

11th annual
Santa Run
Silicon Valley
returns to San
José — **PAGE 4**



A march of honor
104th annual San Jose Veterans Day
parade Friday Nov. 11
— **SEE PAGE 8**

ELECTION UPDATE:

As we went to press, Matt Mahan (51.76%) is leading Cindy Chavez (48.24%) in the race for San Jose Mayor. In the County Supervisor District 1 race, Silvia Arenas (52.68%) is leading Johnny Khamis (47.32%). For Sheriff, Robert 'Bob' Jonsen (51.48%) is leading Kevin Jensen (48.52%).

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NOV. 11 — NOV. 24, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 23



Kenneth Chen addressing his audience.
Photo Credit: Fannie Wang

Two paths, same destination

*Leland High School
alumni return to
share their journeys*

By **Claire Chen**

Leland Bridge Student Writer

What seemed like any other business meeting at Spotify ended as more when they found they were both former students of Leland High School.

Kenneth Chen (Vice President of Finance Strategy, Operations and Risk) and Ben Kung (Vice President, Head of Financial Planning and Analysis) planned a professional discussion typical of their jobs. But this was more than yet another of Kung and Chen's discussion of their shared present, it was also a discovery of their shared past.

While their time at Leland never overlapped (Chen graduated in 1999, while Kung graduated in 2006), they had in common, as Chen puts it, "Many of the same memories" and had "A lot of fun trading war stories."

From comparable roots and high school experiences to working high level positions at the same company, Chen and Kung might appear to have taken similar paths in life — but that is far from the

See ALUMNI, page 13

Almaden Valley Women's Club reinvents itself

By **Lorraine Gabbert**

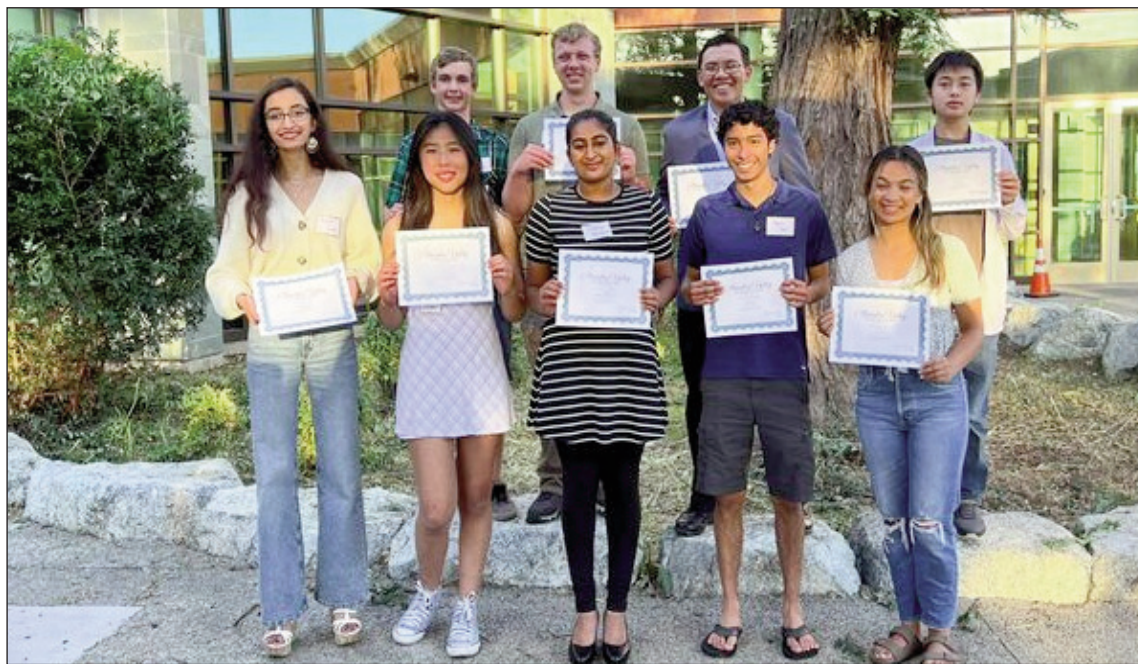
Senior Staff Writer

To continue serving the community through the pandemic, the Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC) had to get creative.

Unable to host the Almaden Valley Art and Wine Festival at Almaden Lake Park, the AVWC held a virtual 5K, wine pull and Festival of Thanks to raise funds to support San Jose organizations and scholarships for graduating high school students. Continuing its tradition, AVWC held student logo contests with the winning logo featured on its commemorative wine glasses, event t-shirts and swag bags.

"It was especially important for the Almaden Valley Women's Club to continue to support non-profit organizations during the pandemic," said AVWC President Beth Swartz. "Funds became very tight for many organizations...it was important to do what we could to support the organizations during this time of need."

With the virtual 5K, AVWC hoped to get people walking or jogging and enjoying the great outdoors. People could follow a suggested route or find their own path and post pictures on social media. The virtual



Almaden Valley Women's Club Scholarship recipients pose proudly in May 2022.

event, open to people near and far, included participants in Arizona, Philadelphia and Australia.

Residents tested their luck with the wine pull, receiving a bottle of wine valued from \$15 to \$70 in exchange for a flat fee going to a good cause. The Festival of Thanks, held at Castillero Middle School, offered a mini art and wine festival with a handful of sponsors and

artists and a silent auction. Residents enjoyed perusing displays, decorating luminary bags and playing cornhole. They were also treated to a presentation by Leland High School's robotics club of its ball-throwing robot.

Maria Kim, AVWC vice president of programs was glad AVWC held these events.

"In the end, they were successful

enough that we were able to raise money to donate to these organizations," she said.

Swartz said AVWC is working to rebuild its active volunteer base, which waned during the pandemic.

"We need a steady group of experienced people in order to do the art and wine festival," she said. "We have to build that back up before

See AVWC, page 7

A banner year for Gifts for Teens

By **Cheryl Markman**

Special to the Times

Gifts for Teens completed a very successful project yet again this year!

Volunteers completed 600 very abundant bags (totes for girls and duffels for boys), the organization's best holiday bags ever.

Almost bursting at the seams with the best contents ever given out, each bag is worth nearly \$350.

The donated cosmetics for the girls are amazing and each guy

will have a thick hoodie and a pair of cozy sweat pants. Each teen will also receive a \$50 store gift card as well as fast food cards.

The Gifts for Teens bags were delivered to Sacred Heart Community Service, Bill Wilson Center, and Advent for distribution to their clients in December.

