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MAY 6 – MAY 19, 2022 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 10

Evergreen *Times*

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Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducts Vivain Truong of Evergreen

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi has announced that **Vivain Truong** (above) has been initiated as a new member of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of the Pacific.

Membership into Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have

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San Jose Academy of Music recital to feature Joseph Valdes' students

By William Bellou
Publisher

Joseph Valdes began his musical journey at age nine. Much to his mother's discontent, learning how to play the violin became a part of the grade school curriculum at The Manila Waldorf School. She quickly realized, however, that purchasing the expensive instrument wasn't a bad idea, even in the slightest.

Excelling faster than was typical, Valdes was soon enrolled for private lessons with Filipino violinist Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata. A graduate of Juilliard's precollege division and Indiana University's Jacobs School Of Music, Bolipata was well-known for his work with the Bolipata Trio, a group of three virtuoso brothers that took both Europe and the United States by storm. Joseph took lessons with Sir Coke up until his college days back in The Philippines.



Joseph Valdes, who began his musical journey at age nine, is a member of the WIU President's International String Quartet.

After two years of pursuing a degree in creative writing at the Ateneo de Manila University, Joseph was given the opportunity to pursue an undergraduate degree in violin performance at

Western Illinois University. The offer came with a full scholarship, all expenses paid, including room and board—a once in a lifetime opportunity for anyone.

The incredible opportunity

came with the stipulation that Joseph was to be part of a special program geared towards attracting young, foreign talent to the school. He was to become a member of the WIU President's International String Quartet, an ensemble of musicians from around the globe with some of the finest talents at Western Illinois' music school. Immediately after graduating from WIU, he moved on to pursue a master's degree in violin performance at The University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign, where he was offered a merit scholarship that covered nearly all expenses, as well.

Joseph joined the San Jose Academy of Music soon after graduating with his master's degree from UIUC. Although his formal training is completely violin-centric, he consistently dabbles in many genres outside the realm of European

See VALDES, page 2

It's all about sports at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County has big plans for its 160-acre piece of land at the fairgrounds, but if it doesn't include a ball, bat or hurdles, well then—no deal.

Since January, county officials have entered into three negotiating agreements with various organizations that envision a new future at the fairgrounds.

Supervisor Cindy Chavez announced this week the county's agreement with San Jose State University for a track and field facility at the site. The county also has agreements with San Jose Earthquakes and Major League Cricket. Combined this would comprise 40 acres.

The county is considering a long-term lease of nine acres to SJSU that would be developed into a track and field facility. The fairgrounds facility would be used by the university and the public.



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

"It will be an honor to host the legacy of San Jose State's iconic track program and the Olympic Project for Human Rights," Chavez said Monday.

As the county eyes new multi-million-dollar sporting facilities and stadiums, a group of residents continues to push for a plan to open the fairgrounds for RV safe parking sites and prefabricated housing for homeless individuals.

"There should be an open public discussion with the public about the fairgrounds," Todd Langton, executive director of homeless advocacy group Agape Silicon Valley, told San José Spotlight. "Let the public decide what needs to be done."

The plan, which has received support from nonprofits such as Loaves and Fishes and

See FAIRGROUNDS, page 17

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Times Cover Stories

Valdes

Continued from page 1
art music, aka “classical music”. Indeed, he values versatility as one of his greatest creative assets. This is why he aims to be an accomplished musician not only as a violinist, but as a guitarist, drummer, and vocalist as well.

True to form, Joseph enjoys having a studio full of both young and older talent, with students that play the violin, guitar, drums, piano, ukulele, and even the bass guitar. Some students even come for regular lessons twice a week, on two different instruments, inspired by the example that Joseph has set forth as a multi-instrumentalist that aims to master his favorite instruments.

The upcoming recital will be held at 7 p.m., May 14 at Grace Church of Evergreen located at 2650 Aborn Road, San Jose. The program



will consist of Joseph Valdes’ students, and will then culminate into a solo recital program featuring some of Joseph’s favorite pieces. The program will feature works by Kreisler, Massenet, as well as some jazz and blues rock tunes by John Mayer. It will be the eclectic showcase of the evening, featuring classical, jazz, and rock music.

San Jose Academy of Music is located in Evergreen at: 2726 Aborn Rd Ste. A; Phone: (408) 806-9050

Trong

Continued from page 1
achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disci-

plines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is “To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.”

For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org



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Malina Hatton of Evergreen inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Malina Hatton of Evergreen Valley (right) has been initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Hatton was initiated at United States Military Academy.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic ex-



cellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards more than \$1 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.

Valley Currents

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

Santa Clara County makes historic fire chief appointment

Newly appointed Santa Clara County Fire Chief Suwanna Kerdkaew

By William Bellou
Publisher

Santa Clara County Fire Department is celebrating the hiring of its first woman fire chief in the department's 75-year history.

Suwanna Kerdkaew (pictured right), who previously served as the department's Deputy Chief of Administration, was appointed by the county Board of Supervisors. She replaces former chief Tony Bowden, who has retired after being on leave of absence due to an injury.

"I am happy to appoint Suwanna Kerdkaew as the new Santa Clara County Fire Chief; her extensive experience within the Department made her an ideal candidate for the role," said Mike Wasserman, the president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

The 20-year fire department veteran, who began her career in the biotechnology industry before pivoting to become a firefighter, said she wanted to work in community service after volunteering for organizations and hospitals in San Francisco.

Kerdkaew was hired in 2002 and served as firefighter, engineer, paramedic, captain, battalion chief, deputy chief and assistant chief. She becomes the 10th chief in the history of the department. She joined the department as a firefighter because of her desire to work in community service after a stint as a volunteer for organizations and hospitals in San Francisco.



