). Though quantum dots are technically crystals, their behavior is a lot like individual atoms, hence their nickname "artificial atoms."

For quantum dots, size definitely matters. Why? Let's dive into it...next time! (Hint: it has something to do with the picture below.)



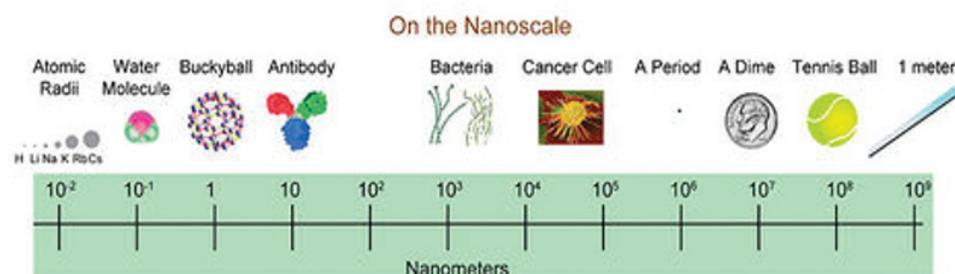
This is the basis of nanotechnology, which is the study of how we can manipulate matter on an atomic and molecular scale. Unlike your side-view mirror, objects here are much farther and smaller than they appear (in your mind).

That evil piece of paper that gave you a nasty paper cut? 100,000 nanometers thick. The ant you (hopefully accidentally) stepped on? A million nanometers long. Get this, the ratio of a meter to a nanometer (which is a billion) is approximately the ratio of a marble to the Earth. So yes, nano is (na)no joke.

Where did this miniscule idea even come from? Most scientists agree that the acclaimed physicist Richard Feynman first introduced the idea of nanotechnology in his lecture, "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom." (Whose title, at first glance, seems like a pes-



For your bi-weekly reminder that I am evil (and sometimes run out of space), we're calling it an article here! In the next few columns, we'll talk about the special optical properties of quantum dots due to quantum confinement effects and their incredible applications in solar cells, televisions, and medicine—make sure you don't miss it. Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvap-writes@gmail.com.



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**2022 LAM RESEARCH
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**9th Annual Lam
Research Heart &
Soles Run May 7**

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



**From the
Superintendent**
Mary Ann Dewan, Ph. D.

Spring has arrived. It is a perfect time to "spring into" family lifestyle changes that support healthy food and activity. Now is a beautiful time to get the entire family outside for cycling, soccer, or having fun on the playground.

The 9th Annual Lam Research Heart & Soles Run is on Saturday, May 7. You are encouraged to join in with the Fitness & Fun Spring into Fitness Challenge leading up to the event's 5K/10K.

During your practice runs, be sure everyone drinks water when physically active. Replace sugary beverages such as sodas, juices, or sports drinks with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Visiting your local farmers' market, grocery store, or produce stand adds a fun and educational opportunity to learn about eating seasonal produce while identifying colors, shapes, and what they like to eat.

Choosing healthy foods and participating in physical activities are a few healthy habits that a family can build together. Practicing the proven safety and risk mitigation strategies such as testing, staying home when sick, and vaccinations keep communities safe and healthy.

To learn more about the 9th Annual Lam Research Heart & Soles Run, visit:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/SantaClaraCounty/HeartandSolesRun>

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Feature



The Leland Quixilver Robotics Team will be competing at the Silicon Valley Regional (SVR) on April 8 through April 10.

Robotics

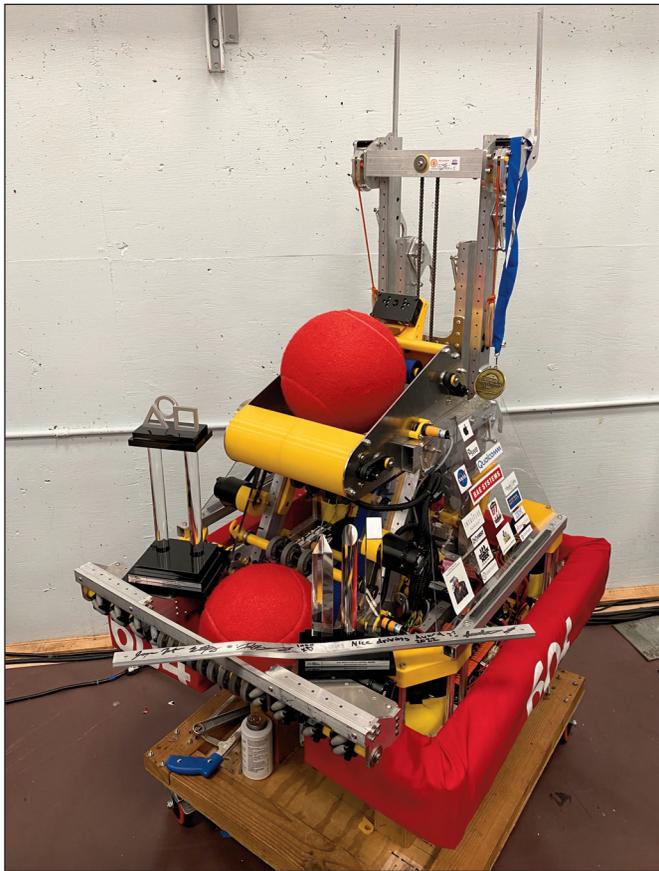
Continued from page 1
control components – electrical, mechanical or software – to provide unique machine functions.