"Gifts for Teens offers their thanks to the many dedicated people who helped to make 2022 the most successful year by either donating, volunteering or helping in any other way," said Elaine Benoit, GFT Chair. "We wish all Branch members and community volunteers a very Happy Holiday season."



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NOTEBOOK



Students, families should learn about their EFC

Among the key terms students need to learn if they are continuing their education after high school is expected family contribution (EFC). According to Kentucky Higher Education Authority (KHEAA), the EFC is how much money students and their families are expected to pay toward a student's education expenses.

A student's EFC is based on a formula set by Congress. The factors used in determining the EFC include income, assets, the number of people in the household and the number of household members in college during the award year. The information students and families report on the Free See FINANCIAL AID, page 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Children deserve a quality education

Dear Editor,

Throughout my tenure as an educator, I have been driven by my belief that all children deserve a quality education. Children of our district are no different.

As the new Superintendent, my focus is to ensure academic excellence for all current and new incoming students. During my brief tenure, I have found our educa-

tional community members passionate about student achievement, excited about quality educational programming, and committed to equity for all students.

This is our time to learn, grow, and develop together. I am honored by the Board's belief in my ability to lead our District to the next level, in essence, to make the Evergreen School District the top choice for children and families in Santa Clara County. I also appreciate the community's support and look forward to working with the community.

My first-year priorities are to provide a roadmap for the transition process. The work of increasing the success of all students is too great an ask for our school district to attempt in isolation. While doable, the goal of an improved educational experience will require involvement from all — students, parents and guardians, staff, and community partners.

The initial transition process can be thought about in four major phases: Engage, Explore, Evaluate and Equip. Each phase will build upon the previous phase. A culminating plan with deliverables and updates will be monitored and shared with the Evergreen School Community. Through these engagement opportunities, we will capture the voices of all stakeholders considering the feedback provided in the strategic planning process.

Dr. Antoine Hawkins
Superintendent
Evergreen Elementary
School District

Valley Currents

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



11th annual Santa Run Silicon Valley returns to San José

Santa Run returns in-person for the first time since COVID

It's time to harness the reindeer, set out the milk and cookies, and grab your running shoes—after a two-year pandemic hiatus, the Santa Run Silicon Valley is back in person!

The beloved Santa Run started more than a decade ago, with thousands of Santa-dressed runners stampeding through Downtown, to a finish line at Christmas in the Park in Downtown San José.

On Sunday, December 11, Santa's, Mrs. Claus', elves, and more will descend upon downtown San José for the 11th annual Santa Run Silicon Valley. Proceeds from the run will go to San Jose Aspires.

"Silicon Valley Santa Run is returning with holiday cheer to our downtown this year, and for a worthy cause, San Jose Aspires," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "San Jose Aspires is working to increase first-generation students access to college and post-secondary education, so get your running shoes and Santa suits and help get these kids over the finish line!"

San José Aspires (SJ Aspires) was launched by San José Mayor Sam Liccardo in 2021. The program helps to provide first-generation high school students with a uniquely impactful experience by giving them access to a self-guided curriculum, supplemental college advising and guidance, and micro-scholarships as they become college and career-ready young adults.

The Santa Run Silicon Valley will include the following:

- 5K will start at 3:00 p.m. and begin downtown before following the Alameda
- Kids Fun Run for kids ages 2-7, at 4:00 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit www.santarunsv.com. Organizations interested in becoming sponsors, please contact Bernadette White at bernadette.white@sanjoseca.gov.

Op-Ed

Iranian women stand up for rights

God bless the women of Iran!

They have spontaneously stood up to protest and demand their Rights to be seen and accepted as equal human beings as their male counterparts. They do not want nor need men to lead them around.

Iranian women do not want the Republic to grant them Rights. They want men of the Republic and the Republic Lawmakers to recognize their equality as human beings and to withdraw the controls that prohibit them from exercising their human rights.

The oppression and suppression of women over the ages is not a unique phenomenon of Iran's homophobic so-called "Islamic" regime. Women have fought for centuries to be viewed as equals in all parts of the world.

Don't forget that the United States was one of the last western democratic countries of the world to remove the laws that prevented women from voting. And the current struggles over the abortion issue echo a similar issue about who has the Right to determine what happens in a woman's body. And don't forget that most Baptist communities and the Catholic Church restrict the role of women's lead-

ership under the guise of biblical interpretation. And don't think that the secular irreligious are any better. They may perceive women more as vessels for service and servitude than as equal persons. The human trafficking and sexual slavery scandals of our day are symbols of the perspective that women are an economic and social vessel for use by their male counterparts for personal gain at the expense of womanhood.

The Bible doesn't hold women as secondary to men. Sure, the biblical stories show women in their historical and cultural contacts where the men are the leaders and the women primarily the servers; until they break out of the imposed roles!

One needs to read and see beyond the descriptive photos of the times. The key moments of Jesus' teaching is usually through a discussion or interaction with a woman: A woman collecting water at a well and Jesus reveals his divinity to her. She becomes the first evangelist to tell the community that something special is up. Women are the first to witness the resurrection at Jesus' tomb and go off to tell the discouraged men that something special is up! Jesus challenged the men gathering to stone a woman to death: "Let the innocent cast the first stone." No takers, of course. The world is full of people who want to present the image of correctness but have no appreciation for equality among us. God sees us as equals even if we don't.

The outright oppressors of women are being
See IRAN, page 8

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Times **Cover Story****AVWC***Continued from page 1*

we can commit to doing it again.”

In the meantime, the organization is hoping to participate in the Fourth of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park and is planning a fall event featuring entertainment, wine and a silent auction in 2023.

“We want to find new ways to raise funds so we can turn around and help the community,” Swartz said.

In 2021, AVWC provided grants to a variety of schools and organizations including Almaden Valley Counseling Services, Live Oak Adult Day Services and Playgarden at Almaden Lake Park.

Recently, with fewer COVID-19 restrictions in place, AVWC volunteered as a group to support organizations like JW House, which provides free accommodations for travelers visiting family in local hospitals, and the Kinship, Adoptive and Foster Parent Association (KAFPA).

Denise Myrick, AVWC vice president of fundraising, especially liked providing teddy bears and gift bags to KAFPA.

“That touches my heart because I really like dealing with kids, especially in foster care,” she said.

AVWC has also supported children for more than 10 years through Gifts for Teens. Elaine Benoit, chairperson for Gifts for Teens, said AVWC has been financially generous in its efforts to help low-income, homeless and foster teens. AVWC members also helped stuff Gifts for Teens duffle bags with socks, sweatshirts, cosmetics, personal hygiene items, gift cards and personal notes from local high school students.