Kerdkaew is not only making history as the fire department's first woman chief, but also representing LGBT as an Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI). Her appointment fills an important void in the Fire Department; lack of women.

"Having Suwanna as fire chief really speaks to the important opportunity to see a strong woman at the top," he said, "helping ensure we create an environment that is inclusive for more women to serve in fire service."

Kerdkaew began as a firefighter engineer while studying to be a paramedic, and was promoted to fire captain in 2011. Six years later, she became battalion chief and then deputy chief. She also worked as interim deputy director of county communications.

SJ City Council opposes term limit measure

Water district spends \$3.2M in bid to allow board members to serve longer; Critics say that ballot measure 'A' is misleading

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose City Council has voted to formally oppose a measure on the June ballot in Santa Clara County that would extend term limits for board members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

By a 7-3 vote late Tuesday, the council passed a resolution urging a no vote and calling on other cities in the area to also oppose it.

Critics, especially Councilmember Matt Mahan who led the opposition, complain that the proposal, Measure A, uses misleading wording in a deliberate attempt to trick voters into believing they are limiting the water district board members' terms, when it in fact would allow them to serve longer than currently allowed now.

See TERM LIMIT, page 17

San Jose ranks in top 10 for solar energy use in the U.S.

San Jose is now ranked eighth for solar energy use in new U.S study, 'Top 20 shining cities.'

More than 50 U.S. cities were analyzed by Environment California Research and Policy's Shining Cities 2022.

Los Angeles ranked No. 1, leading the nation in solar energy capacity. Honolulu, Hawaii, had the highest rank per capita, San Diego trailed behind at No. 2 in the total capacity category, topping cities like Las Vegas and San Antonio, Texas, until San Jose took the eighth spot. Sacramento ranked No. 14, followed by San Francisco, No. 18, and Riverside, No. 19.

More than 1 million California homes and businesses have rooftop solar panels. A short time earlier this month, the state set a new record in using clean renewable energy at 97.6%, according to the California Independent System Operator.



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California ranks fourth most bicycle friendly state in League of American Bicyclists 2022 Report

California took 4th Place in the annual ranking of Bicycle Friendly States by the League of American Bicyclists which was announced in Washington, D.C. last week.

The state Report Card found in today's report praises California for "...significant advances in bicycle policy in recent years, but those advances must be institutionalized more thoroughly in local Caltrans offices and in funding

decisions made by Caltrans and the state legislature."

The report also stated, "While California's Active Transportation Program has expanded in recent years, it still fails to meet the demand for biking and walking investments with a nearly \$2 billion gap in funding in the last application round."

CalBike's \$2 Billion for Bikes campaign aims to fill the funding gap identified by the League. Many excellent proj-



The League of American Bicyclists was founded as the League of American Wheelmen in 1880. Bicyclists, known then as "wheelmen," were challenged by rutted roads of gravel and dirt and faced antagonism from horsemen, wagon drivers, and pedestrians.

ects in the Active Transportation Program didn't get funded in the last cycle due to lack of budget. Governor Newsom and the legislature have, so far, tentatively committed up to \$1.1 billion in additional funding for biking and walking infrastructure in the next fiscal year, which is an encouraging first step, but California needs more.

Dave Snyder, executive director of Cal Bike, said of the League's report:

"California being named the fourth most bike-friendly state is wonderful news. But California can and should be the MOST bike-friendly state in the nation. The pandemic showed us that Californians love to bike recreationally. But more Californians would love to use bikes for commuting and shopping too, if they felt the streets were safe enough."

Snyder continued, "While funding for bicycles in California has increased recently, we are still ranked at 39th in per capita spending and 23rd in safety nationwide. To catch up, let's invest \$2 billion in safe bikeways that reach destinations where people want to go. By vastly expanding our bike infrastructure, California can become the climate and equity leader we claim to be."



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Fedor is the Only Independent Voice!

- Only Candidate not accepting money from Unions, Political Action Committees (PAC's).

Fedor is against raising taxes and fees!

Fedor is against the San Jose garbage and sewer fee increase – combined fees cost residents \$95 a month!

Fedor supports the new Jail – Against early release!

Fedor is against removing the carpool lane on Capitol Expressway!

Fedor supports the CA. bipartisan CARE Court – providing mental health care for chronically ill homeless – providing care instead of living on the streets!

Fedor supports open space – Evergreen and East Foothills!

As Chief of Staff and considered a "budget hawk", **Fedor** co-wrote Measure W asking voters to support much needed pension reforms in San Jose. Measure W passed and the pension cost-savings continues today.

Fedor will bring her finance acumen to the County. **Fedor** attends St. Francis of Assisi parish.

Fedor former positions include:

Board Member, San Jose Police Foundation | Rape Crisis Counselor Santa Clara County
President Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association | Volunteered for Archbishop Mitty High School, Quimby Oak, Odyssey of the Mind, Lego Build Day, PAWS



Denelle Fedor is pictured with Jim Zito, Evergreen School District Board Trustee, with his son Anthony Zito at his Senior Ball.



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Times **Community News**



Report: Cities whose unemployment rates are bouncing back most listed

The economy gained 431,000 jobs in March, and the national unemployment rate is now 3.6%, which is 76% below the peak of 14.7% during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To provide more context at the city level, WalletHub today released its report on the Cities Whose Unemployment Rates Are Bouncing Back Most, as a follow-up to our

report on the States Whose Unemployment Claims Are Recovering the Quickest.

