Holidays at the Ainsley House for the entire family -PAGE 6



**Election 2022** Changes could be coming to Silicon Valley water agency  $-\mathbf{P}_{AGE}\mathbf{4}$ 

San José adopts proposal to create office to fully implement Children's Bill of Rights – SEE PAGE 2



NOVEMBER 2022 **VOL. 18, NO. 11** 

Willow Glen Jimes



### **Home for** the Holidays **Adoptions now** available from San Jose Animal **Care Center**

he "no kill shelter" San Jose Animal Care Center is seeking wonderful neighbors to consider fostering a shelter dog for three months.

Giving shelter dogs a break from shelter stress for three months is a worthwhile endeavor while becoming adoptable pets especially during the upcoming holidays.

Currently 107 dogs are waiting for a forever home, some there almost a year. The goal of fostering is to re-home all of the dogs in the shelter.

Currently, there is one hearing impaired dog named Angel that needs someone to love her and go on walks for the day. The program is called Dog Day Out where people can take any of the dogs in the shelter out for the day.

The Dog Day Out program is sponsored by Silicon Valley Pet Project.

For more information, visit the San Jose Anival Care Center at https://tinyurl.com/ 4npn2bxr; or visit 2750 Monterey Rd, San Jose, CA 9511, or email Erin.cizan@sanjoseca.gov.

### **103-year-old 'fashion** queen' Helyn Wink celebrates 26 years at **Atria Willow Glen**

Long-tenured staff share their stories of life with Helvn

Leopard print dresses? Yes please. That's just Helyn's style.

103-year-old Helyn Wink first moved in to Atria Willow Glen in San Jose on March 25, 1996, and has been the community's reigning "fashion queen" ever since.

Helyn is known for her fashion, particularly her love for all things leopard-print. During most of her quarter century at Atria Willow Glen, Helyn modeled different styles of leopard print clothing and accessories at the community's regular fashion shows. Even her apartment is decorated with leopard print. Community staff say Helyn has always been considered the life of the party, enjoying casino nights and hosting martini nights.

But keeping things in balance, Helyn also loved physical fitness. For many years she led Atria Willow Glen residents in a morning fitness class (and of course her gym clothing was leopard print). In 2011, Helyn won the Presidential Fitness award from President Barack Obama, a framed copy of which still proudly hangs on her wall today. She followed that award up in 2012 by being awarded a certification of appre-



20-year employee Roman Zeinu says "Helyn is amazing, I remember that every Friday she would walk to the beauty shop to get her hair done while always sporting the latest leopard print clothing."



103-vear-old Helvn Wink first moved in to Atria Willow Glen in San Jose on March 25, 1996, and has been the community's reigning "fashion queen" ever since

ciation for being an outstanding community leader as Atria Willow Glen's Morning Exercise Instructor.

Originally in 1996, Helyn moved in with her husband to Atria Willow Glen's Monterey building, and soon afterwards began representing Monterey in the community's fashion shows. Interestingly, Helyn had originally met her husband while singing and performing at a nightclub in Oakland. They got married just two weeks later.

In 2015, Helyn's husband became a resident of Atria Willow Glen's memory care unit. Ifrah Mohammud, a 22-year employee at Willow Glen, says "Helyn is the sweetest person. I remember that when her husband moved into memory care, she would go visit him every day. Not only did she visit him, but she also ran the activities for all that building's residents. After spending the day with her husband, she would come back and have a martini."

Other long-term staff at Atria Willow Glen speak glowingly of their years knowing Helyn. 20year employee Roman Zeinu says "Helyn is amazing, I remember that every Friday she would walk to the beauty shop to get her hair done while always sporting the latest leopard print clothing."

26-year staffer Josefina Hidalgo and her brother Alfi started working at Willow Glen the same year that Helyn moved in. "When Helyn moved into assisted living here, it was like part of my family moved in. We knew how welcoming she was but more importantly, we knew what Fridays meant -Beauty Parlor Day!"

Silvia Morales, a 24-year Atria Willow Glen employee, says "every holiday without a doubt, Helyn would give all staff chocolates that represented the holiday. We would never run out of chocolates during the year! Helyn and I have the same doctor. One time I was at Dr. Cahn's office and See HELEN, page 2

### San José adopts proposal to create Office of Family Friendly Policy to fully implement Children's Bill of Rights

an José City Councilmembers Sylvia Arenas and Magdalena Carrasco joined child advocacy leaders at City Hall Oct. 5 to rally support for a proposal, which was then unanimously adopted at Council.

The new policy brings the City of San Jose into full compliance with San José's updated Bill of Rights for Children and Youth (Bill of Rights).

The adopted proposal – written by Councilmembers Sylvia Arenas, Raul Peralez, Magdalena Carrasco, and Pam Foley – calls for the formalization of an Office of Family Friendly Policy to implement the Bill of Rights, the audit recommendations and to unify the City's family friendly initiatives and policies.

"Today is a critical next step in making the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth real. Together, we have issued a bold statement that San José will ensure the fundamental rights of the children that live in our city. Our children," Councilmember Arenas said. "Now, we will move forward with a plan, a team to execute the plan, and the ability to track our investments."

In April 2021, the City of San José adopted a revised Bill of Rights. Shortly after, Councilmember Arenas asked the City Auditor to investigate how the City was adhering and upholding the Bill of Rights.

The City Auditor's recently released Bill of Rights for Children and Youth Audit Report showed that there is still no comprehensive plan to ensure the city is



Councilmembers **Sylvia Arenas** and **Magdalena Carrasco** rally Oct. 5 to support updated Bill of Rights for Children and Youth.

upholding the rights it has declared that all San José children have. The joint memorandum aims to formalize an Office of Family Friendly Policy to implement the audit report recommendations and unify the City's existing children, youth and family policy and Family Friendly Initiative work currently underway.

"Children have a right to up-to-date educational resources that promote success in life, in future careers, and a love of life-long learning. We believe that this right is for every child at every stage of their education and that learning begins at birth and happens everywhere not just in schools," said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools.



In 2011, Helyn won the Presidential Fitness award from President Barack Obama, a framed copy of which still proudly hangs on her wall today.

ment."