About 25 years ago, while volunteering at Sacred Heart Community Service, Benoit realized there were a lack of donations for the teens it served and wanted to fill the gap.

“We started this to let people know that in our wonderful valley with so much affluence, there are also people who really need help,” she said, “...and there’s a greater need now than there was 25 years ago.”

The bags also connect teens in need with social services agencies like Sacred Heart Community Service, Bill Wilson Center, Advent Group Ministries and Unity Care.

“The kids come in to get the bags and then they get help from the agencies,” she said, “so a lot of positives.”

Benoit said the teens love the bags filled with things they want and can use. She also appreciates the efforts of the AVWC.

“They’re always so positive, efficient and willing to help,” she said.

Swartz appreciates being part of an organization that gives local women an opportunity to get together and give back to the community.

“We all enjoy volunteering together,” she said. “It’s just fun.”

Myrick likes being able to help people in need both financially and with helping hands.

Through the pandemic, even with dropping membership numbers, good leadership and friendship kept AVWC going, she said.

“While some events might not be deemed as successful as the art and wine festival, we put our heads together and tried to come up with new solutions and new things to do,” she said. “I liked that people weren’t just giving up.”



Almaden Valley Women’s Club member volunteer at Gifts for Teens (left) and JW House (right).

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Times **Feature**



Financial aid

Continued from page 4

Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is plugged into a formula to come up with an EFC.

The U.S. Department of Education has three EFC formulas: one for dependent students; another for independent students who only have a spouse as a dependent; and one for independent students who have dependents other than a spouse.

The parent's income and assets are used to develop the EFC for dependent students. Nearly all students going directly from high school to postsecondary education are considered dependent students.

How much students can receive in Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study and other federal

aid programs is based on their EFC. Some states use EFCs to determine if students are eligible for state financial aid programs.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency, KHESLC. For more information, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit kheaa.com.

Iran

Continued from page 4

challenged. From the male dictators of Saudi Arabia, Iran and other countries of the world who kill, torture, persecute and restrain women, to the religions and churches of the world dominated by men who think 'maleness' is some form of unique divine manifestation. Ultimately, the women will win. So long as they raise their voices in a united way they will knock down the

doors. They will breakdown the religious salt pillars. It is only a matter of time.

The message of the woman of Iran is 'electric.' The requirement of submission and dominance of one over another is a major cause of ongoing tension in our world. And women having an equal voice in the human debate will bring us closer to a more tranquil reality. We need 100% of the people at the table.

God bless the women of Iran!
John Goldstein, Lead Pastor
Grace Church of Evergreen

104th annual San Jose Veterans Day parade Friday Nov. 11

United Veterans Council celebrates its 100 year anniversary

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County presents the 104th annual Veterans Day parade on Friday November 11 in downtown San Jose.

The theme "United We Serve" acknowledges all the men and women who have served in the military or who are currently serving on active duty.

The parade will start at noon on Santa Clara St across from SAP center and proceed down Santa Clara Street turning right on Market and finishing at Market and San Carlos.

This year's Grand Marshal is Rear Admiral Anne Swap who is making a return visit to San Jose after she led the first ever Navy week in San Jose in August.

"The parade is bigger and better this year as we welcome more of our community back in person to celebrate our Veterans and honor their service to our country" said Rose Herrera President, United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County. "We'll see more participation from local military units, ROTC color guards, Veterans organizations, first responders, marching bands, Community groups, labor groups, military equipment organizations, antique cars, military dignitaries and elected leaders."

Major sponsors of the parade include the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, Republic Urban Properties, and JayPaul Company.



New this year the parade will be streamed live by CreaTV over You Tube. <https://m.youtube.com/CRE-ATVSANJOSE>

For more information go to www.sjveteransparade.org

Almaden residents Sandee Carlson, Rebekah Hiatt and Sarah Starkeh named to Biola University's Dean's List

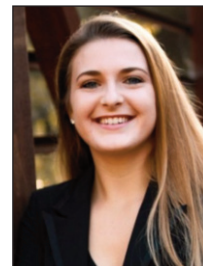
Three Almaden Valley residents have been named to Biola's University's Dean's List.

Among the recipients are **Sandee Carlson** (below), who is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Biblical Studies. She worked for three consecutive summers at Grace South Bay Church of Silicon Valley with youth ministry; **Rebekah Hiatt** (below right), is majoring in Accounting. She completed her internship with Boman Accounting Group, Inc.; Sarah Starkeh who is majoring in Sociology, has had several leadership roles, including manager of a high school football team, editor of her high school yearbook, and camp counselor.

Biola students are placed on the Dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement and investment in scholarship. These students are celebrated for their achievement and all look forward to their future accomplishments.

Founded in 1908, Biola University is a nationally



ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. It was recently recognized as one of America's best colleges, earning a spot in the top tier of the "Best National Universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges 2023 rankings.

Gun owners: New Year's Day deadline to comply with new gun insurance law

San Jose requires gun insurance by Jan. 1.

To comply with San Jose's new gun insurance ordinance, gun owners need to have an insurance policy for their firearms that includes losses or damages from accidental use by next year.

City of San Jose officials are reminding gun owners that they must have homeowners, renters or gun liability insurance coverage in place by January 1, 2023, and be ready to pay a \$25 fee.

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said gun insurance can "compensate victims who need care, and encourage gun owners to use gun safes, deploy trigger locks and take gun safety classes."

Firearm owners are encouraged to apply for a city of San Jose insurance attestation form to provide proof of insurance coverage. The fee will be used to conduct services such as firearm safety education, suicide prevention, and violence prevention programs. The fee is \$25.

"That's not insignificant in a country where 4.6 million children live in a home where a gun is kept loaded and unlocked," Liccardo said in a statement.

The ordinance follows other efforts that the city claims has led to reduced gun violence in San Jose, such as initiating gun violence restraining orders, banning unserialized "ghost guns" and cracking down on illegal purchases.

Times Feature

The origins of Veterans Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month).

The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed To Honor All Veterans

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Amer-



icans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

National Ceremonies Held at Arlington National Cemetery

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee.

Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans' organizations.

Governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

Additional information on the history of Veterans Day, the Veterans Day National Committee, the national ceremony, a gallery of Veterans Day posters from 1978 to the present and a colorful and informative Veterans Day Teacher's Resource Guide can be found on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/vetsday>

Wrath of the witch

By **Matthew Frazier**

Certified Water Manager

As a certified water manager, I have undergone extensive education and training in many arenas and facets of The Water Industry – beginning as a consultant and salesperson in garden centers and nurseries and now in the employ of a stormwater firm.

