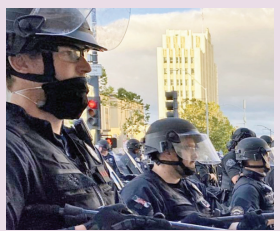


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Santa Clara County stores put purchase limit on baby formula –
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Times

MAY 27 – JUNE 9, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 11

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Selina Lu is the first place winner for the logo contest.

Almaden Valley Women's Club announces scholarship and logo contest winners

By Beth Swartz
Special to the Times

The Almaden Valley Women's Club has announced the winner of their annual logo contest as well as scholarship winners for 2022.

Each year, the women's club award scholarships to local area high school students who demonstrate excellence in community involvement. This year's recipients included students involved in local government, volunteering in Mexico, two Eagle Scouts, and STEM outreach programs.

The following scholarship recipients are:

Rex Bushur

Rex is a senior at Leland High School and plans to attend Auburn University where he'll study to be a pilot. Rex has been involved in several community projects, volunteering to help other families in need within

See WINNERS, page 17

Bridging the Gap

Leland Bridge Lion Dancers at Simonds Elementary School Multicultural Fair

By Claire Chen

Leland Bridge Student Writer

Drums pounded and colors swirled at Simonds Elementary School as part of their annual Multicultural Fair on May 13.

Featuring booths representing an assortment of countries and flaunting everything from flags to food, attendees of all ages were able to immerse themselves in unfamiliar cultures using all five senses.

At the heart of the fair, a crowd formed to watch one cultural performance after another.

Amongst the performances that day, a traditional Chinese lion dance presented by members of the



Amongst the performances that day, a traditional Chinese lion dance presented by members of the Leland Bridge Parents Group.

Leland Bridge Parents Group, a parent and student organization at local Leland High School that aims to close the distance between Chinese-American families and the school community.

Shaking, stomping, and even rolling to the beat of drums and cymbals (the heartbeat of the lions,

which wards off evil spirits), the two lions danced in synchronization to cheers from the audience.

A symbol of good luck and strength

In Chinese culture, lions are a respected symbol of good luck, wisdom and strength, making it taboo to touch their horns or mir-

rors, or to step over their tails. Such gestures are synonymous with bad luck and disrespect. Instead, for good luck, children were able to "feed" red envelopes (usually containing money as payment for the lions' blessing) to the lions, who in turn "spat" out candy

See DANCERS, page 16

Chabad Almaden is literally rising from the ashes

New Jewish center near Westfield Oakridge Mall; new facility double the size of Jewish facility destroyed by fire

By William Bellou

Publisher

Rabbi Mendel Weinfeld has stressed the importance of focusing on the positive since a tragic fire destroyed his Chabad Almaden facility in December.

The fire left the Almaden Jewish community without a permanent home, but the good news, in the wake of the incident, Chabad Almaden received an outpouring of financial support.

Mendel Weinfeld says an outpouring of public and financial support for the new center has bolstered his faith in the community.

More than double the size of the previous location

"I soon realized that the support community turned a very dark moment last winter into a

See CHABAD, page 21



The new Chabad Almaden's 8,750-square-foot center is in escrow with a purchase price of \$4.5 million and is located at 5580 Almaden Expressway.

'Mazal Tov! We're in escrow!'

– Rabbi Mendel Weinfeld

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



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Reader suggests strengthening guardrails on the executive branch

Dear Editor,

Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree that no president, regardless of party, should be able to obstruct and undermine the will of the American people or exploit weaknesses in our political system for personal gain.

That's where the Protecting Our Democracy Act comes in. If passed, it would prevent future abuse of presidential power and corruption, increase transparency, and ensure presidents of either party

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



can be held accountable.

Strengthening the guardrails on presidential power is just common sense. If the average person used their office for personal gain, they'd go to jail. If the average person could pardon themselves, there would be no rule of law.

No president should be above the law. That's why I'm urging Congress to pass the Protecting Our Democracy Act. We must prevent future presidents of any party from abusing the power of their office.

Sam Ford

NOTEBOOK



Grant Ranch House grand re-opening

By Times staff writers

The grand re-opening of the Grant House located in Joseph D. Grant County Park is scheduled for Saturday, June 18 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Tours will be provided of the historic home and attendees can roam freely around the grounds and his-

toric garden. Light refreshments will be served.

The recent completed phase of rehabilitation focused on repair and rehabilitation of the Grant House including high priority items such as seismic and structural upgrades, roofing and gutter replacement, painting and rehabilitation of the siding, windows, shutters, exterior doors, decking and balustrade.

The project also included seismic and structural upgrades and rehabilitation of the Tank House and replacement of roofing on the Guest and Carriage Houses.

Joseph D. Grant County Park is located at 18405 Mt. Hamilton Road in San Jose.

Background

In the early 20th Century, the original Grant Ranch house and surrounding structures built by the Hubbard family in 1882 were acquired by Joseph D. Grant and transformed, in the early 1930's, into an elegant country estate which, in addition to the Main House, included a cookhouse, guest and servant's quarters, a rose garden and large aviary and an outdoor pool. The Ranch complex and surrounding acreage of the ranch property was acquired by Parks in 1975 and opened as the Joseph D. Grant County Park in 1978.

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational opportunities, beautiful parks and precious natural resources for Santa Clara County residents for more than 60 years. This golden legacy has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in the State of California.

Valley Currents

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



San Jose police officers stand outside City Hall on May 30, 2020 on the second day of George Floyd protests. *File photo.*

How will San Jose mayor candidates improve the police department?

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Almost every candidate for San Jose mayor is pledging to rebuild the city's police department, which is still recovering from staffing losses that happened a decade ago. Their strategies are largely similar, with some differences.

In recent forums, mayoral candidates Supervisor Cindy Chavez, San Jose Councilmembers Dev Davis, Matt Mahan and Raul Peralez and former police Sgt. James Spence have discussed the need to add more officers to the San Jose Police Department (SJPD). San Jose State University student Marshall Woodmansee is the only candidate who doesn't want to increase the ranks.

The department has struggled in recent years with staffing and resource problems. SJPD lost nearly 600 officers after the 2008 recession due to budget cuts, layoffs and a bitter battle over pension reform with former Mayor Chuck Reed.

As of March, SJPD has 1,153 sworn officers, but only 986 are active full time.

The mayor's proposed budget calls for adding 15 more officers in the next year and dozens more in coming years. Per a 2021 auditor's report, the department's overtime hours increased 300% over the past decade, which some officials say reflects the fact that officers have to work longer hours to make up for the lack of personnel.

"SJPD is the most thinly staffed, large metropolitan police department in the nation," SJPD

spokesperson Steve Aponte told San José Spotlight. According to FBI data, the national average is 2.4 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents; in San Jose, the ratio is closer to 1 officer per 1,000 residents.

Most candidates running for San Jose mayor believe the city needs to hire enough cops over the next five to 10 years to bring the department back to its pre-recession size of about 1,400 sworn officers.

Aside from Mahan, none of the candidates who spoke with San José Spotlight had an estimate for how much this would cost, with some saying they would need input from the city manager and budget director. Mahan estimates adding 250 officers over five years would cost approximately \$50 million annually.

The San Jose Police Department has weathered several recent scandals involving misconduct, including revelations about an officer placed on leave months ago for allegedly offering a meth pipe to an informant to get information. Mayor Sam Liccardo said in a statement there is a serious problem in the department that requires attention, but it does not reflect the behavior of the vast majority of officers.

More cops

Davis, who has pledged adding 250 officers by 2030, told San José Spotlight she wants to hire more traffic enforcement officers and establish more foot patrols to protect businesses. She claims she's the only candidate advocating for more community service officers, noting these workers currently

write about 50% of the reports for the police department.

Davis also wants to complete the new police training center on time and on budget, and fully staff the South San Jose police substation. Last year, the City Council approved purchasing an \$18.5 million plot of land on Enzo Drive to create a new police training facility. For several years SJPD has been training officers at a substation on Great Oaks Parkway.

"It's important for us to maintain competitiveness with other police departments in our area," Davis said. "We work in partnership with the (San Jose Police Officers' Association) to ensure we're competitive."