Most Recovered Cities

1. Scottsdale, AZ	11. Warwick, RI
2. Tempe, AZ	12. Reno, NV
3. Gilbert, AZ	13. Seattle, WA
4. Burlington, VT	14. St. Petersburg, FL
5. Chandler, AZ	15. Tucson, AZ
6. Mesa, AZ	16. Huntsville, AL
7. Glendale, AZ	17. Lincoln, NE
8. South Burlington, VT	18. Billings, MT
9. Peoria, AZ	19. St. Paul, MN
10. Phoenix, AZ	20. Minneapolis, MN

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-unemployment-rates/73647>

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Alamitos Vineyards – What is old is new again!

By Denelle Fedor

Alamitos Vineyards owners Shawn Coleman and Chris Maune have brought San Jose back to its roots...no pun intended. This pair traded their Rose Garden home for an 8-acre property located in New Almaden and boy, are we so glad they did!

Prior to purchasing the property that would become Alamitos Vineyards, the couple's original plans were to tear down their Rose Garden home and build a 9,000 square foot home in its place. They lived in a beautiful neighborhood rich in history and located down the street from the famous Rose Garden Park.

Before moving forward with their remodeling plans, they decided to take a quick look at a few open houses first to see if they might see another home that would be more practical than a huge remodel. The day they went out to look at houses, it was pouring rain, but they drove out to New Almaden anyway to see a home accompanied with acreage. Both men instantly fell in love with 23505 Alamitos Road – which did not include a winery at the time – but their vision was in full play. They made an offer which was accepted the same day. They traded one close knit community for another saying goodbye to the Rose Garden and hello to New Almaden.

Rich in history

In the early 1800's Chris and Shaun's land served as the home to thousands of miners who once lived within the English, Spanish and Hacienda villages. The Almaden Reservoir – across the street was created as part of the New Deal in 1935. Their property includes their personal home with a large lawn area, pool house, and caretakers' home. They share the property with many wild animals, including the infamous feral pigs that roam Quicksilver. Foxes will play with any shoes left



Shaun Coleman and Chris Maune holding Laura's Love Rose – named after Chris's Mom – while standing next to their Touriga Nacional vines.

outside. Bobcats live in the brush within the property and a pair of Mountain Lions tend to meet up for late night visits outside the winery gates. They have posted pictures and videos to their Facebook page – Alamitos Vineyards.

Caretakers Spencer and Abby live on the property. Abby assists with the wine tastings and events. Shaun and Chris wanted to include a water fall or something similar at the front gate, but it was cost prohibitive. When they shared the idea with Spencer, he said he could create a water display that would meet their budget, and he did. The beautiful water feature welcomes you as you arrive at the gates.

Historical landmark

Sonoma may have the oldest winery - The Buena Vista founded in 1857 by Hun-

garian "Count" Agoston Haraszthy, but San Jose was home to the first commercial winery in Northern California – the former Almaden Winery in 1852 which is a CA. historic landmark. San Jose was also home to Mirassou Winery built in 1854 located on Aborn Road in the Evergreen area. Both of these wineries closed decades ago ending agricultural wine-making in San Jose until now, where Shawn and Chris have given the winemaking industry a rebirth in San Jose. Alamitos Vineyards is part of the Santa Clara Wine Trail and is included in the Passport event for those who are participating.

Shaun's grandfather, John Enos Vargas (a distant cousin to former dairy owners Vargas family who had a dairy at the end of McAbee in Almaden) immigrated to Livermore in 1923 after learning the Azorean wine making craft. Grandfather John made wine for many well-known wineries including Concannon and Cresta Blanca Winery – known today as Wente Vineyards. What is most interesting is that Mr. Vargas made the white wines for the former Almaden Vineyards. Shaun and Chris pay homage to him and the art of winemaking by bringing onsite estate winemaking and tasting back to San Jose.

Alamitos Vineyards Wine Labels

Each Alamitos wine bottle features artwork of a different bird that populates the New Almaden area. The drawings are from original paintings that have been created by Shaun and Chris's family members. For example, Chris's aunt painted the raptor that appears on the 2018 Hawk Eye Syrah and Shaun's mom painted the Acorn Woodpecker and Chris's uncle painted the Barn Owl for upcoming wines. Chris's mom passed on in 2017; Laura's Love Rose (2019) is named after her. The artful bottles make beautiful vases after wine consumption.

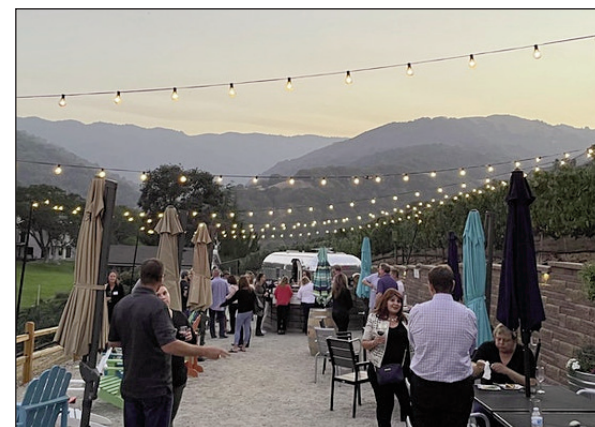
sumption.

Alamitos Vineyards Estate Wines

Chris and Shaun unitized the hillside of their property to plant grapes – creating the Alamitos Vineyards which opened during COVID in 2020. Alamitos has three levels to their Wine Club which is located on their website. They immediately gained numerous wine club members on the outset.