A little over fifteen years ago The Witch Fire unleashed its wrath. As a water professional, I do not have the authoritative knowledge and wisdom of a fire professional, but I have attended and completed some trainings which have a direct impact on Irrigation Design and Water Management.

Fifteen years ago, I was working in a family-owned nursery here in Almaden Valley, with ambitions of becoming a landscape architect or landscape designer. This was my very first nursery job and I had little knowledge of the mechanics and nuances of fire and its impact on the environs and landscapes of California.

The Witch Creek Fire

Vague memories serve me only in that there was an abundance of media coverage of one fire in particular: The Witch Creek Fire – also

known as The Witch Fire and The Witch Guejito-Poomacha Complex Fire. All I knew then of this fire is that it devastated the city of San Diego and the county of San Diego.

In preparation of writing this column entry ... I watched several video clips of media coverage plus read some articles. My words and my limited knowledge of this fire does not do it justice in one brief and succinct column entry. But ... The toll it took is one of legend: More than 197,000 acres burned. Combated by San Diego Fire Rescue ... 73 engines ... 7 trucks ... 420 personnel deployed ... This is one of magnitude.

The power of fire

Nearly one year ago I had the good fortune of a course in Firescaping taught by a renowned author and subject matter expert who gave a comprehensive and thoughtful tour of the danger and the power of fire and what we can do to minimize the damage and the

impacts. For those who do not work directly with fire on an hourly or daily basis, the effect is not the same. As a water professional, I gained a renewed reverence for this powerful component of nature.

One of the first items I consulted in writing this column entry is a very well-documented account of The Witch Fire on Wikipedia. The origins and the progression of this haunted apparition force is given in great detail, including its proliferation and aggregation with other fires along the way – consuming nearly all in its path.

According to the sources I referenced ... “The Witch Creek Fire forced the evacuation

of at 500,000 persons from over 346,000 homes throughout San Diego County.” Having lived in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley my entire life ... I have not seen a fire of this magnitude but I feel deep sorrow for those who lost everything in this torrent of terror.

Preventive maintenance

The sage advice I and my peers were given pertains directly to preventive maintenance of homes and properties, including ensuring that there are abundant and clear “defensible spaces” within the path of destruction of fires. The phenomenon of “convection effects” and “fire brands” are worth researching, along with the details and specifics of this fire and the others which have plagued California. From what I recall, it is the cumulative heat from the fires that lashes out ahead of the flames and consumes materials and structures at a rapid rate.

I re-assert that I am not an expert in the arena of fire management nor fire mitigation but I have a deep respect for those who are. As a water manager, I see the direct impact of drought and insufficient irrigation contributing to the kindling for these raging California fires.

To do the subject justice, I encourage each and all to reach out to your local fire agencies and organizations and request literature and training on what we can do to manage and mitigate the risks associated with both urban and wild fires.

This column concerns water wise topics but I am hard pressed to find a more immediate example than the fires of California and especially those which have left a lasting impression. Safety and best wishes to each and all.

Matthew Frazier is a CLCA Expert Certified Water Manager. You may contact Matt by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



Water Wise

Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

Ask the DMV

All about Veteran ID designation

The DMV honors all those who serve or have served and offers some tips for active-duty military personnel, veterans, and loved ones.

The DMV salutes active-duty military and veterans.

With Veteran’s Day right around the corner, there’s no better time to get informed about veteran ID designation, handling IDs for armed forces away from home, and the benefits of a REAL ID for extended family and friends of active military personnel.

Q1: How do I add the veteran designation to my DL/ID?

A1: Eligible veterans can add the word “VETERAN” to the front of their DL/ID card to indicate that they have served in the United States (U.S.) military. Having this designation on your DL/ID can play a critical role in enabling access to certain privileges, benefits, or compensation associated with being a veteran without having to carry a certificate of release or discharge from active duty.

To apply for the veteran designation on your DL/ID card, you will need to:

1. Complete a Driver’s License & Identification Card Application (DL 44/eDL 44) form.
2. Visit a County Veteran Service Office (CVSO) to obtain a Veteran Status Verification Form (VSD-001). (This form is not available from DMV.)

See DMV, page 12

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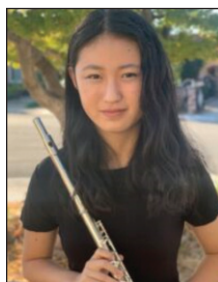
SEASON OPENER CONCERT

Philharmonic Orchestra performs Debussy, Ibert, Saint-Saëns, Dvorák and Smetana

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra will present its 2022-23 Season Opener Concert on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose.

The orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, will open with Debussy's Nocturnes – Fêtes, with its impressionistic and fantastical vision of a festival, followed by Saint-Saëns' lively and cheerful Marche Héroïque, and end with Smetana's patriotic and inspirational The Moldau.

The concert also features two winners from the 2022 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation. Outstanding young soloists, **Grace Yan** (below left), flutist, will perform Ibert's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra; and **Justin Kim** (below right), cellist, will perform Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B minor.



Grace Yan is a junior at Evergreen Valley High School. She has been playing the flute since she was 5 years old. This is her fourth season with the San Jose Youth Symphony, having been with the Avant and Avancé Flute Choirs during her first two years before joining the Philharmonic Orchestra last season.

Justin Kim is a junior at Bellarmine College Preparatory. He started playing the piano when he was 5 years old and then started playing cello at age 8. He first joined the San Jose Youth Symphony in 4th grade and is currently in his 2nd season with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the U.S. Founded over seven decades ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

The musicians of SJYS, all school-age youth, are chosen from more than 650 applicants through our annual auditions. The SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras, a Chamber orchestra, two flute choirs, two string ensembles, as well as winds, harp, saxophone, percussion, and jazz ensembles.



The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra will present its 2022-23 Season Opener Concert on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose.

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Times **Feature**

DMV

Continued from page 10

- 3. Bring the completed VSD-001 to a DMV field office.
 - 4. Pay the nonrefundable application fee.
 - 5. Pay an additional \$5 fee to add the veteran designation to your DL/ID card (applicants who qualify for a reduced fee, or no fee driver license or identification card may waive the \$5 fee).
- Note: SB 837 will take effect on January 1, 2023, and will eliminate the one-time \$5 fee to add a veteran designation to a

driver's license or identification card. Visit dmv.ca.gov/online to get started.