Davis has also expressed interest in growing the partnership between SJPD and Santa Clara County in addressing mental health-related calls.

Peralez, a current reserve officer who served in SJPD for eight years, noted the department has seen a huge decline in applicants, which is part of a national trend. In 2017-18, the department received 10,063 applications. In 2020-21 SJPD received just 3,375.

Peralez said the 2020 protests over the Minneapolis police killing of an unarmed Black man named George Floyd and city officials pursuing departmental reforms may have scared off potential hires. He said the department needs more investigators for sexual assaults and domestic violence, plus mobile crisis response teams, which focus on people experiencing psychiatric emergencies.

See POLICE, page 19

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Times **In Memory**



Kevin Lichtenberg

December 20, 1979 - April 17, 2022
Pioneer High School Graduate

Kevin Lichtenberg passed away Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022.

He attended Pioneer High School and received a B.A. in communications from Santa Clara University.

Predeceased by his grandparents Bill and Betty Jones, survived by his mother Karen Lichtenberg, his father Bruce Lichtenberg, brother Scott, uncles Robert Jones, Martin Jones (Lisa), Aunt Sister Katherine Jones, P.B.V.M, cousins Christopher Jones (Marina), Allison Schwan (Jeff) and their families.

A funeral mass was held May 17 at St. Christopher's Catholic Church in San Jose.

Contributions in Kevin's name can be made to Wings for Life USA - Spinal Cord Research Foundation, Inc., Santa Monica, CA.



Marlene Judy

(Silver) Agnoletti

May 28, 1947 – May 1, 2022

Resident of Almaden

Crowned 'Miss New Almaden' in 1966

After a lengthy 32-year battle with thyroid cancer, Marlene passed away peacefully at the age of 74 in her home with her family by her side. Born to LeRoy (deceased) and Carmella "Dede" Silver in San Jose, Ca, Marlene spent most of her life in Almaden Valley.

Marlene is survived by her devoted husband of 52 years, Robert "Robie," and her four sons, Rob, Aaron (Kristina), Derrick, and Michael. Although an only child, she gained her siblings through Robie. Her surviving

See AGNOLETTI, page 9

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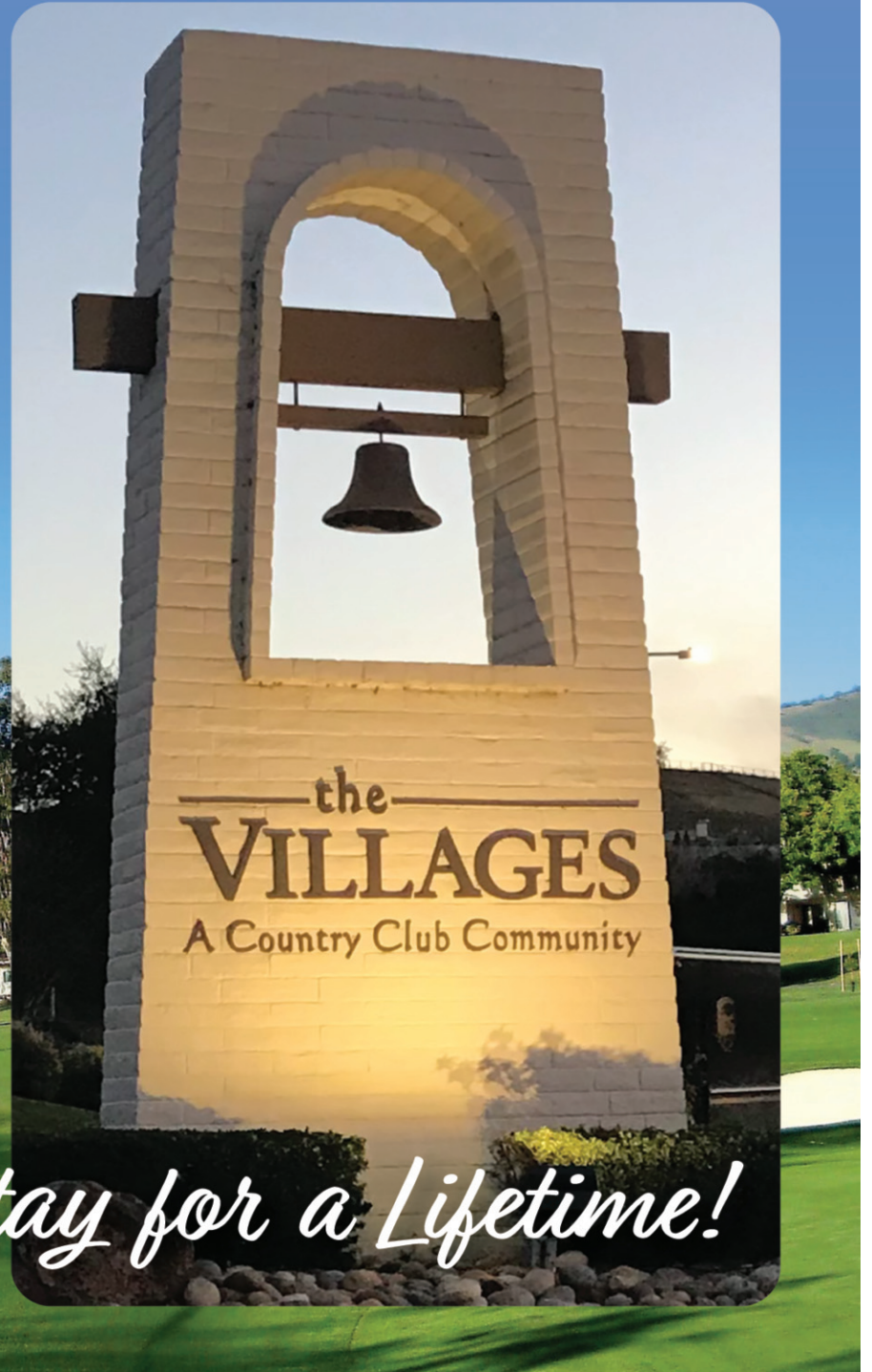
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Times **Community**

'We're going back in time'

San Jose rallies for reproductive rights

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Rallies for reproductive rights took place nationwide Saturday, May 14 including in front of San Jose City Hall. For some residents, it was their first time protesting. For others, it's a reminder of a much older battle.

"We're going back in time," attendee Caitlyn Garsh told San José Spotlight. She attended the protest with her great aunt, whose older sister took part in reproductive rights protests in the early 1970s. "It's insane people are trying to decide what we can do with our bodies."

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and a coalition of advocates and residents joined together in downtown San Jose and held signs proclaiming, "My body, my choice," "Protect safe, legal abortion" and "Together we fight for all." The demonstration took place in anticipation of the Supreme Court overturning the 1973 landmark Roe v. Wade decision, which has guaranteed the right to abortions for close to 50 years. On May 2, Politico broke the story on a leaked draft opinion indicating the nation's highest court will overturn Roe v. Wade, which could allow states to outlaw nearly all abortions at 15 weeks gestation.

Anticipating an increase in out-of-state patients unable to receive reproductive health services, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously earlier this month to give Planned Parenthood Mar Monte \$3 million to expand services, renovate its clinics and create a telehealth behavioral health program. Planned Parenthood Mar Monte is the largest Planned Parenthood in California.

"It's unbelievable to me in 2022, they are going this far with reproductive health care," Planned Parenthood Mar Monte CEO Stacy Cross told San José Spotlight. "It could impact many other rights we have gotten from the Supreme Court during my lifetime."

Cross joined speakers from the National Women's Political Caucus, Orchard City Indivisible and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez in front of a crowd of more than 1,000 people, according to organizer estimates. Chavez, who's running for San Jose mayor, urged the crowd to vote and stay politically engaged.

"Today is about turning fear and pain into ferocity and power," Chavez said.

Resident Crystal Calhoun said in March 1973, at age 16, she was one of the first teenagers in America to have a legal abortion.

"It kept my life on track," she told San José Spotlight. "I was able to graduate, have a career, marry and have three children. If that hadn't happened, I would've been a teenage mother dependent on the state."