Due to the unique soil and temperate climate – and because the reservoir is across from their property which creates a late afternoon breeze, the microclimate keeps the area warmer during the day and cooler in the evening making these temperatures responsible for the successful growth of the award-winning Alamitos Vineyards Estate Wines.

They began planting in 2014 with two blocks of Syrah, one block of Sauvignon Blanc and one block of Touriga Nacional. Touriga Nacional is a Portuguese varietal considered the top notch of Portugal's finest vines which contributes to the blends that are used in traditional ports and Rose'. All of their wines are from the grapes Shaun and Chris grow on their property. The wines are extremely good – you can taste the earth and smell the vines with each sip. Combine the good taste and small batches made and something very special is created for everyone to enjoy, they do sell out.



Alamitos Vineyards at night.

They use original cooperages which is an older version of creating estate wines. They reused an older commercial refrigerator by hooking it up to an air conditioner to create just the right temperature control. The barrels hold the estate wine until bottling, and they also do barrel tasting. This kind of production of wine is joyful for it is all about going back to the basics.

Well respected and well-known winemaking consultant

Shaun and Chris brought on George Troquato as their winemaking consultant. Mr. Troquato is a third-generation vintner with 30 years of winemaking experience from California's Central Coast. He has worked with Los Gatos's Testarossa and Cinnabar Wineries. He is well respected and well known for his winemaking philosophy and understanding of sustainable soils and a minimal-intervention winemaking style.

Their wine is available for purchase directly from Alamitos Vineyards and delivery is available to those in Almaden and



View of Vineyard and Reservoir while wine tasting.

Times **Local Wineries**

Wine Tasting outside at Alamitos Vineyards.

within San Jose by appointment.

Shaun and Chris also have license to create Aguardiente which is a distilled spirit considered a Portuguese grape-based vodka. They consider Spencer to be the Master Distiller who allows the barrel to age and then he places the Aguardiente in a mason jar to sell. Consumption must be off site of Alamitos Vineyards.

Alamitos Fire Truck – Emergency and Delivery

Not every winery can share they sport an actual working fire truck; but Alamitos Vineyards can. The truck has come in handy. There have been at least two fires within the vicinity of the winery where the truck was used. Chris, Shaun, Spencer, and Abby all have protective clothing and have been professionally trained on how to the truck in times of emergency.

The truck also is used for wine deliveries in the Almaden area. The truck is used to lead the New Almaden parade and residents have shared they have seen Santa Claus driving the fire truck during the holidays when Santa's sleigh was in for repairs.

Alamitos Vineyards – From Vines to Wines – Estate Wine Tasting is Open!

Alleluia! Alamitos Vineyards is open for their wine tasting experience on the weekends beginning on

May 1st through October of this year – and/or weather permitting. Step up to the vintage and original 1964 Silver Streak trailer where a bar made from a 150-year-old barn wood from Gilroy, CA, sits. Chris and Shawn provide the hand-crafted small batch wine tasting experience through wine flights showcasing their estate grown wines. All wine-tasting is done outside where you can overlook the Almaden Reservoir and picturesque hillside and take in nature.

It is \$20.00 per person for the 4-wine flight. Reservations are re-

quired and allow for a 1-hour wine tasting visit at San Jose's only vineyard winery. Absolutely no children (including babies and strollers) and no one under 21 is allowed at the facility. No pets are allowed at the facility.

April 30, 2022, is a non-member appreciation event featuring Chef Matt with Alma Jackson's Fried Classy Chicken. The cost is \$50.00 per person.

Alamitos Vineyards is open for Mother's Day on May 8th – be sure to make your reservations now.

Stay tuned in August for a one-of-a-kind Alamitos wine pairing with the famed Executive Chef Telmo Faria with Uma Casa located in San Francisco. Chef Telmo Faria will pair Alamitos Wines with his authentic Portuguese dishes.

Shaun and Chris are dedicated to Alamitos Vineyards and becoming a part of the New Almaden Community. "So much of San Jose's agricultural land has been developed; here we are bringing agriculture back to San Jose," shared Shaun.

Shaun continued, "The nice thing is that we can share this with people – we can enjoy this property with the community while enjoying our estate wines."



Chris and Shaun holding their Egret Sauvignon Blanc estate wine. The wine came from the vines.



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Report: California
most expensive
state for US drivers

A new study can today reveal which US states have the most expensive, and also the cheapest fuel prices, with California found to be the most expensive state for US drivers.

Gas prices have fluctuated significantly in the US (& the wider world), therefore, drivers will be paying very different prices for gas. The team at Zutobi has conducted a research to find the most affordable US states for fuel prices.

Top 10 US states with most
expensive gas prices:

Rank	State	Fuel Cost (gallon)
1	California	\$5.91
2	Nevada	\$5.25
3	Hawaii	\$5.16
4	Alaska	\$4.74
5	Washington	\$4.73
6	Oregon	\$4.72
7	Arizona	\$4.69
8	Illinois	\$4.48
9	Utah	\$4.43
10	Idaho	\$4.42

California was found to be the most expensive state for US drivers. Fuel prices in California have risen 29.53% since last year, making it the most expensive state by \$0.66.

In second place we find Nevada. Prices are now \$5.25 on average, this is over a dollar higher than the national average. Hawaii is the third most expensive for average petrol prices. It costs \$5.16 at the pump in the Pacific island state now, up from \$3.91 in 2021.