### Helen

Continued from page 1

while I was waiting, I noticed that on the counter was the same box of Easter chocolates that Helyn had given me. I asked the receptionist where she got the chocolates, and she stated, 'Helyn Wink of course!' Although Helyn had to switch doctors, Dr. Cahn still asks me how Helyn is doing every time I have an appoint"It's really evident how much Helyn means to our community and to our employees," said Kurt Gursu, Atria Willow Glen executive director. "Any time someone lives their life not just out loud, but to help others also live a better life, they make a lasting impact. We're very fortunate to have long-tenured residents like Helyn as well as happy employees who have been with us for decades as well."



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The Santa Clara Valley Water District is located at 5750 Almaden Expressway in San Jose. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

### **Election 2022: Changes could be** coming to Silicon Valley water agency

**Tony Estremera** 

By Joseph Geha San José Spotlight otivated by what they call poor management and a lack of accountability, three political newcomers are challenging two longstanding incumbents to represent San-

ta Clara County's wholesale water supplier.

Two seats on the Valley Water board of directors are up for grabs in Districts 6 and 7, currently belonging to Tony Estremera, who has been on the board 26 years, and Gary Kremen, who is in his eighth year on the board.

The district manages water for the county's roughly two million residents, has an annual budget of \$917 million and nearly 1,000 employees. In addition to contending with a statewide drought, major infrastructure projects could shift direction under new leadership, including \$3 billion to build the Pacheco Dam.

The project has seen costs soar to nearly three times original estimates and is currently facing a lawsuit from those who oppose it.

Public relations manager Diego Barragán and business consultant and San Jose Planning Commissioner Chuck Cantrell are both running in Central and East San Jose's District 6 against Estremera, while corporate attorney Rebecca Eisenberg is facing off with Kremen in District 7, from Palo Alto to Los

Incumbent John Varela is running unopposed for reelection in District 1, and in District 4, incumbent Linda LeZotte is retiring. Jim Beall, the former longtime Silicon Valley state senator, is running for that seat unopposed.

**District 6** 



four-year increased from the prior limit of three. The measure passed by a razor thin margin, getting 50.56% support.

That change is what allows Estremera, who has served three consecu-

tive elected terms for the last 12 years, to run in this November's election for a fourth term. He was appointed to the board in 1996, prior to his three terms.

A newly released Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury report criticized the measure's language as a "lie by omission," because it did not clearly explain that a yes vote would extend the prior term limits. The board split over the decision to approve the unclear language, highlighting an ongoing rift between the men and women elected.

Estremera, 72, said the grand jury report was a "hatchet job," and was released outside of its normal schedule.

"They want to affect the elections. That's totally an inappropriate role for the grand jury," Estremera told San José Spotlight. "It should not have been put out before an election when it relates to election issues."

Cantrell, 56, said the ballot measure is one of the major reasons he's running for the District 6 seat.

"To do this unethically and intentionally to deceive voters is reprehensible," Cantrell told San José Spotlight. "We have to learn to transition power, we have to learn to consider our post a temporary."

## /alleyCurrents

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



## **16 San Jose Public Libraries** now open 7 days per week

### More than half of San Jose Public Library branches now open Sundays

ambrian Library as well as 15 other public libraries in San Jose are now open seven days a week.

Expanding hours of operations means an expansion of essential library services available to San Jose residents every day of the week - including more frequent access to physical materials; programs and events; technology, such as computers and printers; and inperson support for every member of the community.

This historic move comes after City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget on June 21, 2022, which included the library's expansion of hours, and is in direct response to the community's request for Sunday hours at the library.

"Libraries are critical resources and the lifeblood of our communities. For the first time in history, we will expand access to the vital services they provide to include Sundays, something deeply desired by our residents," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "We know that increasing availability to our libraries, especially in our lower-resourced communities, creates a pathway for success among students, job seekers, families, and community members."

In addition to Sunday hours offered at SJPL's main

location the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, located in downtown San Jose; SJPL will pilot Sunday hours from noon-5 p.m. at the following branch libraries:

To kick-off SIPL's new Sunday hours expansion, Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Librarian Jill Bourne welcomed the community with special remarks and a community countdown to open the doors of the Berryessa Branch Library on Sunday Oct. 2. Mister Softee served free ice cream sundaes for the community.

1. Alviso	8. Edenvale
2. Dr. Roberto Cruz-	9. Education Park
Alum Rock	10. Evergreen
3. Bascom	11. Hillview
4. Berryessa	12. Joyce Ellington
5. Biblioteca	13. Seven Trees
Latinoamericana	14. Tully Community
6. Cambrian	15. Vineland
7. East San Jose Carnegie	16. West Valley

To kick-off SJPL's new Sunday hours expansion, Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Librarian Jill Bourne welcomed the community with special remarks and a community countdown to open the doors of the Berryessa Branch Library on Sunday Oct. 2. Mister Softee served free ice cream sundaes for the community.



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### An ominous warning for California economy

#### By Emily Hoeven CalMatters

E conomic warning signs are mounting in California — foreshadowing potentially tough budget decisions for the state officials and policymakers who emerge victorious from the Nov. 8 election.

One particularly eye-popping statistic: Just nine companies headquartered in the Golden State went public in the first three quarters of 2022, compared to 81 during the same period last year, according to a Bloomberg News analysis.

Bloomberg also found that:

• As of Sept. 30, initial public offerings in California had raised just \$177 million, compared to an average of \$16 billion during the same period over the past five years.

• The \$177 million figure represents just 2% of funds generated by U.S. companies that went public through the end of September. Last year at this time, California accounted for 39% of funds nationally.

• If this trend continues, it could spell an end to the streak California has maintained since 2003 of generating more IPOs than any other state.

"We are already seeing an immediate effect," Brian Uhler, deputy legislative analyst for the state Legislative Analyst's Office, told Bloomberg. "And it does appear to be significant," contributing to a 5% decline in California employers' income tax withholding payments in September compared to last year.

Indeed, California collected about \$2.8 billion less in taxes in September than it thought it would, marking the third straight month of revenues coming in below projections, according to a report released this week by Gov. Gavin Newsom's Department of Finance.

The problem is also pronounced at the local level. In San Francisco, for example, revenues from a new business tax have plunged as companies struggle to emerge from the pandemic, leading to a shortfall of tens of millions of dollars for homelessness, mental health and substance abuse programs, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

In a Monday interview with Bloomberg, San Francisco Mayor London Breed said the city needs to become less reliant on tech companies — some of which have downsized or left the area altogether as many employees continue to work from home — in order to stabilize the economy and avoid losing further tax revenue.