Calhoun considers herself lucky. She said before abortions were legal in the U.S., some women used bleach or coat hangers to end a pregnancy, which could result in being unable to have children—and even death. According to the Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy organization, a 1960s survey found that in New York City, eight out of 10 low-income women who had an abortion attempted a self-induced procedure. In 1965, 17% of pregnancy and childbirth related deaths resulted from

illegal abortions.

Helen Barrios, 71, said she knew people who had to have illegal abortions before Roe v. Wade passed. She said it's demoralizing and frustrating to still be fighting for reproductive rights decades later.

"The vast majority of Americans support a woman's right to choose," she said, "and the Supreme Court should reflect the majority sentiment in the country."

While these women have been speaking up for reproductive rights for years, for others it was their first time taking action, including 12-year-old Imelia Nguyen. She showed up at City Hall with her mother, Kristi Thraves, to share their voices.

"People could die from this," Nguyen told San José Spotlight. "Everyone should be heard... no matter what color they are. We want our rights in the future."



Silicon Valley residents stood up for women's reproductive rights at a weekend rally in front of San Jose City Hall. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.



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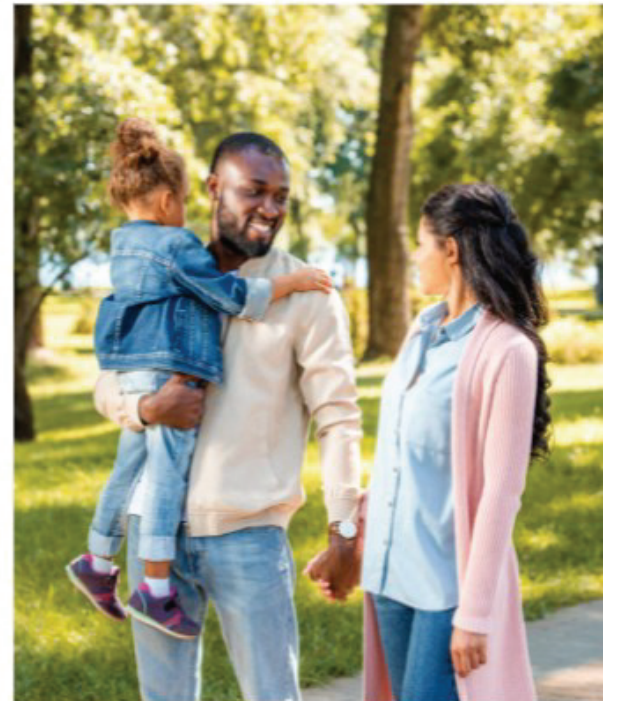
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* 100% of proceeds are donated as grants to struggling charities and schools, and merit-based scholarships for high school students.

For more information
www.AlmadenWomen.org



Join our community of involved women!

The Almaden Valley Women's Club is currently accepting new members. We are a committed group of women who enjoy having fun while giving back to our community. We come together to volunteer as a group, to socialize with walks and fun activities and to put on annual community events, raising funds for local area non-profit organizations.

If you live in the San Jose area and are interested in learning more about us, please visit our website: <https://www.almadenwomen.org>



Times News

Agnoletti

Continued from page 5

extended family includes brother-in-law Richard and sisters-in-law, Susan (Hank) and Lisa (Rob), Silver, Pulizzi, Daniel, Gabrielson, Sarazen, and Avila families. She was also blessed with many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Marlene graduated from Pioneer High School, Class of 1965. A year later, she was crowned Miss New Almaden. She worked for Pacific Bell from 1965-1970 as directory assistant while attending San Jose City College. After one year of marriage, they moved to Chicago in 1970 while Robie attended dental school at Loyola University.

While in Chicago, she held the title of communication surveillance specialist for AT&T to support Robie through school. She and Robie returned to San Jose in 1974 when she first became a mother and raised her children. Eventually her dream home became a reality where she continued nurturing her family. More recently, she found her calling through volunteering in many departments at Good Samaritan Hospital for thirteen years.

Anyone who Marlene knew about, and loved, her famous chocolate chip cookies and specialty birthday cakes! She was always happiest giving to family and friends. She enjoyed weekend trips with Robie, and visiting her children, friends,



and family who live in different states. Music was Marlene's other passion in life, you could find her on the dance floor at every event she attended "shakin' a tail feather." Marlene always had a bright smile (with great teeth!). Laughter was her best medicine, her smile and energy lit up the room. She will be missed tremendously, loved, and remembered by so many.


Family and friends attended a Funeral Mass Friday, May 20th at Holy Spirit Church in Almaden. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Marlene to Stanford Head and Neck Oncology (memorial.stanford.edu) or Mission Hospice (missionhospice.org)

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Times Feature

Santa Clara County stores put purchase limit on baby formula

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The national baby formula shortage is hitting the South Bay, prompting some stores to limit purchases as parents scramble to stock up on supply.

The months-long crisis has reached new heights in the last few weeks—with the national out-of-stock rate hitting 43% as of last week, according to retail data service Datasembly. California is seeing a better rate at 32%—but some families in Santa Clara County are feeling the pressure, with stores such as Walmart and Target setting purchasing limits on the sparse inventory.

The shelves for formula at retailers on Monterey Road in San Jose are mostly empty as of Friday.

San Jose resident Ariel Perez said she has only breastfed her infant, Max, since he was born five months ago. But she's on the hunt for baby formula for her two friends. Their babies, one- and three-months-old, rely on formula, Perez said.

"It's scary for them because they couldn't find their babies' food," Perez told San José Spotlight while shopping at a Target on Monterey Road. "We have been talking about it in our group chat."

Perez said her friends drove from San Jose to Mountain View to look for formula. They have also been watching Amazon and other online retailers with little luck.

"I'm not impacted so I told them if they need, they can come over and use my breast milk," Perez said.

Supply chain woes

Experts blame the shortage on supply chain issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue also worsened this year after a shutdown of a key production facility in Michigan in February. Two federal agencies are investigating the plant, owned by Abbott Nutrition, after reports of contaminated formula linked to the deaths of at least two infants, according to national news reports.

The infant formula shortage has also driven up demands for breast milk locally. The Mother's Milk Bank, a 48-year-old nonprofit in San Jose, is seeing more inquiries from families and mothers, said Executive Director Jonathan Bautista.

Donated breast milk is screened and tested before entering the system.

"With the increased media coverage of the formula shortage, we're starting to see more families reach out to us just to get an understanding of what human milk is and what the benefit is for their babies," Bautista told San José Spotlight.

"We are also seeing an increase in moms who have excess breast milk and donate to the bank."

The Mother's Milk Bank, the oldest milk bank in the nation, has seen a 20% increase in demand for supply compared to last year—but Bautista said the demand is mostly driven by needs of premature infants in neonatal intensive care units at hospitals. The organization provides its supply to local hospitals such as Santa Clara Valley Health, Good Samaritan and Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The milk bank also provides services directly to families in need.

The shortage has prompted the White House to consider invoking the Defense Production Act, which would allow the government more control to address the shortage. President Joe Biden also asked states Friday to increase access to baby formula for fami-



San Jose resident Ariel Perez said she's on the hunt for baby formula for her friends, whose infants are one- and three-months-old. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

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lies and mothers in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

There were more than 20,000 children and mothers in the county's WIC program in 2018. California hasn't updated the data for the last three years. The FDA is looking to streamline the import process for more formula, according to news reports.

Santa Clara County officials said the national shortage has not impacted services and care at its hospitals.

"Our staff has been proactive in ordering formula and while our supply is tight, we have enough supplies for our patients," county spokesperson Joy Alexiou told San José Spotlight. "In addition, our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit team has adjusted their formula recipe to make sure that all babies are receiving the recommended calories per day for optimal growth."

San Jose resident Angie Ramirez said she feels lucky to have decided to breast feed her three-month-old son, Rahyo.

"If I were using formula, I would probably be paying way too much for it," Ramirez told San José Spotlight outside of Buy Buy Baby on Almaden Expressway, noting she has started to see people reselling baby formula online at inflated prices. "My baby's food is non-negotiable."