Top 10 US states with most
affordable gas prices

Rank	State	Fuel Cost (gallon)
1	Missouri	\$3.78
2	Kansas	\$3.80
3	Oklahoma	\$3.81
4	Arkansas	\$3.81
4	Maryland	\$3.81
6	Texas	\$3.86
7	Nebraska	\$3.87
8	Iowa	\$3.89
9	Mississippi	\$3.91
10	North Dakota	\$3.92

The study also looked at the most affordable states for US drivers: Missouri had ranked third in our previous version of the US Fuel Index, however, it has jumped up two places in the rankings and is now the state with the cheapest gas prices - it is now \$0.13 more affordable than previous leader Mississippi. Despite this, prices have still risen by over a dollar in the past year.

FURTHER FINDINGS:

- Indiana has seen the smallest increase in gas costs in the past twenty years.
 - Fuel price in California is almost five dollars more expensive now than it was in 2002, which is a rise of over 500%. In the last year alone, fuel prices have risen by 30%.
 - Hong Kong has the highest price of petrol anywhere in the world, a gallon in the special administrative region is \$13.10 - more than double the global average.
 - Venezuela is the most affordable country in the world instead: At \$0.11, fuel price in Venezuela is \$5.95 cheaper than the global average.
 - Only in three countries the cost per gallon of fuel is less than a dollar: Venezuela, Libya and Iran.
- The full findings can be viewed here:
<https://zutobi.com/us/driver-guides/the-zutobi-global-gas-index>

Times **Community**

Walking trails are popular at Santa Teresa County Park.

Park connection expands open space opportunities

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a 47-acre property that will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to build a trail connecting Santa Teresa and Calero County Parks.

The \$8.5 million purchase will not only connect the two heavily used parks but could potentially expand parking and enhance pedestrian and equestrian safety.

The proposed trail at Fortini and McKean Roads will extend from Santa Teresa's Stile Ranch trail to Calero's Lisa Killough trail, allowing hikers, cyclists, and equestrians to connect to nearly 30 miles of existing trails and bikeways throughout the two County parks.

"This is an exciting opportunity," said County Supervisor Joe Simitian, in whose district the property is located. "Not only do we now have the possibility for residents to enjoy twice the park space, but

with the purchase of this property we also have an opportunity to address parking challenges and pedestrian and equestrian safety."

Insufficient parking at the two parks is a consistent issue; vehicles often park illegally on nearby roads, causing complaints from neighbors. There are no parking options for horse trailers at Stiles Ranch, and very little trailer parking at Rancho San Vicente, which means equestrians and cyclists often cross McKean Road without a designated road crossing, which can be unsafe as vehicles often exceed the posted 45 mph speed limit.

The acquisition of this property could provide an expanded visitor staging area and a safe trail across McKean Road. "The connection in and of itself is wonderful," said Simitian, "but the potential improvements over time are really an added bonus."



We believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home.

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Critical Repairs

Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.

Rebuilding Days

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

Safe At Home

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

Ways to get involved

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

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

Donate Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at www.rtsv.org today.



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Evergreen Senior Citizen Property Owners Are Eligible for Measure EE Parcel Tax Exemption

Evergreen property owners age 65 by June 30, 2023 or older are eligible to file for exemption from the annual \$125 Evergreen School District parcel tax for parcels they occupy as their principal residence.

For joint owners of a principal residence, only one owner needs to be age 65.

More information regarding the parcel tax exemption, including a form to request exemption, can be found on our District website at www.eesd.org.

To complete the exemption, the form and supporting documents may be brought into the District Office located at 3188 Quimby Road, San Jose. Call Patty Maciel at (408) 270-6863 to make an appointment.

Residents must file for the exemption in person with documents to prove their home ownership, residency, and age eligibility.

Those who have previously been granted an exemption from the Measure H Parcel Tax, their exemption will continue to be automatically renewed each year as long as you remain eligible for the exemption.

Residents unable to submit the application in person or for additional information, contact Patty Maciel at (408) 270-6863.

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Times **Feature**

It's time to take steps to reduce water use

By John L. Varela

As we face the third year of drought, Santa Clara County residents, businesses must take steps to reduce water use.

Despite some much-welcomed rain in April, Santa Clara County remains in a drought emergency.

These recent storms were nowhere near enough to make up for the record dry conditions that impacted California during the first three months of 2022. During that time, San Jose recorded .36 inches of rain combined, far below what we normally get (approximately 7.7 inches). The Sierra Nevada snowpack measured on April 1 was the fifth smallest on record.

Snowmelt and rain from the Sierra Nevada are sources for our imported water, which makes up about half of Santa Clara County's water supply.

Based on the record dry conditions so far in 2022, the amount of imported water Santa Clara County will receive this year from the state and federal government was significantly reduced. These limited amounts of imported water bring conservation to the forefront of our drought-fighting efforts.

On April 12, 2022, my fellow Board Members and I unanimously voted to restrict the watering of lawns and ornamental landscapes in Santa Clara to no more than two days a week. We also voted to prohibit watering during the warmest parts of the day (for example, no irrigation between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

The Board of Directors also adopted other recommendations to help households reduce their water use, including:

- Making sure irrigation doesn't cause runoff
- Call for uniform watering days and times among water retailers who do not

have existing restrictions on days and times

- Prioritizing tree irrigation over lawns and ornamental landscapes

Our agency has been a statewide leader in taking actions to reduce water use during this drought. In June 2021, we established a 15% water use reduction goal for Santa Clara County compared to 2019. Overall, residents, businesses and farmers reduced water use by 6% between June 2021 and February 2022.

I want to thank everyone who has taken steps to reduce water use. Please continue your water conservation efforts.

But we have a way to go to reach our 15% goal. As we enter the warmer spring and summer months, now is the time for residents and businesses to ramp up their water-saving efforts.