Breed said she wants to lure more biotechnology and life sciences companies into empty office buildings downtown, noting that Salesforce — the city's largest private employer — continues to allow remote work.

• Breed: Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff is "very supportive of the city, continues to contribute that support to schools and to other great causes, but the building is empty, and that's a real problem."

• A Salesforce spokesperson declined to

### comment to Bloomberg.

Meanwhile, five of San Francisco's 11 supervisors are calling for changes to a local ordinance banning city employees from traveling to or contracting with companies based in 30 states that have enacted anti-LGBTQ, anti-abortion or anti-voting-rights laws, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Times Community Notebook

• The supervisors: "By prohibiting the city from doing business with half the nation, this policy has resulted in significant administrative costs and potentially far more significant contracting costs by limiting bidder competition."

• The state of California has a similar law that came under renewed scrutiny after New-



The Financial District in San Francisco as seen from Treasure Island on Sept. 1, 2022. *Photo by Martin do Nascimento, CalMatters* 

som took a family vacation to Montana, a state on the travel ban list.

One last financial factoid for the road: Dem-

ocratic Assemblymember Matt Haney of San Francisco announced Wednesday that he had secured \$1.7 million in state funds to build a local public bathroom — though it probably won't be completed until 2025. "Why is a public bathroom so insanely expensive, and why does it take so long to build?" San Francisco Chronicle columnist Heather Knight asked in exasperation.

Some things never change: I attempted to answer that very same question in a 2019 article for the San Francisco Business Times, headlined: "Building a bathroom cost San Francisco \$2 million. Why does a restroom cost as much as a luxury condo to construct?"



ALMADEN LAW GROUP Amy L. Horowitz Attorney at Law

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#### Times Feature

### Verde Vineyards represents a clever and symbolic way of naming this modern and welcoming winery

L & G Verde Vineyard 2143 Buena Vista Avenue Gilroy, CA 95020 verdevineyards.com Winter Tasting Room Hours: Saturdays & Sundays 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

### **By Denelle Fedor**

istoric wineries in Santa Clara County have paved the way for new vineyards to call our valley home.

This week we are featuring L & G Verde Vineyards. The "L" and "G" represent the initials of the two owners Lynda and George and the French word "Verde" translates to Green in English, which is Lynda' and George's last name. The winery is recognized as "Verde Vineyards," which represents a clever and symbolic way of naming this modern and welcoming winery.

Lynda and George's careers are in the medical field; George is still a practicing physician and Lynda an R.N. Although an argument can be made that wine is medicinal; their professional background does not necessarily lend itself to wine producing. In fact, Verde Vineyards was created by chance.



#### Jeff Ritchey, Verde Winemaker

Lynda and George purchased 20 acres for their personal home. They were originally going to landscape their acreage, but instead decided to grow and sell grapes. In 2015, after further consideration, they began producing wine with Jeff Ritchey, a well-known winemaker known for his winemaking skills throughout the Santa Clara County. The production of their wine led them to open Verde Tasting Room in 2017.

Verde Vineyard specializes in small-lot, hand-crafted Bordeaux varietals from their estate vine-



Above: Sunset at Verde Vineyards. Below: a group of winetasters participate in one of Verde's winetasting events.



yards. The grapes that are grown onsite at Verde Vinevard are Rose, Sophia's Estate Blend, Estate Merlot, Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc grapes are grown offsite in the St. Lucia Mountains.

A special kind of grape called the Dornfelder grape - the second most popular grape grown in Germany is now grown onsite at Verde Vineyards. Usually, this grape serves as part of a blend for Rose' wines, however, in 2019 George wanted to create a Rose' wine that was made from 100% Dornfedler grapes. This was a risk due to the strong flavor of the Dornfelder grape, however, the 2019 Rose' made of only the Dornfelder grape won an award at the Orange County Competition.

In fact, Verde Vineyard has won several awards since launching its winery a decade ago. Verde took a Bronze for their Sauvignon Blanc, a Silver for their Cabernet Sauvignon and Rose and a Gold medal for Sophie's Blend and Merlot at the Orange County Wine Competition.

Additionally, the Wine Enthusiast magazine gave Verde's 2015 Cabernet 91 points, and it won first place at the CordeValle Vintner's Dinner the same year.

It's no surprise then that in 2021, Verde was awarded The Best of Gilroy Award for the Vineyard category. This award is part of an annual program honoring the achievements and accomplishment of local businesses through the Gilroy area. **Onsite Wine Tasting Experi-**

#### ence

The beautiful wine tasting space which is also the crush pad and barrel room - at Verde Vineyards is a large built in veranda style area with a permanent covering with numerous tables for customers to



#### Lynda and George Green

sit and sip wine while overlooking the vast onsite vineyard. Because Verde is in the East Foothills, the sunsets are quite amazing. Verde encourages customers to bring a picnic lunch, their dogs and children. The only exception to bringing food is when Verde is hosting food trucks.

#### **Events**

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Verde Vineyards offers a variety of events throughout the year including free music on the weekends, harvest tours, barrel tastings to a Wine, Whiskey and Cigar dinner

Be sure to check out Verde's Facebook page and website for current and future events.

#### Wine Club

Verde offers two different membership levels for its Wine Club. Please see below for overall options and visit their website for more information: VerdeVineyards.com

#### **Emerald Wine Club Membership**

■ 6 bottles quarterly – must pick up onsite (Ability to choose Red, White or a mix)

■ 25% discount on all bottle purchases.

■ 30% case discount (mix and match option too).

■ 4 complimentary "standard" tastings per visit.

Member's only "Featured Pour" of the Month" when visiting Verde Tasting Room.

■ Access to "Member Happy Hours" on the 2nd Thursday of the month

Complimentary Annual Harvest Tours for 4 – Vineyard Walk and Talk, Crush Pad visit, Barrel Tasting and Q & A.

Discounts on all general winery event tickets.

Early access to new and limited wines.

Exclusive Emerald Club Quarterly Wine Club Pick Up Parties.

Exclusive Emerald Club mem-

ber events including dinners, barrel tastings. etc. Enthusiast's Wine

### **Club Membership**

■ 4 bottles quarterly (ability to choose Red, White or a mix).

■ 20% discount on all bottle purchases.

■ 25% case discount (mix and match available).

■ 2 complimentary "Standard" tastings per visit.

Member's only "Featured Pour" of the Month" when visiting Verde Tasting Room.

■ Access to "Member Happy Hour" 2nd Thursday of every month.