For more county resources, visit <https://first5parents.org/community-resources>

Families can also call 1-888-WIC-WORKS to get help paying for baby formula.

Mystery solved: Homeless elderly lady has money in the bank

City leaders and politicians secretly allowed 3 month 'Homeless Hotel' to open 7 days a week at public library without informing public

By Kevin Larsen

The following is an opinion editorial (OpEd) and is composed of my personal opinions.

One San Jose community watched for months as a homeless elderly lady 80 years-old, began to pile up belongings next to a bus stop.

'Homeless Hotel'

There are two OWL WARMING CENTERS in San Jose where low-income people check in at 8 p.m. and check out at 7 a.m. I believe there are secret places (not announced well by the city) and Evergreen library is perhaps the only library in San Jose that does this. These centers are paid for by the City of San Jose and run by a for profit company called HOMEFIRST. Originally the libraries were used for very cold nights or very hot days sporadically.

This year that changed and the Evergreen library was secretly (in my opinion) utilized as a daily free Homeless Hotel, meaning, with referral people could stay there for months. Homeless people came to the library from outside the community and on Fridays, people could walk up and try to get a place to sleep without a referral. This allegedly brought in new homeless people to Evergreen and in my opinion, many stayed all day to return to the 'Homeless Hotel,' the next night for a free dinner.

At the OWL WARMING CENTERS ('Homeless Hotels') blue mats were spread out closely for people to communally sleep on the floor in the library. A sheet was supplied for each mat. These centers were running for months and the community in my opinion, was not informed well. I believe Mayor Liccardo must invest in satellite shelters and not use our public libraries for annual long term 'Homeless Hotels.' I believe there needs to be public buy-in on what we do rather than pay a for profit company (HOMEFIRST) to secretly open up a 'Homeless Hotel.' With regard to the elderly lady at the bus stop, I informed several prominent politicians, but they reported that the lady refused help. Our politicians let us down in my opinion. Nobody knew!

"Hanoi," stayed in the OWL WARMING CENTER for perhaps a month and then it is believed, allegedly, as told to me by others, she perhaps wanted to bring more items (in bags) into the warming center, however she was allegedly only allowed to bring in two bags it was rumored and thus her request was denied by the staff and she was upset and that night moved over to the bus bench to set up a new home. She was in my opinion relocated to another community because someone brought her to the OWL WARMING CENTER.

Through social media 1000's of people connected

More than one NEXTDOOR.COM reader visited the elderly lady to communicate to her. One said, "Mama, people are trying to help you and you need to accept their help." They also said, "Ahhh, I hope soon she has a new safe home and she is happy."

"Hanoi," often griped to me about people taking her things. On one evening while visiting her after 12 midnight, I spotted a man going through her things from one of her piles

and taking them.

The next day "Hanoi" told me that someone took her purse in the past. She said the purse contained her California ID, her Passport, Keys to her postal box and Banking Information.

Person from NEXTDOOR allegedly says they have purse

Weeks later I was contacted by a person who gave me their phone number on the NEXTDOOR.COM chat. I called this person and spoke to this person who was also trying to help the elderly lady. I asked if the person had her purse. I was told over the phone, "If I gave it back to her, she would take out her monies from the bank and just give it away to others."

I asked "Hanoi" kindly if she wanted her purse back and she responded, "Yes." When she agreed to speak to the police about her purse, I called 911 as instructed by a Police Sergeant, and we waited for nearly four hours for the police to show up. Unfortunately, both of us had to take a bathroom break, but there was no bathroom nearby.

I was hesitant to use my car, but felt it kind of an emergency for her. A police report was filed.

The ladies behind the bullet proof glass continued to try to speak with the elderly homeless person but got nowhere because Hanoi seemed not to share things. She was told by the police, "If you fill out a complaint you've got to go to court." The victim (no purse) was distracted by things at the station. She wore a clear plastic TACO BELL bag on her hair. Earlier I asked her if she wanted a nice hat but she refused saying, "I designed this." I think everyone in the police station found her entrance unusual.

She privately walked into her bank

After leaving the police station, I drove her to her bank as she requested and she went in and out alone. She showed me that she has a bank account by holding the bank receipts in the air and she also had bank books. I explained to her that it might be good for her to take out say a few dollars to have with her for food and emergencies.

A feeling of relief with regard to deeply caring about her wellbeing

Once I realized she can access monies, I began to feel less concerned for her and it was a bit of a relief because I knew she had the capacity to get monies. However, it might be very hard for her to get to her bank if she needed to. She said things that may or may not be true. She stated she had \$400,000 and land in both the U.S. and Vietnam, \$27,000 in cash and more. She stated she has no children, no family, no one. Her words may or not be true, no one knows.

Text messages from person holding her purse

This past week, I was texted by the person who told me that they had her purse and bank information. This person stated that they wanted to give her food and warm clothes. I asked by text for the person to return her purse to the police but did not get a response that it would be done. Perhaps the police or politicians can do more on this. Allegedly, they know all about it.

Freedom to live her own way

As for now, we know that "Hanoi" has some slight mental challenges, but I wouldn't categorize her for pick up under Laura's Law. So, she lives free and as she wishes. I find her to



"Hanoi" found the next day after all her things were taken due to an abatement by county officials. She's riding the bus at night to keep warm and staying at different bus stations during the day.

be quite intelligent and know in my heart, in my opinion, that a good social worker could help her more.

Some witticisms stated by the elderly lady

The following are some of the valuable, interesting and funny comments by Hanoi:

"I am not hungry about the bank, from time to time I am hungry about what to eat."

"We have to learn in any country."

"If you have to learn again what I said earlier, you have to pay me."

"No house, no country, no law."

"I won't live like fish in a can." (perhaps referring to the sleeping in the make-shift library hotel where blue mats are placed close together on the floor).

"Anybody bothers my life they will be in big trouble."

"The rats rob."

"I am a U.S. Citizen the U.S. government is a liar."

"I don't like communism... they wear uniforms to make people afraid."

"The social workers are robbers, banks are robbers, they killed my life."

"Stop trying to help me, help yourself."

"You are a lower-level thinker and I am a higher-level thinker."

"Sometimes people give me food I do not wish to eat but I accept it because it makes them happy."

"You don't see wrinkles on my face, do you," and I said no, your face looks pretty, then she stated, "I don't have wrinkles because I don't hate."

Dropping her off at the bus stop at dusk

As I dropped her off at the shopping center, I offered to buy her a cup of coffee and a vanilla ice cream sundae at McDonalds. She responded, "Don't overreach if you can't spend that much."

I felt better knowing she has access to her monies. A weight upon me was lifted as she exited the car. You see, when dealing with people with mental challenges one never knows how they might act in irrational ways.

I did my level best in trying to help "Hanoi," and if she gets sick, she may die in my opinion.

In my view, God and the power of prayer will tilt the situation to one of goodness.



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Times **Feature**

Valley Water hosts National River Cleanup Day: May 21

23,000 pounds of trash and recyclables collected along 31 creek miles

Valley Water hosted National River Cleanup Day to promote environmental health on Saturday, May 21 with 545 volunteers participating in the annual event.

31 creek miles cleaned of 23,000 pounds of trash

National River Cleanup Day is an annual opportunity for Santa Clara County residents to get involved in preventing water pollution at its source. More than 23,000 pounds

of trash and recyclables were removed from more than 31 creek miles.

“Cleaning the County’s rivers and creeks is important to the health of our environment,” said a Valley Water spokesperson. “Trash that enters these waterways eventually finds its way to San Francisco Bay. This was a great opportunity for the community to get involved in preventing water pollution at its source.”

At this specific cleanup location, Sanchez Ponds, services were provided for the unhoused included a hot meal, and they were

helped out with their cleanup with community volunteers.

In addition to cleaning neighborhoods and creeks, Valley Water continues the trash removal effort year-round to restore creeks, improve water quality, and foster suitable habitats for fish and wildlife. The voter-approved Safe, Clean Water Program provides \$51.7 million dollars for encampment cleanups and beautification efforts, including trash and graffiti removal.

For more information on National River Cleanup Day, visit cleanacreek.org.



