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DECEMBER 2022 ■ VOL. 18, NO. 12

Willow Glen *Times*

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Martha's Kitchen in Willow Glen to hold Toys for Tots event for kids December 17th

Marth's Kitchen will hold a special Toys for Tots event for children up to age 14 in Willow Glen from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 17th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toys will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Kids must be present in the car in order to receive toys on the day of the event, limit one toy per child. Signups for the event are not required. Martha's Kitchen is located at 311 Willow St., SJ.

Editor's note: This is a toy distribution based on an honor system of one toy per child. When you arrive at Martha's Kitchen you will turn right to enter our parking lot from Locust Street. Upon entry a Martha's Kitchen team member will direct you along the event path that will have live music, free food from 8am to 11am, free hot chocolate and coffee, and free Christmas gifts.

OpEd

Iran's crisis and what it has to do with you

By Ava Rejaie

For more than forty years, Iranian citizens have had to fight to survive. If one were to speak to any Persian kid with Iranian-immigrant parents, they will say how their parents lived through bomb threats, beatings, and have witnessed unspeakable things.

To this day, my parents refuse to go back to Iran to avoid the issues brought forth by the cruel regime there. My mom no longer wants to

See IRAN, page 14



Every December, club members and their families deliver food and supplies to the local homeless shelter.

Non-profit Boulevard Bombs continues to provide support for homeless in Willow Glen

The non-profit Boulevard Bombs Foundation has provided needed support for the homeless in San Jose, including Willow Glen for nearly 25 years.

Sylvia and Tony Martinez are the founders of the Blvd Bombs lowrider car club. Every December, club members and their families deliver food, blankets and clothing to the homeless shelter, and toys for needy children at Christmas in the Park.

Blvd Bombs volunteers respond to get care

packages, sleeping bags, and coats to those needing support earlier this year to get help to those in need. They also lend support each year for veterans including volunteering at the annual Veteran's Parade in downtown San Jose.

"A special shout out to our amazing DJ Raymundo Talavera with a kind heart," said Sylvia. "Rain or shine he has been playing music for our homeless for many years. They really appreciate it and we do too."



"Thank you to everyone that has helped us in previous years and for your generous donations, especially our toy drive," said Tony. "Together we can make a difference."

"Thank you to everyone that has helped us in previous years and for your generous donations, especially our toy drive," said Tony. "Together we can make a difference."

For information on how you can volunteer, visit www.blvdbombs.com

Boulevard Bombs Foundation is a Tax-Deductible 501(c)(3) Make checks payable to: Boulevard Bombs Foundation, P.O. Box 731634, San Jose, CA 95173-1634



Presentation High School collects record 1,022 turkeys for Sacred Heart Community Service

The 1,022 turkey donation surpassed last year's total of 888

Presentation High School, located in Willow Glen, conducted its annual Holiday Drive, Turkey Day, November 22, and set a new school record with 1,022 turkeys collected for Sacred Heart Community Service.

Presentation students, parents, faculty, staff, alumnae and community members came together to meet the needs of Sacred

Heart Community Service to set a new record; an impressive increase from last year's drive that brought in 888 turkeys.

The Presentation High School community has also donated 18,300 hygiene items, 13,500 cans of food, 9,300 diapers and 120 canisters of baby formula all during the month of November.

Presentation High School not only collected 8-12 lb. frozen turkeys, but also hams and chickens at the main entrance of campus starting early Tuesday morning.

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IN MEMORY

Charles (Chuck) Joseph Longwello

July 28, 1934 - November 10, 2022
Resident of Willow Glen

With deep sorrow, the community mourns the loss of a wonderful husband, brother, father, grandfather and friend.

Born July 28, 1934 in Rochester, New York, Charles (Chuck) Joseph Longwello died peacefully in his home in San Jose, CA on November 10, 2022 at the age of 88.

When Chuck was two years old, the family moved to Willow Glen. He graduated from Willow Glen High School as an All-American Athlete with a full scholarship to play baseball for Santa Clara University. After two years at Santa Clara, he signed a professional baseball contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. He went to school during the off-season.

The Army got wind of him playing ball with the Phillies more often than being a full-time University student so they drafted him. He was commissioned to play baseball for the Army's Special Services Division for two years. During this time, Chuck travelled extensively throughout the country playing ball - an experience of a lifetime for him.