Complimentary Annual Harvest Tours for 2- Vineyard Walk & Talk, Crush Pad visit, Barrel Tasting and O & A.

Discounts on all general winery events.

Early access to new and limited wines.

Ron Jenson, a previous manager for the former Joey Franco's PW Supermarkets now works at Verde Vineyard overseeing the tasting room, sales, and public relations. "Verde Vineyards is high quality and provides an overall experience - people love our outside tasting room, friendly atmosphere and overall hospitality," shared Ron.



### Symphony San Jose presents 'Mighty Cello' with acclaimed soloist Julian Schwarz Dec. 3, 4

Dartists chosen for their virtuosity and their singular magic on their instrument.

Cellist Julian Schwarz, already near-legendary in his early 30's, marks his second appearance in San Jose with one of his favorite works, Lalo's Concerto in D minor.

Maestra Falletta opens the concert with Turina's infectious Danzas, filled with Spanish rhythms and color; and concludes with Dvorák's masterful, melody-rich Symphony No. 7.

#### **Mighty Cello**

Symphony San Jose will present Mighty Cello, Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, downtown San Jose.

This will mark Julian Schwarz's second appearance in San Jose and features one of his favorite works, Lalo's Concerto in D minor.

Schwarz was born to a multigenerational musical family in 1991.

Heralded from a young age as a cellist destined to rank among the greatest of the 21st century, Julian's powerful tone, effortless virtuosity, and extraordinarily large color palette are hallmarks of his style.

After making his concerto debut at the age of 11 with the Seattle Symphony and his father Gerard Schwarz on the podium, he made his US touring debut with the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra in 2010. Since being awarded first prize at the inaugural Schoenfeld International String Competition in 2013, Julian has led an active career as soloist, performing with the symphony orchestras of Annapolis, Boise, Bozeman, Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Des Moines, Hartford, Jacksonville, Louisville, Memphis, Modesto, Omaha, Puerto Rico, Richmond, Rochester, San Antonio, Sarasota, Seattle, Syracuse, Toledo, Tucson, Virginia, West Virginia, Wichita, and Winston-Salem, among others.

Internationally, Julian made his Australian debut with the Queensland Symphony, his Mexican debuts with the Boca del Rio Philharmonic in Veracruz and the Mexico City Philharmonic with frequent collaborator Jorge Mester, and his Hong Kong debut at the Intimacy of Creativity Festival. He has also appeared at the Salzburg Mozarteum, and the Verbier festival in Switzerland.

THE PROGRAM:

Joaquin Turina: Danzas fantásticas Edouard Lalo: Cello Concerto Antonín Dvořák: Symphony No. 7 Soloist: Julian Schwarz, cello. Conductor: JoAnn Falletta.

Inexpensive parking is available at the cityowned garage at San Carlos Street, with entrance on Second Street and Third Street...just one-and-a-half block from the theater.

Tickets: : Phone: 408.286.2600 ext. 1; Website: www.symphonysanjose.org Email: jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org

Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm.

Photos: Courtesy of the artists and Symphony San Jose.



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### Local author announces 'I Can' contest for her new children's book: *Oh No, Riley!*

uthor Valerie Whetstone of Evergreen Valley is holding a contest for her upcoming children's book called, *Oh No, Riley*!

Whetstone is on a mission to promote positive mental health by empowering more than 100,000 children worldwide that if you believe in yourself anything is POSSIBLE! She is partnered with the Unstoppable Foundation, which is near and dear to her heart, to make a larger impact and help change the future. https://donate.unstoppablefoundation.org/OhNoRiley

"I'm teaching children how to break through their limiting beliefs by letting go of the four letter word, I 'CAN'T' and re-pattern their thoughts to live with a positive growth mindset and become more confident," Whetstone said.



Whetstone is inviting you to send in a 10 second or less video clip of your child/ grandchild that shows them doing something they "CAN" do, showing a "Yes, I can!" mindset. **Contest** 

To participate in the contest, parents record their child saying the words, "When I believe in myself I can"... (Fill in the blank). Here are some examples: "I can ride my bike; I can hit a baseball over the fence; I can tie my shoelaces; I can do my homework; I can brush my teeth; I can smile every day; I can be a good friend.

#### When I believe in myself I can

The top winners will be featured in Whetstone's upcoming book trailer for her book launch of *Oh No, RIley!* 

Please send your video clip of your child/grandchild to Val@doorwaytotrans-formation.com.

Oh No, Riley! is available on Amazon October 20. It is also available at Ohnoriley.org.

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### San Jose Chamber Orchestra presents 'Ourland: A Dystopian State'

an José Chamber Orchestra (SJCO) will present Ourland: A Dystopian State on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 pm.

"I'm thrilled to announce our 2022-2023 season of musical renewal", said San José Chamber Orchestra Founder and Music Director Barbara Day Turner. "These past two years have re-confirmed my long-held belief that live music, with its sense of involvement and exchange of energy between performers and audience, is a completely different art form than any other. We hope to see many new faces at our concerts and make many new friends during this upcoming season of creative programming of known repertoire and world premieres."

#### **Ourland: A Dystopian State**

Saturday, October 22 | 7:30 pm and Sunday, October 23 | 7:30 pm 3Below Theaters & Café, 288 South Second

Street, San José 95113

#### World Premiere Opera Winter's Gifts: Peace

• Friday December 16, 2022 | 8 pm

• Mission Santa Clara at Santa Clara University. 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 95053

Saturday December 17, 2022 | 8 pmFirst United Methodist Church. 625

Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, 94301 Conductors Barbara Day Turner and Daniel Hughes

SJCO's annual winter holiday celebration with The Choral Project. *The Program* 

Selections reflecting the winter season holidays and the yearning for peace. Includes Rene Clausen's In Pace, Across the Calm Waters by Ahmed Alabaca, Pacem: Find Love from Ben Allaway's Heaven & Earth: A Celtic Mass, and the premiere of "Molytva Pro Protsvitannya" ("A prayer for prosperity") written by the Choral Project's director Daniel Hughes.

#### Celebration

### Saturday December 31, 2022 | 7 pm

St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José Conductor Barbara Day Turner/ Guest artists pianist Jon Nakamatsu and clarinetists Jon and Alec Manasse.

Glorious works to welcome the changing of the year.