Typically, outdoor water use represents about half of household water use. We believe Santa Clara County can reach the 15% reduction this year if everyone limits outdoor watering to no more than two days a week.

Valley Water is also doing our part to help Santa Clara County get through this drought.

Our agency will continue expanding programs that promote efficient watering and

reduce runoff. We can help residents and businesses reduce water use through a variety of programs, including a rebate to replace thirsty lawns with a drought-tolerant landscape. Please visit watersavings.org to take advantage of our robust conservation rebates and programs.

We are purchasing emergency water on the open market to ensure our communities continue to have a reliable supply of safe, clean water. Unfortunately, as water becomes scarce during this severe drought, it also becomes more expensive. The best way to save money is to save water.

In addition, Valley Water is making smart and necessary investments in water infrastructure and technology. We'll need to be prepared for severe droughts by developing and managing drought-resilient water supplies, such as increasing our use of recycled and purified water.

Please join us in adapting to drought by reducing your outdoor watering to no more than two days a week. Together we can reach the 15% water reduction goal.

John L. Varela is the Chair Pro Tem of the Valley Water Board of Directors.



Water District

John L. Varela,
Chair Pro Tem

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Times **Feature**

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

DeepMind

By Shubhi Asthana

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:

DeepMind
DeepMind is a division of Alphabet, Inc. which is the parent company for Google. It is

responsible for developing general-purpose artificial intelligence (AGI) technology. It was bought from a University College London spinout, DeepMind for a reported 400M euros in January 2014.

DeepMind uses raw pixel data as input and learns from experience. The researchers try to provide a large set of raw information to the algorithms as possible so that the systems themselves can learn the very best representations to use those for action or classification or predictions.

DeepMind technology has been challenged in many avenues; for example, it has been challenged to learn games on its own. For example, when it was tasked to beat the library of Atari games, it learned to understand the

games without changing the code. After a time, the AI could play the games better and with more efficiency than humans.

In pushing the boundaries of AI, DeepMind tasked itself with defeating the board game Go. Go is a computational challenge for AI, largely because of the complexity of choosing among the immense number of possible moves in the game. DeepMind developed a special project called AlphaGo, a computer program designed to play the board game. After numerous versions of supervised learning AI models, AlphaGo bested the No. 1 player worldwide in 2017.

Outside of playing games, DeepMind was used to improve power efficiency in the already optimized data centers at Google.

DeepMind was able to improve on the efforts of previous specialists by 15%, making a 40% reduction in cooling costs. It’s also been used in developing Google Assistant and helps create personalized app recommendations in Google Play.

As you can see, Google didn’t buy DeepMind for nothing. Indeed, it’s using certain DeepMind algorithms to make many of its best-known products and services smarter than they were previously.

About the Author
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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Times **Local News**

Fairgrounds

Continued from page 1

Downtown Street Team, could lift 800 people off the streets and save the county roughly \$23 million annually, members of the group estimated.

Located along Tully Road, the fairgrounds has been underutilized for years. It's home to the annual county fair, off-track horse race betting and a paintball arena.

The site also has a shelter that serves 50 to 80 homeless people per night. Part of the area also serves as the county's largest COVID-19 testing and vaccination site.

The group of homeless advocates, called the Coalition for the Unhoused of Silicon Valley, wants the county to carve out 13 acres to host 160 RV safe parking spaces and 240 tiny homes to create multiple small communities, each with 40 people. The plan envisions case workers and wraparound services available onsite to help people quickly transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

Term Limit

Continued from page 4

Several councilmembers blasted the water district for spending \$3.2 million to place it on the ballot at a time when the agency has been raising water rates and buying water at high prices to reduce shortages in the drought.

"You know what's even worse than wasting taxpayer money? Intentionally misleading them," said San Jose Councilman Matt Mahan. "And that's exactly what this measure does."

Councilmember Raul Peralez said, "When I read through the language, I was appalled."

Since 2010, water board members have been limited to three successive four-year terms. But in February, as several of them faced being termed out of office this year, the district's board voted 4-3 to put a measure on the June 7 countywide ballot to extend their service to four successive four-year terms. The measure's language does not say that if approved by voters, water district members, some of whom already have served more than 20 years on the board, could serve longer.

Voting in favor of the resolution to oppose the ballot measure were Mahan, Peralez, Magdalena Carrasco, Dev Davis, Maya Esparza, Sylvia Arenas and Pam Foley. Voting no were Jimenez, David Cohen and Vice Mayor Chappie Jones.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District, based in San Jose, is a government agency that provides water and flood protection to 2 million residents countywide.

"We want this to show people that various communities can coexist peacefully together," Virginia Becker, a coalition member, told San José Spotlight. "There isn't any reason why the sports park can't be built alongside this."

Homeless problem persists

The proposal comes as the South Bay continues to grapple with its homeless crisis that has exploded in the last few years. Santa Clara County saw an increase of 31% in its unhoused population the last time it did a tally in 2019. A new count is being conducted and analyzed, but advocates and officials predict the issue has only gotten worse.

For every person getting off the streets, two more fall into homelessness in Santa Clara County, according to the county's estimation.

A homeless encampment near Columbus Park in San Jose has grown to become one of

the largest camps in the Bay Area, where a few hundred people are living in squalid conditions and fear as the city is under a tight federal deadline to clear the area by June 30. City officials started posting notices of an upcoming sweep last week but have not provided a clear path forward for this population.

Chavez, a San Jose mayoral candidate whose constituents are in the fairgrounds district, said the county is focusing on other county-owned lands to expand its homeless services and affordable housing inventory.