Team 604 is proud to compete in the FIRST® Robotics Competition (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), where teams of high school students design, machine, build and test a fully functioning 125 lb. robot that competes in a sport-based competition.

FIRST brings together teams from across the United States and around the world. The 2022 game RAPID REACT presented by The Boeing Company is played by two alliances of three teams each, with each team controlling a robot and completing specific actions to score points.

The game revolves around both alliances shooting inflatable balls known as Cargo into a central Hub and climbing within their HANGERS at the end of the match. The overall objective of each match is to score more points than the opposing alliance before the match ends.

The top two members of the winning alliance are invited to compete at the World's Championship Tournament at the George R. Brown



Convention Center in Houston, Texas April 21 through April 23 where 450 teams from around the world will be competing for the honor of winning the World Championship title.

The Leland Quixilver Robotics Team will be competing at the Silicon Valley Regional (SVR) on April 8 through April 10. Unfortunately, due to Covid, no spectators are allowed to attend the SVR which will be held at San Jose State University.

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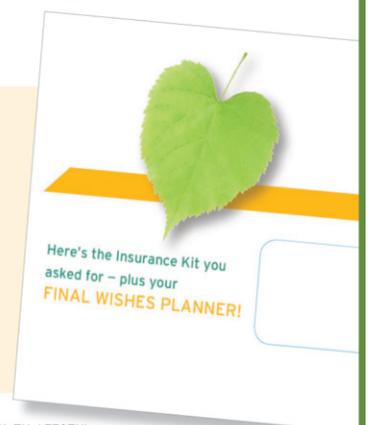
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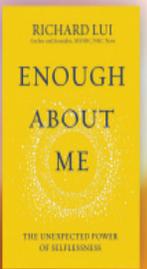
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Almaden Times

Times **Feature****OWL***Continued from page 4*

Her face was always partially hidden with a hat and clothing draped around her neck. She dressed for warmth even in the sunshine.

Today at the bus stop I noticed her tending her bags. Each was fiddled with and kept in check. All day she would sit on the ground or the bus bench and people would not speak to her. Human beings just walked around where she existed. Sometimes she put bags on the bus bench, but she removed them if people were waiting to take the bus. How considerate of her, I whispered to myself.

Her small body tended to not stand straight. Hunched over and sitting a certain way, the more I saw her or thought about her I was reminded of ancient Inca people who were preserved in graves and after thousands of years one could still see the person's kind face. She seemed to be ancient because her hair was white as snow.

I felt bad about the way some religions long ago sacrificed young women and they went to their deaths in an empty way as one of mankind's ritual creations. This made me reflect on how our area treats the homeless and perhaps that is our ritual.

As we turn our clocks back, at 6 pm it's still hot outside. I went back to give her a couple of dollars and nice white plastic bags in the thinking she could consolidate and take the mini bags and put them in the big clear bags for transport.

Just as I arrived, she was leaving and walking the other direction towards the store. Like a little girl, she abandoned her belongings for a period of time and off she went to buy food. Usually, she dawdled over her bags but in this case, she was on a mission to leave it all behind and go to the store.

As she went over the crosswalk away from me, I noticed she picked up each foot daintily as if she was marching in a band. Her ankles, legs and knees were picked a bit straight up in unison with dedication and focus of moving forward.

The piles of mixed bags were so carefully tended to that they took on the status of someone's guardianship and were not to be touched. These possessions were simple artifacts collected from what looked to be things that people no longer wanted.

She never spoke and moved in slow motion. Somehow, I got the impression that she seemed to know this world and how to be patient with it. I took the time to wait for her to return and give her the small money and big bags. This was a second trip for me to give her these things for it gnawed on me that she had so many bags so I thought the nice big white, clear bags would be of great help to her. I would find out the next day while driving by that she chose not to use the new big clear bags.

As I waited, I began to reflect on her life. Was she a mom? Was she once married? Where are her children? Drugs, no, she did not seem to need those so I felt that drugs were never part of her life quest. Where was her family? Was she a sweet grandmother I thought, who was disconnected from her family lifeline? But why? Maybe she had some monies due to her from social security. I knew she needed to see a social worker to figure it out. I would ask OWL to do this.

You see, the OWL Warming Center closes in a week or two or three. So where do the poor go? What happens to such people? Perhaps somehow in our quest for freedom and total independence, we ignore and leave people behind in conversation of who they are and if their living conditions are proper. Perhaps we learn to disregard people.