### The Program

• Serge Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes

• Jessie Montgomery: Strum for string orchestra

• W. A. Mozart: Larghetto from Clarinet Quintet

- Frederic Chopin: Romanze from Piano Concerto in e minor
- Franz Krommer: Allegro from Concerto for two Clarinets, opus 35
- George Gershwin: I Got Rhythm (arr. Michael Touchi)
  - Michael Touchi: Fantasia on Klezmer



### SJCO CHAMBER MUSIC

Sunday February 12, 2023 | 7 pm St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José SJCO string quartet and the Dallas-based Julius string quartet featuring the famed Octet by Felix Mendelssohn.

The Program

• Fanny Mendelssohn: String Quartet in Eb Major

• Viktor Ullman: String Quartet String Quartet No. 3

• Felix Mendelssohn: String Octet in Eb Major

### **NEW SOUNDS**

Sunday April 2, 2023 | 7 pm St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José Trumpet Soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden *The Program* 

Three fabulous new works by American

#### Composers

• Timothy Adams, Jr: Harriet: Journey to Freedom

• Vivian Fung: Trumpet Concerto (co-commissioned by SJCO),

• Durwynne Hsieh: Symphony#1 for Chamber Orchestra

World Premiere, climate change inspired work (commissioned by SJCO)

#### CONCERTO NIGHT

Sunday May 14, 2023 | 7 pm

St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Avenue, San José Soloists ZOFO piano duo Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi and violinist Jaewon Wee (Klein competition laureate 2022)

#### The Program

J.S. Bach: Concerto in a minor for violin
Pablo Ortiz: ZOFO ENCAJONADO (A concertino in three movements for piano four

hands, cajon, and strings (World Premiere)

• Elizabeth Jonasson: Wind Through the Poplar Trees (World Premiere)

• Franz Schubert: Fantasie in f minor (arranged for string orchestra by Dobrinka Tabakova)

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### Hacienda and Deep Gulch **Calcines Remediation Project begins at Almaden Quicksilver County Park**

n October, the County Parks and Recreation Department began implementation of the Hacienda and Deep Gulch Calcines Remediation Project near the Hacienda entrance to Almaden Quicksilver (AQ) County Park.

This project is next in a series of remediation efforts undertaken since the early 1990s by County Parks to mitigate environmental impacts of calcine material entering the creek system and causing impact to fish and other wildlife.

The Project will remove calcines along the steep banks and slopes above Alamitos Creek and Deep Gulch in the Hacienda area of the park, providing a long-term sustainable creek system and reducing the risk of calcine impacts.

The first part of the project requires the removal of selected trees within the remediation area through November of this year and will recommence in the spring of 2023 with implementation of calcine removal and stabilization activities, slope stability improvements, and habitat enhancement and restoration.

Trees growing on calcines must be removed before the material can be excavated as the calcine material is intermingled throughout the soil and root systems of the trees. The County is removing many of the trees in the Fall to limit the potential impact on nesting birds and roosting bats in the upcoming season.

The total number of trees being removed is 140, with over 30% of these trees being less than 6 inches in diameter, and less than 15% being over 24 inches in diameter. All trees removed will be replaced as required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The remediation work is mandated by the legal framework of a Consent Decree signed in 2005 by Santa Clara County with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Almaden Quicksilver County Park was once the site of extensive quicksilver (mercury) mining spanning over 135 years. The calcine material (rocks and sediment) is the biproduct of this former mining activity. Over time, exposed calcines in the park may dislodge during storm events and be transported through the Guadalupe River system and into San Francisco Bay where the mercury in the calcines may be converted

into methyl mercury by naturally occurring bacteria and absorbed by aquatic plants and fish.

For more information visit https:// parks.sccgov.org/hacienda-and-deepgulch-remediation-project.

### San José buttresses budget ahead of looming economic downturn

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 ends with largest reserves in two decades

**-** an Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo announced that the city's general pur-Dpose reserve will reflect 8% of the general fund operating expenses, representing the largest reserve in at least two decades.

As the Mayor underscored in his June budget message, for the first time in decades projections for San José's general fund reflect a very modest surplus over the next five years, primarily attributable to reductions in retirement costs and rising revenues. Mayor Liccardo urges caution as he pushes to bolster the city's fiscal condition amid a looming national economic downturn.

"As we see the clouds gathering, it's time to tighten our belts and bolster our City's reserves to weather the economic storms ahead," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Recessions have deep and difficult



impacts, but good preparation and fiscal discipline can soften the blow."

By comparison, the city's reserves represented only 5% of the general fund prior to the last great recession in 2007-2008.

The City of San Jose will experience a long-term decline in the cost for retirement benefits for the next decade, as a result of our longstanding efforts to implement pension reform.

"The dividend of these many years of sacrifice and belt-tightening today provides the resources that are helping us to get homeless residents housed, expand our police department, expand library hours, and restore other essential services," Liccardo said.



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Times Community News

## Santa Clara County reaches conservation goal for the second month in a row

Countywide water savings was 16% in August 2022 compared to August 2019

## *The 16% water savings exceeds Governor Newsom's call for conservation*

or the second month in a row, Santa Clara County exceeded the call by the Valley Water Board of Directors to reduce water use by 15% compared to 2019. In August 2022, countywide water use dropped 16% compared to the same time in 2019.

"It's encouraging to see local residents and businesses taking action during this severe drought emergency," said John L. Varela, Valley Water Chair Pro Tem. "We must all work together and continue to make a difference in our communities by saving water."

Santa Clara County residents are doing their part to conserve. Landscape Rebate Program applications are up over 250% since 2020. To help residents save water, Valley Water is enforcing restrictions on outdoor water runoff, midday watering, watering after rainfall, and a limit of two days a week of watering for non-functional turf. In addition to residential watering restrictions, Valley Water is enforcing the State of California's ban on watering commercial, industrial and institutional nonfunctional turf. Since the residents and



commercial restrictions were put into effect, Valley Water has received over 1,500 total water waste reports.

Valley Water continues to encourage residents, businesses, farms, and others to follow watering restrictions and take actions, both large and small, to increase water savings.

Visit watersavings.org for the latest conservation information.



\*Special price is for first lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. "Purchase of annual lawn plan required for Healthy Lawn Analysis, which is performed at the first visit. America's #1 lawn care company based on U.S. market share of professional lawn care companies. 2021 MMR Brand Health Tracker. \*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.