"We have four pieces of properties that we're bringing forward," Chavez told San José Spotlight. "We're not sitting around."

Chavez also said she wants to see other districts in the county step up to help address the homeless crisis. In San Jose, the district where the fairgrounds is located accounts for rough-

ly 18% of all affordable rentals in the city, San José Spotlight previously reported.

"Neighbors around here are saying, 'we did our part, now everybody else help,'" Chavez said. "And I think that's a fair request of them."

The county declined to comment on its plans at the fairgrounds.

Claudia Rossi, a county Office of Education trustee running to replace termed-out Supervisor Mike Wasserman, said she is supportive of the proposal and would consider exploring transitional housing at the fairgrounds if elected.

"Every municipality has to contribute to the solutions," Rossi told San José Spotlight, pointing to a local school district proposal to subsidize housing for teachers. "What's attractive to me about this plan is it's only asking for a portion of the fairgrounds."

Shawn Ansari – Record Sale



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Why Size Matters: An Introduction to Quantum Dots (Part 3)

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. In the last issue, we talked a bit about the idea of manipulating matter and atoms at the nanoscale—which turns out to be pretty difficult. However, we can explore the next best thing: quantum dots! They have unique optical properties that allow us to tune them to any color we want. So what do we want?

QDs Be Crazy

Quantum dots don't just make for fun light shows, their unique optical properties and energy tunability mean that we can use them for all sorts of applications where controlling light is important! Like photovoltaics, imaging, detecting, luminescent labels in biology, and so on! For the sake of time, we'll look at just three application buckets here: solar cells, televisions, and medicine.

Solar Cell My Soul to QDs

Quantum dots are great at capturing light and converting it into electricity efficiently and, better yet, they require less space than the more standard materials! Talk about breakthrough technology—



right now people are very excited about what QDs can do for solar cells.

In a traditional solar cell, photons of sunlight kick electrons out of a semiconductor into a circuit and make electric



power at a low efficiency. Here come QDs to save the day! Quantum dots can generate more than one electron-hole pair (or exciton) per photon that knocks into them, which boosts their efficiency in converting sunlight to energy. This effect is called the multiple exciton generation (MEG), and is much preferred to the traditional solar cell's single produced electron per incoming photon.

Beyond our friend MEG, quantum dots can be more easily manufactured with inexpensive materials that don't need to be extensively purified (like silicon) and can be applied to cheap and flexible substrates (aka the underlying layer), like light-weight plastics.

Well, this certainly (solar) sells me on QDs!

Let's Watch the QDs on TV

If channeling the literal sun wasn't enough, quantum dots are also now being put into LCD TVs because they make the pictures more colorful and vibrant (like my personality...and also kinda like LSD).

Their precise tunability gives us these realistic colors, whereas a traditional LCD is made from tiny combinations of red,

blue, and green crystals that are illuminated from behind a bright backlight. Quantum dots actually don't even need a backlight, they produce the light themselves, so they're much more energy efficient! This

makes a BIG difference for saving battery in small, portable devices like your cell phone (and helps make sure it doesn't die at the exact moment you need it). Quantum dots also let you watch cute dog and cat videos at a much higher-resolution.

From purer colors to long battery life to being cheap in price but not in quality, QDs are considered the future of displays in all sizes. That's quantumazing.

Let There Be Light...to Detect

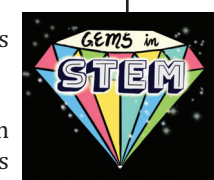
Because quantum dots can be mapped to a rainbow, scientists can use them to target and color code cells, helping them visualize and track molecular surfaces within cells.

Unlike most organic dyes (which generally have a limited color range and degrade quickly), quantum dots can be excited by various light sources since they have a broad absorption spectra, and their light emissions can also be easily distinguished since the emission spectra is narrower than traditional dyes. They're basically incredibly bright, can virtually produce any color, and are photostable (meaning they could theoretically last forever). All in all, quantum dots are like nanoscopic light bulbs—a fantastic find for biological imaging, labeling, sensing, and more!

The color intensity of QDs also fades more slowly over time compared to other markers, meaning that they could track how molecules move inside a cell over a long period of time. We could also identify single-molecule binding events over time



Gems in STEM
By Apoorva Panidapu






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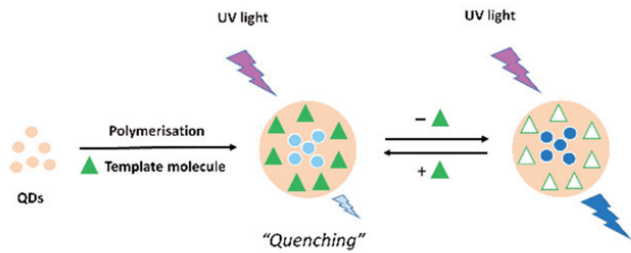
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Times **Feature**

The color intensity of QDs also fades more slowly over time compared to other markers, meaning that they could track how molecules move inside a cell over a long period of time. We could also identify single-molecule binding events over time (which is usually difficult) because QDs have a blinking property that lets us identify individual quantum dots in a sample.

(which is usually difficult) because QDs have a blinking property that lets us identify individual quantum dots in a sample.

Let's throw some other fun applications into the mix: QDs can be used as neuroscience sensors, signify when a therapy X-ray beam is correctly located, or for targeted drug delivery and cell labeling. They also have potential as radiation detectors for security, since quantum dots give off light near radiation. QDs are moreover being tested as sensors for chemical and biological warfare agents, which is insane. QDs definitely scooby-doo be crazy!