When he was out of the Army, he went to Spring Training with the Phillies and then realized he could no longer play due to an injury. Returning from the Army, Chuck returned to Santa Clara University from where he graduated. He started working in sales for Proctor & Gamble and soon realized he had a gift for selling. He began his career in insurance in 1962. A few years later, the insurance agency of Longwello, Miller and Trapani was established which enjoyed great success. Chuck continued in the insurance industry throughout



his entire career.

Chuck's love for faith and family were paramount, with sports not too far behind. He coached baseball and softball when his kids were young and was an avid golfer at Almaden Country Club for more than 30 years where he hit two hole-in-one shots within the same month. He especially enjoyed taking money from his golf buddies during their weekly card game. Many Sundays were spent golfing with his family which was followed by his famous pasta and meatball feast.

Chuck was a caring, respected and much-loved man who was happiest with his family and friends. He had a great sense of humor, quick wit and always had everyone laughing. Chuck is survived by his wife of 31 years, Sharon, his sister Nancy, his children Julie, Joe (Maureen), Gina (Chip), Charlene (Brett) and Jennifer; and his grandchildren Alicia, Denny, Karson, Francesca, Fiona, Charlie and Brandon.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 21, at Holy Spirit Church, 1200 Redmond Road, San Jose, followed by private entombment.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity that is close to your heart.

Valley Currents

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

Why test scores are plummeting at San Jose schools

By Loan-Anh Pham
San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County test scores are plummeting, especially for low-income students, and the drop goes beyond the classroom.

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the disparities across low-income households with the digital divide, disproportionate loss of loved ones and housing insecurity, all factors in the state's drop in standardized test scores. Recovering from this learning loss means tackling the problem through academics and socioeconomics, advocates said.

Local school districts including Alum Rock Union School District and Franklin-McKinley Elementary School District saw test scores drop, according to data from the California Department of Education.

Alum Rock Union School District, which serves more than 8,500 students across more than 20 elementary and middle schools, saw a 9.9% decrease in reading and writing scores, along with a 10.3% dip in math scores. Franklin-McKinley Elementary School District saw 7.3% drops in its reading, writing and math scores across its 16 elementary and middle schools. The district enrolls more than 6,800 students.

San Jose Unified School District, for comparison, had a 3.6% decline in reading and writing scores, as well as a 5% decline in math scores. The district represents more than 30,000 students across 41 campuses.

A child's academic performance is informed by their environment and circumstances, said Hilaria Bauer, Alum Rock Union School District superintendent. Students who are experiencing housing insecurity and displacement, or grieving the loss of a loved one, have more on their minds than taking tests.

"When we go into the testing conversation, we try to be as neutral as possible. In reality, that is just not the case," Bauer told San José Spotlight. "These were the families that were the most affected in our county."

Testing during the 2021-22 school year was different from other years—while students were back in person, testing environments included COVID-19 precautions like masks and social distancing, Bauer said. Addressing pandemic learning

loss will require time, as school districts enter uncharted territory.

Wealth disparity among communities is a crucial factor in test performance, and a nationwide dip in scores isn't surprising, said Pedro Nava, director of educational leadership at the Santa Clara University School of Education and Counseling Psychology. While some families adapted quickly to virtual learning during the pandemic, he said, other families with essential workers dealt with health concerns, food insecurity and job instability—making online learning another challenge. The entire landscape changed, with school districts functioning as community hubs to provide basic necessities like food.

"We can see across San Jose, in Silicon Valley, as well as the larger Bay Area that we have some really broad wealth inequities across districts," Nava told San José Spotlight. "Some schools have much greater capacity to generate resources outside of what the state and localities provide."

Funding disparities across school districts are longstanding. Districts were able to face the pandemic with millions in federal funding, but those funds will run out by 2024. Meanwhile, families struggle to make a living in a city that's the most expensive in the nation for monthly bills, compounded by costly child care estimated at \$21,900 per year.

Impacts of learning loss

Even in Santa Clara County school districts that saw test scores rise, learning loss crept into particular disciplines like math.

Evergreen School District saw a

0.7% increase in reading and writing scores and a less than 1% decrease in math scores across its 16 elementary and middle schools that serve more than 9,900 students. Campbell Union High School District had a 2.8% increase in reading and writing scores and a less than 1% decrease in math scores. The district enrolls more than 8,900 across eight high schools and community education programs.

While Campbell Union High School District distributed devices to tackle the digital divide and jumped straight into teaching new curriculum at the start of the pandemic, the achievement gap is still widening, especially for students of color, said Superintendent Robert Bravo.

"While the test scores look relatively strong, we know there were effects," Bravo told San José Spotlight.