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Times Community News



**IN MEMORY** 

### Donna **Elizabeth Jewett**

### September 21, 1938 -**September 23, 2022**

esident of Willow Glen, Donna entered peacefully into God's hands on Sept. 23rd. Born in Merced, Ca to Joe Ferrero and Rita Hayes, she had 3 siblings: Arlene, Ron, and Gary.

As an adult, Donna was a trailblazer: one of the 1st female San Jose PD officers; 1st female supervisor for SJPD Central ID unit; 1st female president of CA State Division, International Assoc. for Identification; and 1st female president of the SJ Willow Glen Lion's Club.

Donna's greatest joy was her family: George, her husband of 40 years; her children, Jim May (Paula), Cathy Silva (Art), and Dave Standley (Tish); her 9 grandchildren, and her 5 greatgrandchildren. Donna also deeply loved her in-laws: Mac and Geneva Tinker.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11am November 10th at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Glen.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Donna's memory to the Lion's Project for Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI) PO Box 3896 Santa Rosa, Ca 95402 OR St. Francis Episcopal Memorial Fund 1205 Pine Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.



Gail Pellerin and Liz Lawler, who are vying for a seat in the 28th Assembly District, debated issues at an Almaden Valley Community Association forum. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

### **State Assembly candidates** debate wide range of issues

#### **By Lorraine Gabbert** Senior Staff Writer

tate Assembly candidates recently sparred over Spolicies ranging from abortion to education ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

Liz Lawler (R) and Gail Pellerin (D) who are vying for a seat in the 28th Assembly District, debated issues on Oct. 10, during an Almaden Valley Community Association forum.

Lawler, who served on the Monte Sereno City Council for four years, said she has a proven track record of working collaboratively to find common sense solutions, constituent responsiveness and budget transparency. Lawler said she has addressed difficult land use decisions amicably and has a plan to resurface all the roads in the state.

"It was clear to me that we needed common sense legislators in Sacramento to effectively address the issues facing our state," she said.

In a statement, Lawler said leaders are needed who are fiscally responsible and dedicated to representing constituents. She said a lack of transparency and accountability in Sacramento and divisive rhetoric has eroded faith in government.

"Our K-12 public schools are failing our children, especially our most vulnerable," she said in a statement. "We have a housing crisis that continues to grow...Our residents need to feel safe in our communities, but recent reforms have led to sharp rises in crime."

At the forum, Lawler said she seeks to restore needed balance, accountability and cooperation in the State Assembly. She said state schools have plummeted to 44th in the nation and California is ranked last in business climate and 47th in taxpayer returns on investment.

"Yet, Sacramento continues business as usual, ramming through policies that do not benefit from robust debate, success measures or accountability," she said, adding she would ensure policies are vetted, measured and delivered on what was promised.

Pellerin said she stands for equity, dignity and integrity. She worked for 27 years in the State Assembly as chief elections official before serving as Santa Cruz County Clerk.

In a statement, Pellerin said democracy can only thrive if elected officials involve the community in solving problems regarding affordable housing, affordable and equitable health care and mental health care services. She said California must remain a safe state for reproductive services and a world leader in addressing climate change.

At the debate, Pellerin said she's ready to return to Sacramento to help to solve the challenges facing Assembly District 28.

"After 35 years in public service at both the local and state levels," she said, "I am ready to make a bigger impact driven by my passion for connection with the community and my desire to shape policy around mental health, affordable housing, health care, education, climate change and public safety."

Pellerin said she is running for State Assembly to create a more sustainable, equitable and healthier community and improve government access, especially for those most in need of vital services. She said she has been a fighter for democracy, protecting voting rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights and the right to live in safe, affordable communities.

"I believe that democracy can only thrive if elected officials involve the community in solving the problems we face," she said.

Pellerin said she is a dedicated, tenacious and creative problem solver and her experience in Sacramento means she can lead on day one.

"Make no mistake," she said, "democracy is on the ballot in November."

**Rising gas prices** 

Pellerin said working families shouldn't have to pay more at the pump while oil companies make record profits. She said there is a mystery surcharge beyond what other states pay. We need to look at the rebates and why the oil industry charges more in California than any other state, she said, adding sound policy is needed to protect consumers.

Rather than gas rebates, Lawler said she is in favor of tax relief. She agreed Californians pay more at the pump but said if gas companies are charged more, the consumer will end up paying for it. She said extending the gas tax would have given relief to state residents, especially those struggling economically. Lawler said better accountability measures are needed to understand where tax dollars are going.

**Balancing state finances** 

Lawler said budget hawks like her are needed to remove wasteful spending.

"We need to tighten our belts and that will also address inflation," she said. "We have to stop spending so much money."

Lawler said the state government needs to ensure funding isn't put into programs requiring long-term

funding that can't be supported. She would conduct widespread audits in the state.

Pellerin said the state was fiscally prudent in using its \$100 billion surplus by establishing rainy day and reserve funds and investing in per-pupil spending and infrastructure. She said California per-pupil spending raised it from ranking 48th to the top ten in the nation. About \$14.8 billion was invested in infrastructure for railroads, highways, walking and bicycle paths, she added.

Pellerin believes the state is financially prepared for dark days, including an emergency due to having sound fiscal policies in place.

#### **Energy policy**

Both candidates favor investment in public transportation, but Lawler does not support High Speed Rail to the Central Valley.

Pellerin said climate change is impacting everything, and energy policies need to look at a sustainable, clean energy future for California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She said work is needed to address the drought, capture and store rainwater and improve the state's energy grid to meet demand. She said investment is needed in clean energy solutions such as solar and wind energy.

Lawler acknowledged climate change and suggested using additional options such as natural gas and nuclear energy.

"Natural gas is clean," she said. "...We cannot just stop the use of oil and gas and expect everybody to be okay. We have to have a thoughtful transition plan."

She said the United States imports "dirty" oil from Venezuela but has much cleaner oil and gas production in the United States.

"Let's use what we have until we can get to the point where our electric grid is fully reliable," she said.

#### Abortion

Lawler said she believes in a woman's right to choose. She favors 15 weeks for fetal viability. She said Prop 1 is so poorly written it opens the door for late term partial birth abortion. She said a Berkeley study said the proposition could endanger a woman's right to choose in California.

Pellerin said abortion should be a personal, rather a government decision. She denounces the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, revoking the constitutional right to abortion.

"This decision of our highest court is an assault on individuals to control their own bodies," she said.

She said Proposition 1 ensures all individuals have reproductive freedom. She said Gov. Gavin Newsom also signed bills ensuring California will be a sanctuary state for those seeking reproductive services.