Q2: Can my friends and extended family visit me at a military base without a REAL ID?

A2: Starting May 3, 2023, everyone will need a federally approved form of identification, such as a REAL ID or passport, to enter military bases and other federal facilities. Military IDs will meet this requirement, but civilians who wish to visit bases will need to ensure they have federally compliant identification, such as a REAL ID.

You can start your REAL ID application

online now to beat the rush as the enforcement date draws closer. After completing your online application and uploading your documents, visit your local DMV office with your documents to finish the application process. Visit dmv.ca.gov/REALID to get started.

Q3: How is licensing handled for U.S. Armed Forces and Foreign Service personnel away from home?

A3: If you are out of state on active military service in the U.S. Armed Forces or U.S. Foreign Service, you and your spouse's California DLs will continue to be valid beyond the normal expiration date. DMV

will send you an Extension of License for Person in Armed Forces (DL 236) card to carry with your DL. The DL 236 card shows CVC §12817, which authorizes the extension of your and your spouse's DLs.

It is important to update your driving record to prevent it from being purged. If your DL has expired and you are out of state, call (916) 657-7790 to update your driving record.

For more information or answers to questions specifically for veterans, active military, and their family members, please visit the DVM website at www.dmv.ca.gov

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Times **Community**

Kung during his presentation. Photo Credit: Fannie Wang

Alumni

Continued from page 1

case. Each embarked on their own unique journey, from high school to present, the story of which was presented to current Leland students during a seminar organized by Leland Bridge Parents Group last Saturday, October 15.

As a student, Chen's parents urged him to focus on coursework in high school, and then pursue a path in medicine or engineering in college. However, Chen himself had always felt that English was his best and favorite subject — and began trying to find something, "I wanted to do with my life that wouldn't make my parents too upset." He ended in a compromise to pursue business, and Chen eventually graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business at University of California Berkeley — an easy choice for Chen, who had never considered leaving his home state California for college. In fact, he might have stayed his whole life if not for his first job at PwC San Francisco, who sent him on a fateful business trip to Stockholm, Sweden for six months.

Chen originally approached this trip telling himself, "Whatever could go wrong, I'm going home in 6 months, so live the Swedish life to the fullest." As he said during the seminar, it was this mentality that gave him "The freedom to explore Sweden, without holding anything back, and that's actually why I ended up staying here." Today, through accidental discovery and learning to love the unexpected, Chen has found a home in Amsterdam with his wife and baby daughter, and a job he loves at Spotify.

In comparison, Kung remembers being on the Leland Speech and Debate team and being part of Journalism as the most formative parts of his high school experience. He stated on Saturday that, "Despite being a more math-oriented person, these two extracurricular activities actually shaped me." For Kung, college would be a leap outside his comfort zone, literally and mentally. Going to college, "Not knowing what I wanted to study at all," Kung's parents wanted him to pursue a medical path, but in Kung's own words, "I have not been exactly known to obey my parents all the time, and so, when I got to college, I decided to forge my own route." He also decided to go to Princeton University in New Jersey, a far cry from his home state of California. Despite such barriers, Kung ultimately graduated from Princeton with a degree in Economics and a minor in Finance. Kung stress-

es the importance of discovery in his journey, as, "Growing up in California, all I knew were the standard careers as a doctor or lawyer; I had parents who worked as software engineers, but I had no idea what a finance career even was until I went to the East Coast, which opened my eyes to a world I didn't even know about." After graduating Princeton, Kung moved to New York City and took up a job there as an Investment Banking Analyst at Morgan Stanley, but today, he considers himself returned to his Silicon Valley roots by working at technology company Spotify.

In more ways than one, the seminar was a full circle moment for Chen and Kung. Organized and hosted by Leland Bridge Parents Group, a parent and student organization at local Leland High School that aims to close the distance between Asian-American families and the school community.

Aside from recounting their separate journeys, both alumni also participated in Q&A. Chen and Kung offered their advice on balancing parental expectations with personal passion, with Chen explaining that something he didn't understand until now, as a recent new parent, is that parents always want the absolute best for their kids, advising his audience to understand where their parents are coming from. Meanwhile, Kung offered guidance in the form of encouraging the students to find, "What feels right, and be unafraid to try something new." But it wasn't all serious, Chen also took questions on his childhood hobbies (video games), Kung recalls being unable to wake up in the morning, and when asked by a student how important knowing Mandarin really was in their jobs, Chen and Kung both smilingly replied, "Not much," to the relief of more than one student in the seminar, they did, however, remind students that learning another language was helpful in broadening one's perspectives.

As for finding the right path, Chen and Kung offered their advice to those currently forging their own: "You know something is going right when you actually wake up every day feeling excited about the day in front of you," says Kung. Chen adds, "For me, personally, when I was younger, I was always looking for the next big thing...but I've stopped doing that — I find if I'm content with my life I will be more happy living in the moment than anticipating something in the future."

Whether it's a career or a state of mind, this alumni seminar is proof that there is no one right path to our goals. It truly is about the journey, not the destination.



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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

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Inflation is rising the most in Phoenix, AZ (pictured).

Report: Cities where inflation is rising the most

With the year-over-year inflation rate at 8.2% in September, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on the Cities Where Inflation is Rising the Most, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.

To determine the cities where inflation is rising the most – and thus is the biggest problem – WalletHub compared 23 major MSAs (Metro-

politan Statistical Areas) across two key metrics involving the Consumer Price Index, which measures inflation.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the latest month for which BLS data is available to two months prior and one year prior to get a snapshot of how inflation has changed in the short and long term.