Risky, Risky

All of this sounds too good to be true—

'QDs are moreover being tested as sensors for chemical and biological warfare agents, which is insane. QDs definitely scooby-doo be crazy!'

'QDs are considered the future of displays in all sizes. That's quantum-azing.'

and it kind of is! Using quantum dots in these sorts of medical situations raises a couple different issues in safety. Quantum dots need to be nontoxic and should either dissipate or remain in a patient without harming them. However, a lot of the current materials (like Cadmium) used to make QDs don't fit this criteria and can cause health problems, but looking for other element combinations can be expensive.

Not only do we have to consider our own health, we have to take care of the environment's health too. As we start using nanomaterials more, we must also address and carefully monitor their potential pollution and toxicity—let's cross our t's and dot our i's for our Earth.

Alright, let's finally climb out of this rabbit hole and come back to the real, macroscale world. If there's anything we learned on this journey in the quantum wonderland, size matters sometimes! (But not always.)

Wait! Before you go, I have one last question for you: are you a semiconducting nanocrystal? Because you're a QD & the light of my life. <3

Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvapwrites@gmail.com.

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK**Basic universal income proposed for once home-less high school grads**

\$85M price tag is a first for Silicon Valley

By William Bellou
Publisher

State Senator Dave Cortese wants to stop the cycle of homelessness by providing guaranteed funding: low-income high school seniors.

Cortese's bill SB 1341, which recently cleared the California Senate Education Committee, would provide \$1,000 per month unconditionally to roughly 15,000 high school seniors who have experienced homelessness.

Expected pay out to last five months

The proposed guaranteed income would start after graduation and last for about five months until the students begin college, vocational training or enter the workforce.

11% of California State University students experience homelessness

Cortese was motivated to create the bill after reviewing the 2021 Silicon Valley Pain Index and other studies that found 11% of California State University students experience homelessness during their college career.

'They've done nothing to deserve homelessness'

"I will always remember the surprise I felt seeing that 25% of the homeless population was under the age of 25," Cortese

told San José Spotlight. "Tens of thousands are students who are graduating seniors. It's not as if they're not trying to stay in school. They're graduating, they've done nothing to deserve to be homeless. So what are we doing to get them out of homelessness?"

A \$1000 a month payment provides a notable difference

Implementing Cortese's proposed plan is estimated to cost the state about \$85 million—a price tag the senator says is worth it. He initially wanted to provide UBI to college students to support their educational efforts, but found \$1,000 checks would affect a student's federal financial aid.

"The irony of trying to help low-income college students with guaranteed income is you've actually potentially hurt them today," Cortese said, adding his larger goal is to change how federal student aid is dispersed.

Similar foster youth pilot program launched in 2020

Cortese launched a similar pilot program when he was a Santa Clara County supervisor, giving 72 transitional-aged foster youth countywide \$1,000 a month. The program started in June 2020 and ran through August 2021. The universal basic income for foster youth has resulted in 72 participants finishing high school, college, vocational training and even a master's program.

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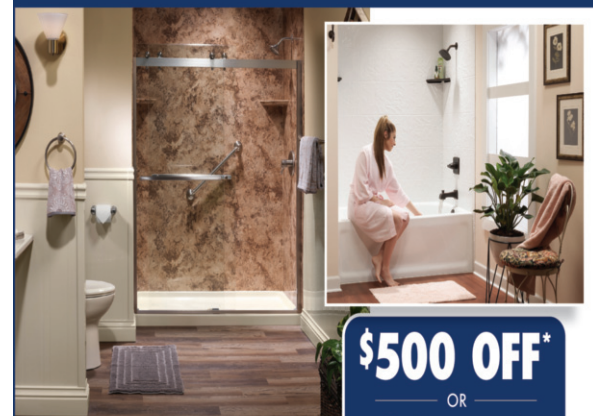
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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.

www.ccavucc.org.

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Web: www.eca-sj.org

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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.

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growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com.



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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

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Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM

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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.

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Times **Feature**

Niroshta: an interesting Ragam

By Veena Krishnan

It is usual for ragams to exclude notes, but Niroshtha is quite unique because of the notes it excludes.

Niroshtha, literally meaning “without the lips,” is a ragam that completely omits the notes “Ma” and “Pa.” The other syllables of the Carnatic solfege, “Sa,” “Ri,” “Ga,” “Dha,” and “Ni” can be sung without one’s lips touching. We can conclude by this that Niroshtha’s arohanam and avarohanam do not contain Madhyamam and Panchamam. This ragam is very pleasing to the ear and it lifts the spirits of an audience when sung in a concert.

The creation of this ragam is credited to Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavatar, a great composer born in the mid-late 19th century. Some popular compositions in this ragam are the krithi Raja Raja Radhite

by Muthiah Bhagavatar, the varnam Kanin Maniye by Thanjavur S. Kalyanaraman, and a thillana by Madurai T. N. Seshagopalan. Both Raja Raja Radhite and Madurai T. N. Seshagopalan’s thillana even have sahityam (lyrics) that does not require one to bring their lips together to say the syllables.

There is an interesting story behind Raja Raja Radhite. When the Mysore Maharaja was ill and as a result, had swollen lips, it is said that Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavatar composed this krithi. In the present day, this ragam is quite popular and sung in many concerts. Check out this video to listen to Madurai Sri. T. N. Seshagopalan singing Raja Raja Radhite in Niroshtha: https://youtu.be/-uvjtzBU_7c

Would you like to sing this unique ragam, Niroshtha?



**About
Carnatic
Music**

By Veena Krishnan



This is an image of **Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavatar**, who is attributed to creating the ragam Niroshtha.



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