#### Education

Lawler said school choice is essential to provide the best education for all students. Also, charter schools raise test scores.

Pellerin said new per-pupil spending will elevate education in public schools. She said investments in early childhood education, childcare, English as a second language and after-school programs improve outcomes in students.

In closing, Pellerin said public service is in her blood.

"I will never lose sight that I work for you," she said, adding she will be a caretaker for resident's rights for representation in Sacramento.

Lawler said leaders are needed who consider the long-term impacts of policies on residents and businesses

"Do you want more of the same," she said, "or do you want a commonsense leader who will bring a fresh perspective and rational problem solving?"

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY IS IN A SEVERE DROUGHT. **V** LET'S SAY YES TO SAVING WATER WaterSavings.org



#### PAGE 15 WILLOW GLEN TIMES NOVEMBER 2022

Times **Community** 



Stacey Tappan (left), Vanessa Becerra and Karin Mushegain in Alma Deutscher's "Cinderella" at Opera San José in 2017. *Photo: Robert Shomler* 

### **Opera San José presents Alma Deutscher's 'Cinderella' Nov. 12-27 at California Theater**

historical performance of world acclaimed 17-year-old female composer Alma Deutscher and all kids who attend on a special performance called Cinderella Day can pay to get in by matching their age for ticket price! Made possible by those who care about the arts.

Opera San José will host the international operatic conducting debut of prodigy composer/musician Alma Deutscher, who will take the podium for a lavish production of her landmark opera, Cinderella November 12-27 at the California Theater in San Jose.

Based on the classic fairytale, this familyfriendly work is reset at an opera company run by a scheming stepmother, in which the title character is a brilliant composer laboring as a lowly copyist. In this production, Cinderella is united with her prince not because a glass slipper fits, but with the beginning of a melody only she knows how to continue.

#### Internationally acclaimed production

In 2017, California Theatre audiences watched the sold-out American premiere of the already internationally acclaimed Cinderella by the then 13-year-old composer, in a production supported by the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI). Opera San José and PHI again join forces to welcome Deutscher back, with the now 17-year-old taking the baton in this pivotal moment in her career. Director Brad Dalton will return to revive his stunning original production. **Kids can pay their age** 

Opera San José will be presenting a Cinderella Family Day<sup>\*</sup> for the performance 2:00 p.m., Saturday, November 19, for which children's tickets are "Pay Their Age." Casting includes Natalia Santaliz as Cinderella, Joey Hammod-Leppek as The Prince, Ben Brady as The King, Stacey Tappan as Griselda, Julia Dawson as Zibaldona, Rena Harms as The Stepmother, Megan Esther Grey as Fairy, and Lance LaShelle as The Minister.

Cinderella will be sung in English, with English supertitles, with performances from November 12-27, 2022 (dates/times below) at the California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street, San Jose. For more information or to purchase tickets\* (\$55–\$195), the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). \*Must be purchased in advance online, one adult ticket must accompany the order and children's tickets are "Pay Their Age" (minimum \$5).

Tickets: \$55-\$195, with a Cinderella Family Day for the performance 2:00 p.m., Saturday, November 19.

For more information or to purchase tickets, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.).





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OSC has opened a new program for women based upon equine interaction and equine-assisted-learning, designed to develop self-awareness and self-acceptance, confidence and resilience, and safe boundaries.

G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead. The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll one.step.closer@sbcqlobal.net 408-778-3567

### Holidays at the Ainsley House for the entire family

The Ainsley House is excited to be open this holiday season with events for the whole family. This year there is something to delight everyone!

You're invited to Holiday Teas & Tours, Holiday Boutique, and Evening Open Houses, as the Ainsley House brings Holiday Cheer to Campbell.

The Ainsley House will be decorated in the theme: Holiday Alphabet. Discover how each room in the House is inspired by letters. You will see find N for nutcracker, and S for Santa, and E for Elves. The Ainsley House will be magical and interactive.

Tours through the Ainsley House will be unguided and self-paced. The Ainsley House and Boutique will be open November 17 through December 18, Thursdays-Sundays, from 11am-3pm. The Ainsley House will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Tour admission is \$10 adults (18-64), seniors (65+) \$8, youth age 7-17 \$6, Museum members are free.

The Holiday Boutique is located in the Carriage House as well as in several rooms



**Times Community News** 

on the first floor of the Ainsley House. In the Boutique you will find unique seasonal gifts, ornaments, jewelry, scarves, and much more. The Boutique will be open during touring hours.

The Campbell Museum Foundation's annual Holiday fundraiser: Holiday Teas and Tours will take place December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, & 11. Seating will take place at 12pm. The tea menu includes finger sandwiches, champagne, a special Ainsley blend tea, and tasty treats in the Carriage House, followed by a self-guided led tour of the Ainsley House. Admission is \$60/ General Public and \$55/ Museum Member. Admission proceeds go toward supporting education programs and preservation efforts at the Campbell Historical Museum and Ainsley House. Reservations are required for the teas and can be made at www.campbellmuseums. com. Reservations for the Holiday Teas and Tours

are open now. Santa Claus will make a special appearance at the Ainsley House on Saturday, December 10 from 9am-12pm. He will greet families and kids on the West Patio surrounded by a decorated Holidayscene. Reservations to take photos with Santa will be 9am-10am, 10am-11am, and 11am-12pm. While families wait to see Santa, there will be hot chocolate and crafts set up. Santa reservations can be made at www.campbellmuseums.com and admission is \$10 per family.

One of the best ways to see the Ainsley House decorated for the Holidays is to attend one of two evening Open House events. The Open House events at the Ainsley House offer the public an opportunity to enjoy the holiday decorations at night, with live music in the Ainsley living room and light refreshments in the Carriage House. The Open House events take place 5:30 – 8:00 pm on Thursday, December 15 and Sunday, December 18, 2022. Admission is \$15, \$10 for Museum members; children 17 years old and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Carriage House the evening of each event.

Additional details will be available at www.campbellmuseums.com.



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#### **Times Community News**

### Why San Jose air is worse than other cities

By Brian Howey San José Spotlight ir quality in the South Bay is worse than neighboring parts of the San Francisco Bay Area—and it hits underserved communities hardest.