Rising the Most

Rising the Least

1. Phoenix, AZ

2. Atlanta, GA

3. Miami, FL

4. Tampa, FL

5. Baltimore, MD

19. Denver, CO

20. New York, NY

21. Washington, DC

22. San Francisco, CA

23. Anchorage, AK

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-inflation/107537>

Cities Where Inflation is Rising The Most

Overall Rank	MSA	Total Score	Consumer Price Index Change (Latest month vs 2 months before)	Consumer Price Index Change (Latest month vs 1 year ago)
1	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	95.28	0.80%	13.00%
2	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	91.10	1.30%	11.70%
3	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	75.76	0.40%	10.70%
4	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	73.44	0.30%	10.50%
5	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	69.50	0.10%	10.20%
6	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	66.43	0.50%	9.20%
7	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	64.71	0.10%	9.50%
8	San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	63.35	0.90%	8.20%
9	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	62.67	0.90%	8.10%
10	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	61.11	0.30%	8.70%
11	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	60.34	0.00%	9.00%
12	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	56.84	0.50%	7.80%
13	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	56.23	0.00%	8.40%
14	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	54.17	0.00%	8.10%
15	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	53.15	0.40%	7.40%
16	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	52.88	-0.50%	8.60%
17	St. Louis, MO-IL	51.95	0.20%	7.50%
18	Urban Honolulu, HI	51.45	0.80%	6.60%
19	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	49.55	-0.20%	7.70%
20	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	44.93	0.40%	6.20%
21	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	41.33	-0.20%	6.50%
22	San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	33.02	-0.50%	5.70%
23	Anchorage, AK	13.01	-4.00%	7.60%



Ferrari has unveiled its long-anticipated Le Mans Hypercar (LMH) endurance race car, named the 499P, following months of teasers and a 50-year absence from endurance racing. Coletta, second left, has led development on the new Ferrari that was unveiled last week. Photo courtesy of Ferrari.

Autos

Ferrari launches first Le Mans Hypercar in 50 years

Uses fuel to power the rear axle and electricity to propel the front

Ferrari has unveiled its long-anticipated Le Mans Hypercar (LMH) endurance race car, named the 499P, after a 50-year endurance racing absence.

The 499P will compete in the 100th running of the 24 Hours of Le Mans next year.

Vroom

The 499P runs a hybrid powertrain mated to a seven-speed sequential gearbox. The combustive component which propels the

rear axle is a 3.0-liter twin-turbo V6 with 670 mechanical horsepower. The front axle is powered by an electric motor that adds yet another 278 hp.

The weight of the vehicle is low, just 2,270 pounds thanks in part to a carbon fiber monocoque chassis.

“Selecting the V6 was definitely the right path to follow considering the way our range of road cars is moving — it was natural to go that route,” said Antonello Coletta, Ferrari’s racing boss.

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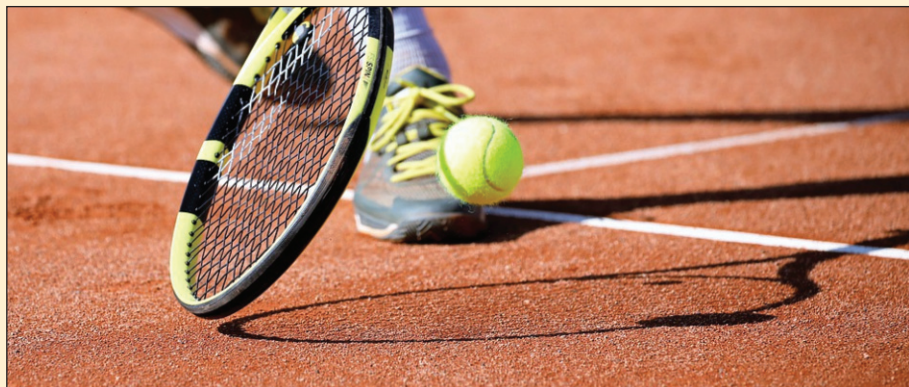
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Times **Community****TENNIS TIPS****Developing a mental approach to winning****By Ken DeHart**

The challenge in tennis is to keep a "quiet mind" when actually competing.

When the mind has a thought, the eyes move away from the ball and to the thought, changing the path of the racquet to the ball. Keeping the head still during a shot is important but even more important is keeping the eyes still before, during and slightly after the actual contact with the ball.

Any movement with the eyes will change the body's balance and affect the path of the racquet toward the ball. You have experienced this when reaching for an object at home, moving your eyes away before actually grasping the article and knocking it over. There is no hand-eye coordination - only eye-hand coordination.

When I have experienced mentally challenging times in matches, I rely upon counting as I contact the ball and as my opponent contacts the ball to keep my mind quiet at contact and my eyes still.

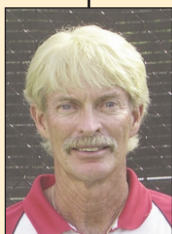
Count on counting to focus

Advantages of counting at contact:

1. Knowing I am going to count as I contact the ball helps me track or be more aware of the ball so as to count as I contact the ball - this gives me a mental purpose.

2. Counting as I contact the ball reminds me to breathe at contact vs holding my breath.

3. Counting as my opponent contacts the ball makes sure I breathe again during the point. It also makes me more aware of the ball beginning to come to my side of the



court as it leaves their racquet.

Set a number = shot tolerance

Set a number of balls you are willing to hit before trying to end the point offensively. For example, I am going to count to a number of shots, say 6, before I feel the need to try to win the point aggressively. I count my shots and my opponent's shots as well. However, if you get the opportunity to end the point appropriately then go ahead without too much unnecessary risk.

You may have to set a higher number of shots if the opponent is a steady player and adjusts their game during the match.

16 Second Cure

Dr Jim Loehr created the 16 second cure or what to do between points to reset for the next point.

1. Have some physical or mental response at the end of the point.

2. Let go - no thought, just some quiet time with the mind.

3. Create a plan - before approaching the baseline, create a plan for your next serve or return.

4. Perform your rituals - Whatever you do before serving or receiving to quiet the mind and focus on the plan you created for the next point.

Use any or all of the suggestions to improve your mental game.

Technical and tactical improvement depends upon improving the mental skills to make them work in match play.

Enjoy "Playing out of your mind."

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

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A Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
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We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days!



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Times **Community News****Tech Jargon of the Week**
AutoML

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

AutoML

When you first hear the word AutoML or Auto machine learning, you may think it means machine learning for cars. But it means far from that.

Machine learning, which deals mainly with data modeling (selecting the best algorithm, tuning its parameters, etc.), is part of a larger data science toolkit that encompasses things like data preparation and descriptive analytics, to name a few. Keeping that in mind, AutoML is the process of automating end-to-end the process of applying machine learning to real-world problems.

In a typical machine learning application, practitioners have a dataset consisting of input data points to train on. The raw data itself may not be in a form that all algorithms may be applicable to it out of the box. An expert may have to apply the appropriate data pre-processing, feature engineering, feature extraction, and feature selection methods that make the dataset amenable for machine learning. Following those pre-processing steps, practitioners must then

perform algorithm selection and hyperparameter optimization to maximize the predictive performance of their final machine learning model. As many of these steps are often beyond the abilities of non-experts, AutoML was proposed as an artificial intelligence-based solution to the ever-growing challenge of applying machine learning. Automating the process of applying machine learning end-to-end offers the advantages of producing simpler solutions, faster creation of those solutions, and models that often outperform models that were designed by hand.