As I laid down on the grass by the busy three lane street on the narrow grass strip, the overhanging branches fought the sun and gave me welcomed shade. I got the feeling everyone took me for a homeless person. I rested and after an hour was happy inside to see she returned.

Walking up to her I showed her the two-dollar bills and I handed her the big plas-

tic bags. Careful to give her privacy I avoided eye contact. She created her isolation with hat and clothes gently and softly hiding her face. I noticed her pants were a bit dirty and wondered if she had the ability or means to do laundry.

After handing her the two things I came to give, she surprised me by tilting up her head to look at me. This was her way of saying thank you for her mouth did not move. For the first time, seeing a glimpse of her face, I noticed that she was not Hispanic as I had always thought. You see, her hands were brown color but my assumption was in error.

I believe she was either Japanese, Vietnamese or Chinese. Maybe she was part Hispanic, I did not know. To know a race is per-

haps to gain some kind of barometer of information. But today it did not matter and had no relevance.

This realization made me reflect on how we are all part of the same human race and live together in what we do and perhaps think. I never knew her name and we never spoke. The thought did occur to me that perhaps people collect things because they believe the objects accumulated have more value than themselves.



Possessions are placed neatly at bus stop.

Shawn Ansari – Record Sale



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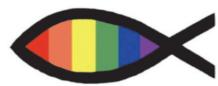
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San Jose, CA 95148
The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship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

the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.San-JoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com**



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Driving School



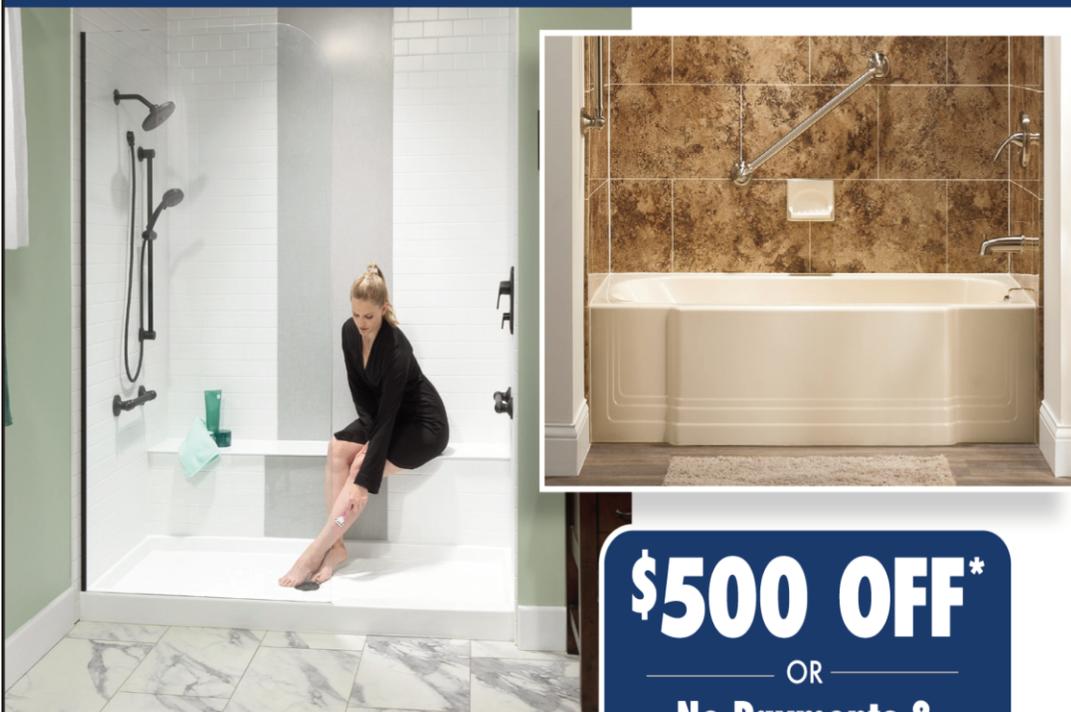
Advantage Driving School is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses.

Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

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COMPASS



\$3,950,000
5 Bedrooms
4 Full Baths
2 Half-Baths
5000 Sq Ft
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21290

CINNABAR HILLS ROAD

Almaden Valley

Unbridled elegance in this architectural masterpiece with private driveway and wooded views. This stunning custom estate showcases exceptional detailing, fine finishes, and an open floorplan celebrating indoor/outdoor living. An abundance of oak trees offers an unparalleled, ultra-private setting. Outdoor entertaining with complete built-in kitchen and patios, solar heated infinity pool & spa with waterfall feature. Two-story foyer with a grand imperial-style staircase. A formal living room with fireplace, wine bar, and Juliet balconies. Expansive family room, gourmet kitchen with multiple prep stations and island, and sliding doors to the outside. Executive office and gym area. Top Almaden Schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.

More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



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
DRE 01355719