According to data compiled by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, ozone levels are consistently higher in the San Jose area because of traffic congestion, weather and topography. Local studies show air pollution causes health issues like asthma, and communities of color and lowincome neighborhoods tend to see higher levels of pollution than wealthier, whiter neighborhoods due to their proximity to highways and industrial areas.

Since May, ozone levels in the Santa Clara Valley have been worse on average than any other region monitored by the district, out-smogging even the refinery-laden North Bay, which includes San Rafael and Vallejo. Levels are similar to the trafficclogged Eastern Zone, which incorporates Fairfield, Livermore and San Ramon.

"The Santa Clara Valley has consistently worse air quality (compared to other zones)," said Richard Lam, a district meteorologist.

Conditions in the Santa Clara Valley are perfect for creating and trapping ozone, Lam told San José Spotlight. The valley's warmth and sun turn traffic emissions into the smoggy gas, and the mountains bordering Santa Clara County trap it there.

Average ozone levels in the valley tend to remain below the federal Environmental Protection Agency's safety threshold, and they've only spiked to unsafe levels three times this year in Santa Clara Valley. But local studies show long-term exposure to air pollution in congested areas like San Jose can cause significant health impacts.

In an air pollution study published in May, San Francisco-based tech company Aclima collected air quality data block-toblock across 5,000 square miles and 101 Bay Area cities.

Across the region, communities of color and low-income neighborhoods are often closer to congested highways and emission-spewing factories where air quality is worse, the study found. For instance, 81.2% of Santa Clara County residents of color live in areas with unsafe levels of nitrogen dioxide, a harmful gas found in fuel exhaust. Nearly 95% breathe harmful particles in their neighborhoods, the study found.

Nonprofit air monitor Sustainable Silicon Valley, which studies air pollution in East Palo Alto, found child asthma cases are 2.5 times higher than the national rate in the traffic-clogged city, which borders a freeway and sits at the west end of the Dumb-



#### arton Bridge.

"There are pockets in all these communities that have worse air pollution than others," Sustainable Silicon Valley Chief Scientist Anthony Strawa told *San José Spotlight,* "I think that if you did the same kind of study (in San Jose) those values would hold."

Strawa is doing just that. His organization recently launched an air quality study and community outreach program, installing air monitors at 10 East San Jose high schools and working with students to research air quality in those communities. The study is already collecting data.

### Wildfire and ozone

Smoke can push ozone and other harmful pollutants to unsafe levels, and as California nears the supposed end of an ever-expanding wildfire season, experts have advised residents to be mindful of ozone and other pollutants in their neighborhoods.

"Ozone can damage and inflame the lin-

ing in our lungs similar to how sun causes a sunburn on our skin," air district spokesperson Erin Demerritt told *San José Spotlight*, noting it's particularly harmful to pregnant women, the elderly and young children who breathe more rapidly than adults.

When pollution levels get too high, the district issues spare the air alerts so residents know when to cut back on driving and other polluting activities. The best way to cut back on air pollutants is for local residents to drive gasoline-powered cars less and use public transportation more, Demerritt said.

To check current air pollution levels in your area, visit https://gispub.epa.gov/ airnow/?showgreencontours=false

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#### **Times Community News**

### CAREER CORNER Do less, not more

By Angela Copeland

Home? So often, when this happens, it feels like the answer is to do more. Roll your sleeves up,

work harder, and push through it. Stay up late, and get up early. This can be an effective strategy if you're doing something mindless, such as unpacking boxes after a move. But, if you're doing work that requires thought and concentration, doing more may not actually work. In fact, it could have the opposite effect.



Over-working yourself will wear you out. It will zap your creativity and your mental energy. Your work will take longer, and it is more likely that you'll make mistakes. Pushing yourself too much is one of the behaviors that can ultimately lead to burnout. And, burnout can take quite a lot of time and energy to recover from.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that we all begin checking out. It's also not an effective strategy to do nothing.

But, when you're tight on time, or your to do list seems to be way too long, take the time to reprioritize. Rather than try to accomplish everything, decide which of your long list of things is the most important. A great exercise is to try cutting your to do list in half. If you could only accomplish half of the things on your list, which tasks would you begin with? Which tasks must completed now versus later? Which tasks are quick, and which are long?

Focusing in on fewer things allows us to do those things better. It allows us to clear our minds of the worry of having to complete too many tasks. For the items you do complete, you'll have the time to do the best possible job on each task. Of the tasks you focus on, you'll actually complete them. And, you'll do a better job.

If you're squeezed at work, you'll probably find this advice is the opposite of the way many leaders think of getting things done. So often, prioritizing what is important seems like an impossible task. In fact, everything is important. How can we possibly pick specific tasks over others?

But again, trying to accomplish too much is not

a good long term strategy. It can work once in a while, but not normally. There's a saying that if everything is important, nothing is important. And, this is true. When you try to do too much, you may find yourself completing very little of your list.

Both at work and at home, make your goal to do fewer things better. You'll find that this strategy will improve your mood. You will ultimately accomplish more. And, your quality of work will improve overall. At work, this strategy will force you to have tough conversations about which projects take priority. But over time, the process of reprioritizing your work will become easier. And, you'll get more done.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.







## 806 Buckwood Court



### \$1,899,000 4 Bed | 2 Bath | 1797 Sq Ft | 7601 Sq Ft Lot

Totally remodeled single story home in the Almaden Woodside neighborhood. Recessed lighting, fresh interior paint, soaring ceiling, skylights, tile flooring. High peak ceiling, transom windows, plantation shutters, new carpet, fireplace with brick hearth, sliders that provide access to the backyard. Kitchen has granite slab counters and plenty of maple cabinetry. A dual height counter has room for extra seating. NEST thermostat, Tesla Motors cable wall connector EV charger, SolarEdge HD-wave, Generac backup generator. Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High School.



## 20601 Via Santa Teresa

### \$4,990,000

### 5 Bed | 4 Bath | 3 Half-Baths | 7158 Sq Ft | 2.62 Acre Lot

Enter the private driveway up to this stunning Almaden Valley executive-style home and you are immediately awestruck by panoramic views in Santa Clara County. This architectural masterpiece incorporates the sweeping views into almost every room in the home. Gourmet kitchen, office/library, media room, game room, bonus room that could be an "in-law" suite. Tesla charging station. Solar. 4-car garage with workshop. Numerous balconies as well as the side yard with outdoor kitchen, two sitting areas, fire pit, pergola, hot tub, lawn, and pavers. Top schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.





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. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area. If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

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