Basically, AutoML services provide machine learning at the click of a button, or, at the very least, promise to keep algorithm implementation, data pipelines, and code, in general, hidden from view.

Currently, selecting the “best” algorithm to use per dataset requires a level of intuition or expertise about the data. Data scientists leverage their experience to experiment with different combinations of models and hyperparameter values to achieve the highest accuracy.

AutoML will lessen our dependency on intuition by iteratively trying out an algorithm, scoring its performance, and choosing and refining other models. In other words, it will automate the machine learning process of the data science workflow.

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

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THE BACK STORY

The less interesting truth about the BART extension's rising costs

San José Mayor Sam Liccardo has released his latest Backstory: The Less Interesting Truth About the BART Extension's Rising Costs. The post can be found on his medium, and the full text is below:

In the next day or so, the Mercury News will publish a story about the BART Silicon Valley extension. The story will likely feature a "gotcha" headline about a "ballooning" \$9.318 billion "cost estimate," and will likely contain allegations of Valley Transportation Authority's "secrecy" about the true cost of the project that was somehow "hidden" from the public by me or others.

The story will emphasize that VTA staff and board members, such as myself, have somehow "only now" conceded that the cost of the BART extension now exceeds that of the federal "cost estimate" from 2020 that we somehow suppressed, denied, or disputed. Whew.

The writer and paper have followed this predictable, clickbait-worthy pattern in past "gotcha" stories about BART, undeterred by (typically less interesting) facts to the contrary. So, in anticipation of the story, here are the facts of which I'm aware:

- What is the latest cost estimate? First, as I told the writer, there is no \$9.318 billion "cost estimate" for the project. The VTA submitted a \$9.318 billion funding plan to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) in order to apply for funding under the FTA's "New Starts" program. Specifically, in a recent letter to the regional FTA administrator, the VTA includes that \$9.318 billion figure within a chart labeled "Summary of BSVII [BART to Silicon Valley, Phase 2] Funding Sources," which was publicly released. We'll have an updated cost estimate published in February of 2023.

- What's the difference between a "cost estimate" and a "funding plan"? There's a big difference: a cost estimate is based on an analysis of construction and development expenses. That analysis hasn't been done in several years—not even by the federal government—but we'll have an analysis available early in 2023. The funding plan merely describes how much and where the project will draw its funding, including federal, state, and local resources. It's not a cost estimate.

- What will the BART extension cost? We don't have a recent estimate, so any number offered would be speculative, but it's certainly going to be more than \$8 billion. Over the last three to five years, construction costs on every transit project in the U.S. have escalated rapidly, for reasons relating to systemic inflation, construction labor shortages, supply chain breakdowns, rising interest rates, and other factors. We'll know more with the updated cost estimate, but we won't really know what a project costs until the bids come in. Then expenditures will be considered by the VTA Board to decide whether to move forward, and contracts will be signed. Then we'll know what it costs—and well before that, taxpayers will know what we're paying.

- How did VTA arrive at this \$9.318 billion figure? In May of 2021, the FTA released its risk analysis, and calculated a potential cost of \$9.148 billion for the project. The FTA's report (on p. 5–10) describes its cost risk model as using "fac-

tors as a multiplier of the cost of individual project elements to determine the cost for the worst plausible probable scenario cost, taken as the 'upper bound'." That FTA figure is the number that VTA is required to use for funding plans if we want FTA to approve any funding for the project. So, VTA updated financing costs (interest rates have doubled in this time), and included a construction cost inflation escalator, arriving at the \$9.318 billion figure. We'll know more about the actual costs when a full analysis is completed in February, but the real cost numbers will only emerge from the bidding process.

- What is this business about "hiding costs from the public" and "secrecy"? Text messages from a senior VTA official urged me to avoid publicly discussing the competing estimates for increased BART construction costs while private contractors contemporaneously prepared bids on that same multi-billion dollar project. If I disclosed that information publicly, it would have encouraged those private contractors to increase their bids, costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. As I explained many months ago, "I would do precisely the same thing if I were confronted with this issue today, as should any other public official in similar circumstances" to save taxpayer dollars. The time for public disclosure of construction costs is certainly not during the bidding process, but it certainly is in the weeks before any public body makes a spending decision on that project. In other words, the public should know well before VTA or any other agency spends their money on a project. That's the point of public disclosure rules: to inform the taxpayers, not to tip off potential construction bidders who will elicit even more money from those same taxpayers.

- OK, Sam, how do we know your purported reasons for keeping these cost projections quiet were just about saving taxpayers money, and not some other political reason? Because the Mercury News published text exchanges that revealed that the VTA official managing BART construction, Takis Salipeas, urged me to avoid discussing any potential project budget increases because "we have 9 major construction teams shortlisted" [to bid on the project, and] "they [are] listening to everything!" Despite this straightforward explanation for declining to publicly discuss competing cost estimates for the project, the Mercury News ran stories several times in successive weeks with headlines decrying that we "tried to hide" ballooning BART costs from the public. Sometimes, those accounts failed to even mention the exculpatory texts, or minimized them. It's always more interesting (and very easy) to suggest that there's a malicious or salacious motive when public officials are tight-lipped, but the truth is often much less interesting.

- How do we halt these cost increases? As I mentioned earlier, every major transit project in the nation has seen costs balloon, particularly through the pandemic, but Caltrain's electrification costs increased by "only" a few hundred million dollars because much of the construction on the project had already been completed. That leaves a smaller share of the remaining construction budget to inflate. Therein lies the answer—as I told the Mercury News writer, we can control costs by doing two things: sign construction contracts, and get a shovel in the ground. That's it—we don't get the luxury of any assurances until a contract is signed.

The second largest cost to our taxpayers in all of these seemingly too expensive, too complex, and too large projects is the cost of indecision and delay. The largest cost is doing nothing—and leaving everyone in choking traffic.

To reach Mayor Sam Liccardo, Email: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov; Website: www.sjmayor.org

Times **Community News****CAREER COLUMN****Maintaining social connections while working from home**

By Angela Copeland

As I've shared before, I'm a fan of working from home. Although it comes with pros and cons, the benefits are often undeniable.



Those working from home are often able to be more productive. They have the ability to get more done in less time. They don't waste hours each day in the car commuting. They are able to focus on what matters the most – working. And, they have more time left to devote to their families.

On the flip side, if you're working from home, you have to try harder to make real connections with your coworkers. It's easy to know very little about the people you're working with. You are less likely to know about their families or hobbies, for example. Although these details aren't related to work, knowing coworkers well can increase teamwork and therefore productivity.