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Times **Community News**

The Auspices of Auxins

By Matthew Frazier

In late spring of 2010, I was working in the garden center at The Home Depot in the Cambrian area of San Jose.

It was during this time that a manager called me aside and told me I was to be certified, based on what they had observed thus far of my conversations and interactions with their customers. The curriculum was forty hours of web-based training to become a certified nursery consultant. This was eight multi-hour lectures which resulted in being given an iron-on patch with the title.

One of the lectures in the course dealt with something I had not yet heard, though I had

worked in a true independent retail nursery prior to being hired at this Home Depot garden center: Auxins. From what I recall in one of these lectures ... When we prune or shear a shrub or a tree, we cause a hormonal change which affects the growth habits and patterns. I learned that when we prune or shear with bypass pruners in a specific fashion, we inhibit lateral growth within which results in a more desired form and shape for our shrub or tree.

When we prune roses, for example, I was told to locate a leaf junction of three to five then locate the bud on the cane where we want the cut. Using bypass loppers, pruners, or shears ... Go up ¼ inch and cut parallel to the direction the bud is pointing. This causing a release of auxins which will inhibit lateral growth for the roses and give us a more balanced and bilateral form.

This principle was shared with me too by an arborist who was a guest in another nursery during a pruning seminar/workshop. When water droplets form on branches and canes, they can slide off when we make cuts parallel to the buds. Making cuts perpendicular to the buds allows water droplets to rest there and cause dieback and other damage. This practice, along with removing crossing and dead/dying branches or canes, will help

promote balanced and healthy plants.

I have invested some time in watching videos on how auxins work within plants. I have studies, in some basic manner, anatomy and physiology of plants independently as well as part of my on-site training in the nurseries where I began and later in the garden centers attached to the home improvement centers.

Giving balanced form to plants will help draw sunlight and oxygen to their core – resulting in a lower probability of aphid infestation and other destructive nuisance insects. In a future article, I will mention insectary plants which complement our garden and landscape specimens.

There are comprehensive videos which go into great detail about geotropism and phototropism and how auxins cause the foliage and the roots of plants to grow in a specific way with respect to sunlight. I highly recommend watching some of these videos. The level of detail is not really feasible to

synopsise in this short article.

One of the pieces of knowledge which stayed with me for the years during and since I worked in garden centers and nurseries is that plants are highly adaptable and can alter their habits with respect to cosmetic and structural pruning and shearing. In the context of water conservation and xeriscaping ... Using bypass loppers, pruners, and shears in this fashion will allow your shrubs and trees to grow in a more balanced manner.

For enthusiasts of all levels, I always recommend learning the concepts and the details of care for our plants. Though I no longer work in garden centers or nurseries as a consultant or specialist, I do very much enjoy working in the gardens here at the house and employing what I learned in my years in service to customers and the public.

My focus has since shifted from garden centers and nurseries to landscape irrigation/water management and now Stormwater Management and Wastewater Management as they relate to Water Conservation. Next time you find yourself in your garden or your yard and working with your plants, please do take the opportunity to put this knowledge to use for your care and maintenance of your beloved plants.



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
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Times **Community**

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Liar, Liar... Who's on Fire?: The Liar's Paradox

By Apoorva Panidapu

I seem to have found myself in a...complicated situation. I'll save you from the details of how, but I'm trapped in the Pinocchio movie and I need to find a way to get out. I don't have the patience to play through the movie, so I just have to find some way to break the system. Oh, how lucky, Jiminy Cricket just walked by! If there's anyone in this crazy story who could give me some advice, it's him!

"Hey Jiminy, Jiminy—how do I get out of here?"

Jiminy Cricket studies me, then ominously hands me a paper, a pencil, and solemnly replies, "Nobody knows," while tapping his nose knowingly.

Has he finally lost it? Knows. Nose. Knows, nose? Just as I'm pondering my strange interaction with Jiminy, Pinocchio struts by, his stubby nose gleaming in the sun.

I know what I must do.

I quickly scribble a couple words on the paper, then run (not very fast) and hand it to Pinocchio. He stops, looks confused (at least I think he does, I don't exactly know the facial expressions of puppets), and then reads aloud, "Read this out loud. My nose will grow right now." I hold my breath in anticipation.

Pinocchio's nose suddenly begins to tremble, as it valiantly tries to figure out what to do. Is Pinocchio lying? Is he telling the truth? His nose starts to grow, then it shrinks, rapidly fluctuating in length as everything around us begins to shake vigorously.

Maybe I didn't think this through.

Just as I start to regret listening to Jiminy, the ground cracks beneath my feet. The last thing I see before I squeeze my eyes shut is Jiminy Cricket (who somehow appeared out of nowhere) obnoxiously tipping his hat at

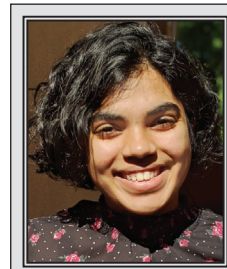
me, the villainous bug that he is.

Everything stills. I tentatively open one eye. I find myself lounging on my bed with the Pinocchio movie glitching on my laptop next to me, and breathe a sigh of relief. Jiminy, you're forgiven. Sorry for doubting you.

Alright, alright, I'll get to the point of the column. After breaking Pinocchio, I started wondering if I could've gone about it in a different, gentler way. In my research, I discovered that these contradicting and confusing statements are part of something known as the Liar's Paradox, one of the most famous, everlasting, and debated paradoxes in logic.

Before we get into it, let's break down exactly why Pinocchio's nose had a breakdown.

If you're not familiar with the story, Pinocchio's nose only grows when he tells a lie. So if he says, "My nose will grow right now," what is his nose supposed to do? Well, if he is telling the truth, his nose must grow, which means that he's lying. But if he's lying, then his nose is not supposed to grow. If his nose doesn't grow, then he is lying, so his nose must grow. Huh?! Either way we try to assign his statement a label as true or false, we reach a contradiction, and therein lies the paradox. Now we can understand why Pinocchio's nose had a break-



Gems in STEM
By Apoorva Panidapu

down.

To help us unpack what exactly is going on here, let's define the concept of truth values in classical logic. If a statement X is true, it has a truth value of 1. If X is false, it has a truth value of 0.

Now, let's look at a more common, strengthened example of this: "This statement is not true." Just like before, we can't assign a truth value to this statement. If we say its truth value is 1, i.e. that the statement is true, then "the statement is not true." If we say its truth value is 0, it must be false, which then makes the statement true, and so on.

Though philosophers have been pondering and writing about this for thousands of years, there is yet to be a consensus on how to fill this hole in classical logic. It's a big challenge to find a proper theory of truth that avoids such contradictions and paradoxes.

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Times **Local News**

Despite there being a couple common lines of thought, they all have their own problems (but don't we all?).

Principle of Bivalence

In classical logic, there is something called the principle of bivalence, which says that every declarative sentence must have exactly one truth value, i.e. every such statement is either be true or false—there is no in-between. If I say, “Jiminy Cricket is lucky,” this principle says that he is either lucky (the statement is true) or not lucky (the statement is false).

However, it's pretty clear that this principle doesn't hold true for the liar's paradox. Thus, some philosophers believe that the statement, “This sentence is false” (call it (X) for convenience) is neither true nor false.

But then we can then modify it to instead the strengthened statement of “This statement is not true.” For convenience, we'll refer to this statement as (Y). Now, if (Y) is neither true nor false, then it must not be true. But this is what (Y) states, so it must be true. So (Y) is not true, but is now true, and once again we have a paradox (will we ever escape it?).

Both true AND false?

Okay so, (X) isn't true, it isn't false, it isn't neither true nor false, but is it both true and false? Philosopher Graham Priest followed this thought process, claiming that the statement “This statement is false” is both true and false. But, once again, we can modify it to another sneaky version: “This statement is only false.” For convenience, let's label this statement as (Z).

Let's go through the motions again. If (Z) is both true and false, then (Z) has to be true, and so (Z) must be only false, which means that it can't be true. And so, we have yet another paradox!

Is there any hope of resolving this paradox to put our minds (and Pinocchio's nose) at ease? Let's dive into the nitty-gritty details of it to see!