Hikes in scores could also be connected to the district's gradual phasing of in-person learning through on-campus study hubs during the 2020-21 school year as opposed to last school year, said Jennifer Orlick, the district's director of strategy, accountability and innovation.

But this has not helped low-income students gain ground yet. Low-income students are still performing at lower rates, with 53% meeting or exceeding reading and writing standards compared to 70% of students overall. In terms of math, 21% of the district's low-income students met or exceeded standards as opposed to 47% of students overall.

Addressing learning loss means acknowledging the ramifications of Silicon Valley's high cost of living on families, Nava said. Evaluating education should also go beyond test scores and factor in the student's emotional and social development.

"The inequities that were exposed during COVID have always been there," Nava told San José Spotlight. "What it really just shows us is that some communities have additional resources to be able to... weather the storm."



Alum Rock Union School District, which serves East San Jose families disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, is seeing test scores drop. Photo courtesy of Alum Rock Union School District.

Willow Glen Times

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Times **Feature**

HOLIDAY NOTEBOOK

Menorahs and Miracles
find its way at Children's
Discovery Museum of San
Jose December 4

Take joy in sharing or discovering the traditions of Hanukkah with friends and neighbors at the San Jose Discovery Museum when *Menorahs and Miracles* will be presented December 4.

Participants can make celebratory candles, watch a puppet show in Hebrew, Russian, and English, and enjoy songs performed by Yavneh Day School students.



A miracle scavenger hunt, a glow-in-the-dark dance party are some of the planned activities. A traditional Hanukkah treat will

also be available.

The museum's event, in partnership with JCC Los Gatos, will be presented at 1:30 p.m. and again at 4:30 p.m.

Menorahs and Miracles special event is included in the price of museum admission: \$15 for adults; \$14 seniors; infants under 1 and members are free.

Children's Discovery Museum is located at 180 Woz Way in downtown San Jose.

A few safety tips for
driving in rainy weather

As we are in the midst of the first big storms of the winter season, we thought we



should pass along some safety tips in case you find yourself having to drive.

When roads are wet from rain, water over the roadway reduces your vehicle's tire traction. Add to that the fact that rain can reduce or impair a driver's view of the road, and it's easy to see that driving in the rain needs to be treated with extra precaution.

Please use the following safety precautions to help drive safely, whenever possible.

- Only travel in heavy rain when necessary, and always leave extra time to safely reach your destination
 - When getting into the car during rainy conditions, wet shoes may slide from pedals. Dry soles of shoes on vehicle carpeting or rubber matting if possible
 - Be aware and avoid flooded areas--never attempt to cross running or flooded water
 - Buckle up
 - Turn on headlights to see and be seen
 - Defrost windows if necessary, both before and while driving
 - Reduce speed. Speed limits are based on normal road and weather conditions, not rainy conditions
 - Wipers must be on while driving
 - Keep additional distance from other vehicles
 - Watch carefully for other vehicles and pedestrians
 - Turn off cruise control to reduce hydroplaning
 - Brake earlier and with less force, and turn slower, than you would in normal driving conditions
 - Do not slam on brakes. Apply steady pressure on ABS-equipped vehicles and pump the brakes if necessary on non-ABS vehicles
 - If vehicle begins to skid, steer in direction of slide and slowly remove foot from accelerator
 - Temporarily pull off the road to a safe location if you have difficulty seeing the roadway or other traffic
- Be safe!

Winter Holiday Crafts
at Village Square
Branch Library

Bring the family to Village Square Branch library to celebrate the Winter Holidays with a special Winter Holiday Crafts event on December 16 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fun activities include arts & crafts, prizes, books giveaway and more! Snacks will also be served.

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

During its 21st concert season, Symphony San Jose will feature acclaimed solo artists 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, Buffa-

lo, 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.

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 city-owned garage at San Carlos Street, with entrance on Second Street and Third Street; just one-and-a-half blocks 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.

Photo: Courtesy of the artists and Symphony San Jose.

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Times Feature

Mayor must work with an opposing majority

By Tran Nguyen
San José Spotlight

After a hard fought election, San Jose Mayor-elect Matt Mahan now faces another daunting task with his new job: working with people who didn't think he could lead.

Mahan, first elected to the council in 2020, won his bid to become the 66th mayor of San Jose last week after more than a year of campaigning. He beat out five other candidates—including Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez in the general election. Chavez conceded defeat last Wednesday.