Personally, there's another hurdle too. Working in person creates more opportunity for social connection. When you work in an office, you're more likely to have lunch with coworkers. You're more likely to celebrate birthdays and holidays. Work is more than just work. It's a place to make friends. It's a place to socialize.

One downside to working from home is that people feel lonelier. They feel disconnected. The social aspects of working in an office are gone. If you're working from home, this is something to be aware of. Very likely, you will want to try to make more time for social connection outside of work than you did before. Making friends as an adult isn't an easy task, but it's important.

If you're like most people, starting to make new friends is the hardest part. It's hard to know where to begin. Think about your hobbies, and interests. Are there things you wish you knew more about? From cooking to bowling to running, there are many different types of groups for different interests.

Meetup.com can be a great resource. Meetup has many special interest groups that you can join with little obligation. Look for events on the website of your local newspaper. You can also search Eventbrite for paid events that may be happening in your area. If you find groups that are of interest that are not on one of these sites, send them an email and asked to be added to their newsletter. Most groups send out weekly or monthly notices of upcoming activities.

When you find fun things to do, be brave, try to attend a few different activities. If you can, attend alone. Many people do this. Going alone will encourage you to talk to people you haven't met before.

Just one social activity per week can greatly change your social connectedness. Suddenly, you'll find yourself with friends and social events. And, being social is about more about being social. The happier you feel, the

better you'll do at work. And, very often, being socially connected can help you find a future job.

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

Santa Clara County sends ballots to non-citizens

Four San Jose non-citizen permanent residents received Santa Clara County 2022 election ballots last week. Copies of the documents were reviewed by San Jose Inside last week.

They received election ballots in the mail even though it is illegal for non-citizen per-



manent residents to vote in U.S. elections.

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters confirmed that the four individuals submitted registration forms through the Cal-

ifornia Department of Motor Vehicles and "information was included in transmissions from the DMV to the ROV."

"Our office sends ballots to all individuals who are listed as active voters in our voter registration database. The ROV receives voter registration information from several sources including the DMV," said Evelyn Mendez, Public and Legislative Affairs Manager for the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. "As to these individuals, their information was included in transmissions from the DMV to the ROV. It is our understanding that the DMV screens people that obtain drivers licenses or state IDs to verify that they are citizens," Mendez said.



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Want to submit a news item for the Almaden Times?

Publication day: November 23, 2022
Deadline: November 20, 2022

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Almaden Times

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TRAVEL REPORT

2022's Best Winter Holiday Destinations

Ahead of a winter that will see colder than usual weather across most of the country, according to the latest forecast from the Old Farmer's Almanac, the personal-finance website WalletHub just released its 2022's Best Winter Holiday Destinations report.

Focusing on cost and convenience rather than scenic beauty, WalletHub compared nearly 70 of the largest U.S. metro areas grouped by warm and cold weather.

Each destination was analyzed based on 37 key metrics, primarily the expense and hassle of traveling to each location but also on other indicators, such as weather forecasts, safety and variety of activities.

Here's a quick glimpse at some of the report's most interesting findings:

Best Cold Destinations for Winter Travel	Best Warm Destinations for Winter Travel
1. New York, NY	1. Las Vegas, NV
2. Atlanta, GA	2. Austin, TX
3. Washington, DC	3. San Diego, CA
4. Chicago, IL	4. Dallas, TX
5. St. Louis, MO	5. San Antonio, TX
6. Cincinnati, OH	6. Phoenix, AZ
7. Kansas City, MO	7. Houston, TX
8. Boston, MA	8. San Francisco, CA
9. Albuquerque, NM	9. Los Angeles, CA
10. Philadelphia, PA	10. Charleston, SC

Best vs. Worst

• The average flight to a popular cold winter destination costs \$396.17, lasts 3 hours and 30 minutes and has 0.28 connections. In comparison, the average flight to a popular warm winter destination costs \$521.74, lasts 5 hours and 17 minutes and has 0.57 connections.

• Among cold destinations, Omaha, Nebraska, has the lowest price for a three-star hotel room, \$55, which is 2.4 times lower than Worcester, Massachusetts, the city with the highest at \$133.

• Among warm destinations, Houston has the lowest price for a three-star hotel room, \$40, which is 5.2 times lower than Honolulu, the city with the highest at \$208.

• Among cold destinations, Chicago has the most restaurants (per square root of population), 6.157755, which is 6.3 times more than in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the city with the fewest at 0.984751.

• Among warm destinations, Orlando has the most restaurants (per square root of population), 7.281483, which is 29.0 times more than in Deltona, Florida, the city with the fewest at 0.250773.

To view the full report and your metro area's rank, please visit: <https://walletHub.com/edu/best-winter-holiday-destinations/7930>



New York, NY (above left) has been named the best cold weather destination, and Las Vegas, NV (above right) has been named the best warm weather holiday destination.

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COMPASS



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400 W. Campbell Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 378-4418
Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz

No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here! We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.

Our ministries/activities include:

- Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
- A Food Pantry serving anyone in need—open Tu/Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater productions, informative lec-

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment.

Our activities flow from our core values:

- Extravagant Joy
- Passionate Faith
- Loving Respect
- Deep Connectedness
- Intentional Growth
- Shared Laughter

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

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

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

www.ccvaucc.org.

We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.

Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118
408.265.5837
www.bibleroad.org

We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament.

Bible class at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243

Web: www.eca-sj.org

At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve.

Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups.

During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service.

Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>
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(408) 239-6668

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Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?

A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakm" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

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Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com

Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together.

Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



worship every Sunday at 11am. Together we build better lives and a better community. Music Institute (408) 791 7772. After School Piano, Violin, Other classical Instruments. PreSchool, Ages 2-6 Caring for your child with God's love and affection. Check our website for current activities.

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God is One
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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 encour-

age you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.San-JoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd.,
San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.

www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisi.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 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.

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4 Bed | 3 Bath

2550 Sq Ft | 9840 Sq Ft Lot



Recessed lighting, decorative light fixtures and hardware, plantation shutters, ceiling fans, newer roof, gutters and HVAC system. Solar. Light and bright open floor plan with vaulted ceiling, skylights bring the outside in. Kitchen features granite counters, tile backsplash, an abundance of cabinets and stainless appliances. The bottom level features a large bonus room with multiple uses, a full bath, closets, a fireplace and access to the side and back yard. The back has a large deck with a covered patio area. Easy access to shopping, parks, library and freeways.



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