Self-Referential Statements

Consider the statement: “This chihuahua is evil.” Though I would personally argue that all chihuahuas are evil, which specific one are we referring to in this statement? We don't have the context to determine whether or not this is true or false, because we haven't had the chance to evaluate the character of said chihuahua.

Now, let's again look at the statement: “This statement is false.” One (pretty lame, in my opinion) way to get around the paradox is to say that the statement is vague—it's not clear which sentence it's referring to as false. The philosophers that label this as the issue are called restrictionists. This theory was popular in the 13th and early 14th century as a solution to the Liar's paradox. They believed that if one is trying to self-refer in a statement, they must be referring to some prefix or suffix of the statement that isn't provided. In other words, you cannot self-refer to your own statement in the same statement.

But, we're rebels, so let's label the statement “This statement is false” as (X). Then, we can write statement X = “This statement (X) is false.” Here lies an important property of this family of paradoxes: they are self-referential statements! So, we can construct this infinite sequence of

$X = (X \text{ is false}) = ((X \text{ is false}) \text{ is false}) = (((X \text{ is false}) \text{ is false}) \text{ is false})$ and so on. From this, we can never concretely determine what X really is.

Because of this property, some people simply conclude that this paradox is nonsense, and move on with their life. To them, it's empty, it doesn't actually refer to anything, and thus means nothing—which is honestly a pretty valid sentiment.

But, what if we instead entirely leave the classical notion of true and false, and adopt one that is more reflective of the real world? In traditional logic, we said that the only truth values of a statement are 0 (if false) and 1 (if true). But what if there were more truth values? Not just a couple more, but infinitely more?

Surprise, surprise, this is the basis of fuzzy logic!

Fuzzy Logic:

Fuzzy logic is a many-valued logic in which the truth value of a statement can be any number between 0 and 1 (including both 0 and 1). This approach implements degrees of truth, which model the real world much more accurately as it gives way for nuance and uncertainty.

For example, consider the statement: “Ferguson the chihuahua is vicious.” In fuzzy logic, we could assign the truth value of (1.0) if Ferguson is extremely vicious, (0.8) if Ferguson is vicious pretty often (except when he's sleepy), (0.4) if Ferguson is only vicious when he's hungry, or (0.0) if Ferguson is never vicious and is a (rare) chill chihuahua.

So how can fuzzy logic resolve the Liar's Paradox? Well, in this system of logic, we can actually assign it a truth value of 0.5, which wasn't possible in the classical logic we were working in before. But why 0.5?

Suppose the truth value of the statement X: “This statement is false” is x. Then, the negation of this statement must have a truth value of 1-x (this is actually called a Zadeh operator, but we're just going to brush past this for simplicity's sake). First, the statement tells us that $X = \text{NOT}(X)$, since if the statement is true, it must be false. Thus, in fuzzy logic, $x = 1 - x$, so $x = 0.5$ is the truth value of statement (X).

(Note that this is a simplified, rather hand-wavy justification, but it's mostly just to provide a bit of an explanation for how fuzzy logic resolves this!)

Okay, I have a confession to make: That whole thing with Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket didn't actually happen. I am a liar. I lie all the time. I'm lying right now.

So, dear reader, did it happen? Am I a liar? Am I indeed lying right now? I'll leave that for you to figure out. ;)

Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvap-writes@gmail.com

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

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Times **Feature**



Dancers

Continued from page 1

to the audience. In actuality, however, these colorful creatures are the striking result of two people, one standing and one crouched, beneath a long silky cover and a large lion head.

The dance is an exercise in teamwork, agility, rhythm, grace, and, as performer Daniel Tsai half-jokingly added, “Arm strength.” But even apart from heavy lion heads, being a lion dancer isn’t as easy as the Leland Bridge performers made it seem. Equipment breakage, long practices, and leadership roles held by students amongst themselves add to the demands of participating in the dance.

“I have to be the translator [for directions],” Daniel Tsai continued, with co-performer Sean Yang chiming in on how Daniel Tsai aids their instructor, simply referred to as “Teacher Chouw,” in directing the rest of the crew.

Their hard work does pay off. When asked about a favorite memory from the whole experience, Jeffrey Zheng, another dancer, answered, “When we first had a complete rehearsal, where we did the whole [dance] perfectly—it felt like an accomplishment.”

A feeling of success

The team has come a long way from that first rehearsal. From their first performance at Leland Bridge Night (a celebration of Lunar New Year) to their latest show at Los Alami-

tos Elementary School Heritage Day a few weeks ago, the dancers’ five months together have been permeated with a feeling of success, both amongst team members and audiences.

Simonds student Arya Hayatgheyb stated, “[The dance] was really good – it was really pretty and I loved all the bright colors and the costumes,” adding that the performance made her want to know more about the history behind lion dance.

Vicky (refrained from giving her last name), the mother of one of the lion dancers, called the performance, “Amazing. It is part of our culture, so it’s wonderful to showcase that and to be able to do this in another country is pretty impressive.”

Lion Dance teamwork and talent touches audience

Showcasing their commitment, teamwork and talent, the lion dancers of Leland Bridge were able to create a spectacle whose significance touched those beyond Leland Bridge’s initial audiences.

Monica Ho, VP of Leland Bridge Parents Group, put it best: “We are so happy that the cultural impact of our Lion Dance team is not just within Leland High school – we are able to reach out to nearby elementary schools and share the beauty of Chinese culture with the greater Almaden community.”

Whether it’s within Leland or outside of it, opportunities like Simonds’s Multicultural Fair allow the group to continue bridging this cultural gap.

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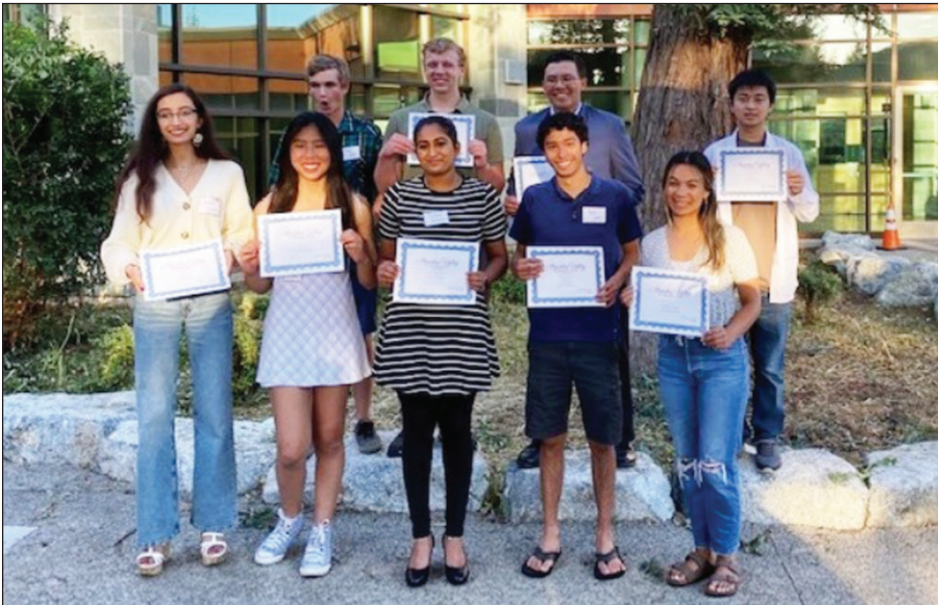
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Times **Cover Story**



Scholarship winners pictured (left to right, back row): **Rex Bushur, Andrew Swartz, Jacob Le, Kyle Lai.** Scholarship winners pictured (left to right, front row): **Aroshi Ghosh, Sheryl Hsu, Nethra Srinivasan, Ryan Tsiao, and Alexandra Sullivan.**

Winners

Continued from page 1

his own community as well as in Mexico. The biggest impact of Rex's community service was when he volunteered twice to work in Tijuana, Mexico. He was part of a team that built housing for families with no homes. While there, Rex saw some major differences in living conditions between where he lives and where he built the homes. But he also learned that the people his team helped were not much different from him. As he says in his essay, "They value hard work, being with friends, family, and learning."

Aroshi Ghosh

Aroshi is a senior at Leland High School who plans to attend MIT in the fall as a Computer Science and Engineering student. Aroshi is the Founder and Executive Director of AISpectra, a National STEAM outreach initiative where they targeted recruitment efforts specifically to underserved communities and introduced students to the creativity of computing, the transferability of tech skills, and the interdisciplinary nature of technology by designing a unique curriculum at the intersection of sciences and humanities. Aroshi's love of research is what led her to found AISpectra. This organization introduces participants to emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Robotics and more, supporting them throughout their STEM journey. Aroshi specifically targeted ethnically and racially diverse communities and reduced all barriers to entry by providing a cost-free program that required no previous coding experience.

Sheryl Hsu

Sheryl is a senior at Valley Christian High School and plans to attend Stanford in the fall where she'll major in computer science and minor in gender studies or political science. Sheryl co-founded and serves as co-president for the Madam Math Circle where she is creating a community of female mathematicians, leading 20 volunteers in teaching classes in 3 countries. Sheryl realized early on in high school that girls need to be encouraged to stay with math. She noticed that there were fewer girls in math as she got older and saw that many were intimidated in classes. She was inspired to found Madam Math Circle, an international female math community. She spent her Sunday afternoons mentoring young girls,

watching them transform from being insecure to "firing questions and launching solutions" noting that these traits will help them beyond the classroom.

Kyle Lai

Kyle is a senior at Leland High School who is interested in a career that combines computer science and art. Kyle has also created two logos for the women's club, coming in 2nd one year and was the logo winner for 2020. When asked to write an essay as part of this scholarship process, Kyle focused on his experiences as a volunteer and how he discovered that one act of volunteerism can help a larger community. As he says in his essay, "I would never have imagined the amount of people I could impact in my volunteering experience." Kyle's volunteer work varied from work at his former elementary school to help with Second Harvest Food Bank. He found the work at Second Harvest Food Bank to be impactful and felt a strong sense of community as he worked to help others. In his essay he says, "I felt a personal connection [to the people receiving the food] that can't be learned or taught in school. Working with other Second Harvest volunteers towards a common cause gave me a sense of belonging."

Jacob Le

Jacob is a senior at Valley Christian High School and plans to study Journalism and Political Science in college. Jacob has a strong belief in community service and found ways to give back to the community while utilizing his interests and skills. Jacob has completed over 250 hours of community service through his work with his Boy Scout Troop where he earned the rank of Eagle – the highest rank in the Scouting organization. Jacob is an avid baseball player and took that love of his sport to a new level with his Eagle project by building a batting cage facility for the Almaden Little League. In addition, Jacob served as a public address announcer for several local Little League baseball organizations for the past five years. He's been behind the microphone for over 60 games, volunteering his time to help the organizations. Jacob says in his essay, "Serving my community helped me to see beyond myself and realize the needs of others."

Nethra Srinivasan

Nethra is a senior at Leland High School who plans to major in Neuroscience/neurobiology and wishes to ultimately become a

See WINNERS, next page



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Logo winners pictured (left to right): **Raena Imtiaz** (3rd); **Selina Lu** (1st); and **Miranda Lu** (2nd).

Winners

Continued from previous page

physician. Her focus in the area of neuroscience has been prevalent throughout her high school career. Nethra is the Founder and President of The NeuroKidz. Her goal for this organization is to bring mental health and neuroscience education to kids around the world by partnering with schools, libraries and other organizations. She worked with school principals to include neuroscience as after school activities and advocated for inclusion in the school curriculum. She initiated outreach on various social media platforms, resulting in reaching over 1250 kids with the help of 65 volunteers in 10 states and 5 countries. In addition to this, Nethra also organized the Make-A-Mask Challenge and India COVID Relief. She created no-sew mask tutorials and held online workshops for mask making eventually collecting and donating 4800 pieces of PPE with a monetary value of over \$35k to 7 facilities in California. As part of the India COVID Relief campaign, for the second wave that hit India, Nethra also raised funds and provided 25,000 meals for workers in India who were marginalized by COVID lockdowns.

Alexandra Sullivan

Alexandra is a senior at Presentation High School and plans to attend college in the fall, majoring in data science and psychology. Alexandra's love of mathematics led her to volunteer work where she was able to help younger kids learn and understand math. She tutored 4th grade students through Engage STEM San Jose, a local non-profit that strives to create more equality in education by providing free STEM education. Alexandra didn't just show up to help the kids with homework, but instead spent time researching ways to teach the kids and creating interactive worksheets for them. In doing this, Alexandra could see the impact that she had on the students. In her essay she describes one student who told her that the math sessions were the highlight of her day. As Alexandra says in her essay, "Our time together was more than just math, it was a place for them to feel valued and a part of the community."

Andrew Swartz

Andrew is a senior at Leland High School who is planning to attend Oregon State University in the fall to study computer science. Andrew has been heavily involved in the local Boy Scouts organization and earned the rank of Eagle – the Scouts highest honor – in May of 2020. In working towards this rank, Andrew volunteered for many projects which benefitted his community. Although some community work is required to reach the ranks in Scouts, Andrew went above and beyond helping with the various projects. In his letter of recommendation, Nathan Etter wrote, "Whether it's helping our local parks by retrofitting degraded trails, giving back to Joint Venture Church by repairing damaged cabinetry, or building a new batting cage for the

Challenger School, Andrew has been a consistent and enthusiastic participant in our service projects over the year....logging over 75 hours on 20 separate projects."

Ryan Tsaio

Ryan is a senior at Leland High School who plans to attend UC Riverside in the fall where he'll major in physics. He eventually wants to work as an astrophysicist. Ryan has worked with 4th – 6th graders, teaching STEM to them as a volunteer for summer programs. Ryan originally expected to be co-teaching with other counselors, but when two counselors dropped out, he ended up leading a class of 20 by himself. He was very mindful of wanting to be the best teacher that he could for the students and worked hard to learn his lesson plans by heart in order to give the students the best experience. While he was working with the students, he was excited to see the effect of his teaching on them. At the end of the program, one of his most-improved students let him know that she planned to pursue Computer Science in college.

Annual logo contest

The women's club annual logo contest involves local area middle and high school aged art students. The artists are given basic criteria about the women's club fundraising events and use that to create the basis for their creations. The winner logo will be used on posters promoting the club's fundraising event, as well as on wine glasses and a t-shirt.

The winning logo came from Selina Lu. Selina is a senior at Leland High School. Her favorite art medium type is digital art. Her inspiration comes from favorite objects, artists she admires, friends and her life experiences. She views art as a hobby and a tool for advocacy for social change.

The 2nd place winner is Miranda Lu. Miranda is a junior at Leland High School who enjoys using a variety of unconventional mediums in her art, including chopsticks, different products, scrap fabric, yarn, and various everyday objects not normally viewed as materials for art. She draws her artistic inspiration from personal experiences and observations. In the future, Miranda would like to use her art talent to spread awareness about social issues and climate change.

The 3rd place winner is Raena Imtiaz. Raena is a Junior at Leland High School. Her favorite medium is oil paint. Her artistic inspiration comes from those around her and from her own experiences. Raena enjoys art recreationally and hopes to be able to volunteer to help others learn art.

The Almaden Valley Women's Club invites the community to join the 2nd annual Virtual 5k June 26 – July 3. Registrants will receive a "swag bag" containing a wine glass with the winning logo as well as a t-shirt featuring the logo art.

For more information or to register, please visit www.almadenwomen.org.

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Times Feature

Police

Continued from page 4

As mayor, Peralez said he would make sure officers feel valued so the department can continue to attract talented workers.

“We’ve been an employer of choice most of the time, except for a handful of years after the recession when we had the big exodus of officers,” Peralez told San José Spotlight. “But we’ve now been attracting officers. We need to continue that momentum if we’re going to add a couple hundred officers to the ranks.”

Improving response times

Chavez said the city needs to hire more dispatchers and expand its teams that respond to mental health crises. Chavez noted when she served on the San Jose

City Council over a decade ago, she requested city officials develop a staffing plan to meet current and emerging needs for the department. Chavez said she would do that again as mayor to understand how many officers—and what kinds—are needed. She emphasized her interest in building up the other half of public safety: the San Jose Fire Department.

“We are understaffed in both police and fire so dramatically—both of them need staffing plans,” Chavez told San José Spotlight. “Then the council would need to commit to funding those plans over a period of time.”

Chavez added she wants the department to reduce its call response times.

According to an audit last year, SJPD’s response time for violent crimes and homicides is eight minutes, one minute above its seven minute target. For injury reports and property damage, SJPD takes about 21 minutes to respond, more than double its target time of 11 minutes.

Chavez said there must be enough officers to respond to emergency calls, but also to handle investigations. She noted that establishing San Jose as the biggest, safest city in the country means having a department capable of apprehending criminals and closing cases quickly.

Mahan said he wants to bring SJPD’s staffing back to pre-recession levels over the next five years, which means adding about 50 officers per year. He said residents frequently complain to him about public safety issues, including a desire for faster police response times and better follow-through on investigations. He noted hiring new police officers is tied to San Jose’s

economic growth.

“A strong economic development strategy can also be a strong public safety strategy,” Mahan said. “Us lowering barriers to investment, attracting jobs and building housing where it makes sense in San Jose is going to organically grow the tax base and allow us to better staff our police department and other core services.”

Mahan said compared to the past, San Jose is better able to compete with other cities for talented officers, but he wants to ensure police feel respected and appreciated. Mahan, who like most of his opponents does not support the movement to defund police departments, said he believes it’s possible to increase staffing while continuing to improve SJPD’s relationship with the community.

Unlike his opponents, Mahan said it’s possible to reduce overtime in the department outside of adding more officers. As an example, he said SJPD could follow the lead of the fire department and use data analytics to optimize response times.

Finding top candidates

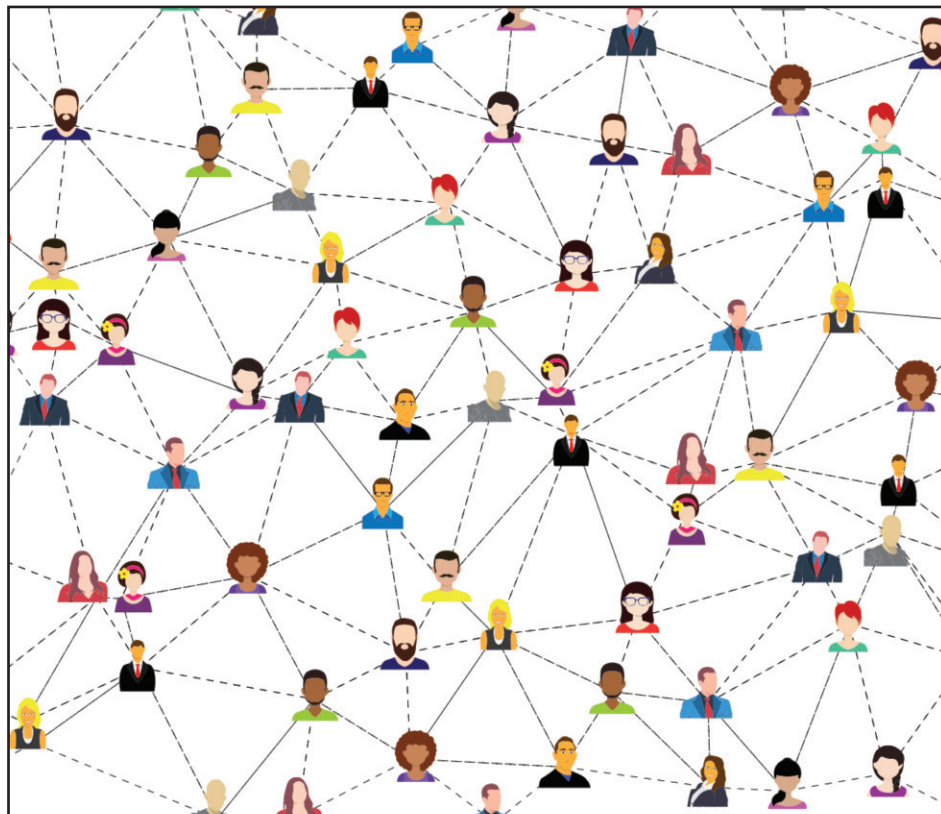
Spence, a former SJPD officer, told San José Spotlight he wants to make it easier for recruiters to travel to colleges in other states to get the best and brightest candidates.

“We need to be able to have enough money and energy to get outside of our sphere and take off restrictions on where people can go and where they can stay so we can have a bigger pool of qualified candidates,” he said.

As mayor, Spence said he would talk with the police chief about implementing signing bonuses. He noted the city already has one of the best retirement packages in the South Bay, but he believes officials should also make sure affordable housing is available to new officers.

Woodmansee, a San Jose State University student, is the only candidate in the race who doesn’t support increasing the size of the police force. He told San José Spotlight he’d like to enhance public safety through alternative means.

“We can be creative in allocating our police department budget toward a wider range of policing that fits within our objective for reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” Woodmansee said. “I’d be very excited to talk with as many people as I could to find ways to integrate public safety and policing with global goals on really reforming human civilization for the 21st century.”



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Times **Cover Story**

Rabbi Mendel and Mussi Weinfeld with son Berel; inside of the space at 5580 Almaden Expressway; an aerial view of the location, central to Almaden Valley.

Chabad Almaden

Continued from page 1

realization of relocating the Jewish community to a space near the Westfield Oakridge mall," Weinfeld said. "The new center is more than double the size of our previous location and we will be able to accommodate additional programming."

'People we know and people we never met, made it possible'

Weinfeld revealed that people started giving from all over and he was inundated with phone calls, emails and letters of support. "People we know and people we had never met, made it possible for the ability to move to a new facility."

The new Chabad Almaden's 8,750-square-foot center is in escrow with a purchase price of \$4.5 million and is located at 5580 Almaden Expressway.

Chabad's capital campaign "Rise from the Ashes" has raised \$1.3 million as we completed publication. Weinfeld will raise the remaining amount — more than \$100,000 — by May 30.

So far, more than 3,500 people have contributed for the new site, said Weinfeld, and the rest of the facility's cost that isn't covered by the capital campaign will be made up for by some larger donors and a mortgage.

"We're confident the community is behind us," Weinfeld said when asked about the remaining funds.

Many new things will be included in the new Chabad center

The new Chabad center will include a synagogue, library, Hebrew school and gift shop and possibly a performing arts center.

"It'll be a community center for Chabad Almaden," Weinfeld said. "A place for people to come any time of the day to read a book, have their children play or come in for a class; a warm place for the community to enjoy."

Chabad Almaden's previous site had been open for just three months when a fire struck early in the morning of Dec. 22. The fire started in the building's carport and ended up spreading to the first and second floors and destroyed nearly everything. Surveillance footage showed an individual entering the building's carport before flames erupted in the same area. Due to the quick action of firefighters and a community member, the Chabad's Torah scrolls were saved.

Editor's note: As the Almaden Times completed publication, the total amount raised for the new center reached. \$1,273,225.62 To see the campaign progress, visit: www.chabad-fire.com

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nity, promoting spiritual 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. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ਰਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfranciscatholic.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!

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

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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the.point.church

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(408) 270-7646
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Spanish Service: 11:00 AM
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

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San Jose, CA 95110

COMPASS



7217 Silver Lode Lane



\$2,998,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath
3700 Sq Ft | 8002 Sq Ft Lot

Beautiful Almaden Valley home, inside and out. Downstairs bedroom and full bath. Bonus/media/gaming room with wall mounted 70" TV and ceiling mounted rear speakers. Large kitchen with center Island, gas cooktop, newer Bosch microwave and Bosch dishwasher and garbage disposal. Newer HVAC System with new 14 SEER A/C unit, Nest thermostat, newer water heater. Stunning landscaping front and back with palms, roses, and many fruit trees. 5 zone irrigation system for front and back yards. Graystone, Bret Harte and Leland Schools.

More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



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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
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