Mahan secured the endorsements of four out of five living San Jose mayors, including outgoing Mayor Sam Liccardo. But all of his council colleagues voiced their support for Chavez, his opponent. Even more conservative and busi-



San Jose Mayor-elect **Matt Mahan** speaks to supporters at his election night party in downtown San Jose. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

ness-leaning officials, such as Councilmembers Dev Davis and Pam Foley, said they didn't have confidence in his ability as a leader, pointing to his lack of experience and failure to pass major initiatives during his brief time representing District 10.

The coalition of nine councilmembers, joined by other community leaders, hosted an unprecedented news conference a week before the election to boost Chavez's campaign,

further questioning Mahan's ability to deliver his campaign promises. Three new councilmembers-elect in Districts 1, 3 and 5 also endorsed and supported Chavez.

Mahan, who now will have to work with at least seven councilmembers who question his ability to lead, said he's confident he will find common ground with his new colleagues.

"I've reached out to each of the councilmembers who will sit on the dais in January to schedule time together," Mahan told San José Spotlight, adding it's crucial for the council to work together. "Our residents are not only relying on it, but will hold us accountable for it."

In San Jose, the mayor's power is equal to other councilmembers in that they all get one vote, with some exceptions: the mayor nominates a city manager, but a council majority must approve the selection. On a 11-member council, Mahan would need at least five allies on the dais to move any of his policies forward.

Some officials are ready to set the division aside post-election to work with the new mayor. Councilmember David Cohen, one of four elected officials who wasn't up for reelection this year, said the turnover on the council will create huge challenges.

With Mahan leaving his District 10 seat early to be mayor and Councilmember Sylvia Arenas leaving hers in District 8 early to serve as a county supervisor, San Jose will see a total of seven new faces on the council next year. The city is working on how to find the replacements for Districts 8 and 10.

"When the election is over, our job is to move forward and think about the areas of commonality where we can work together," Cohen, one of the earliest supporters of Chavez, told San José Spotlight. "Dealing with large amounts of change and trying to assimilate new people into the council will be challenging for the entire city."

Bien Doan, councilmember-elect in District 7, said the council needs to focus on solving the most pressing issues for San Jose.

"At the end of the day, we are all working for our constituents who elected us to make the right decisions," Doan told San José Spotlight. "We should be looking forward to how to accelerate and do things with effectiveness and efficiency."

Councilmember-elect Rosemary Kamei, who supported Chavez, said she plans to work with Mahan to serve District 1 residents.

"Mayor-elect Mahan did reach out and I thought that was very positive," Kamei told San José Spotlight. "My own personal hope is that we will see a council who will come together (and) understand the community in a way that has not been seen in a long time."

Garrick Percival, a political science professor at San Jose State University, told San José Spotlight he anticipates Mahan will work to make quick friends and allies on the dais—especially those representing East San Jose.

When Mahan faces reelection in two years, he will have to win over a different electorate than the one this year, Percival said. In particular, San Jose is bound to see more voters from the east side casting ballots in 2024, which will be a presidential election year. The population came out in much smaller numbers this year compared to communities in West San Jose, where Mahan won handily.

The reelection in 2024 will happen because San Jose voters approved Measure B in June, an initiative to move San Jose's mayoral elections to pair with presidential years knowing voter turnout will be greater.

"He's gonna have every incentive to try to work with this new council," Percival said, adding Mahan and the new councilmembers will also have a big learning curve to overcome. "If there's any questions leftover from the campaign, (they) would be putting those aside rather quickly and getting to work." As Mahan starts his untested term in January, he'll be busy working to align councilmembers and dealing with post-pandemic challenges as well—but he said he's ready.

"All of us on the council should feel some pressure for embracing new approaches to street homelessness, crime, blight and building housing where it makes sense," Mahan said.

2 0 2 2 - 2 0 2 3 S Y M P H O N Y S E A S O N

SYMPHONY SAN JOSE

Mighty Cello



Julian Schwarz

December 3-4, 2022

Conductor: **Joann Falletta**

Soloist: **Julian Schwarz, cello**

- ◆ TURINA: *Danzas fantásticas*
- ◆ LALO: *Cello Concerto*
- ◆ DVOŘÁK: *Symphony No. 7*

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Italian/Persian pianist Alessandro Deljavan performs for Steinway Society Live and LiveStreamed January 21

By William Bellou
Publisher

Steinway Society – The Bay Area presents Alessandro Deljavan in performances of Haydn and Chopin Saturday, January 21, 2023 starting 7:30 p.m. at Montgomery Theater, 271 South Market Street in San Jose.

Born to an Italian mother and Persian father, Alessandro Deljavan began learning to play piano before the age of two and debuted in concert at age three. He has since performed extensively across Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

Alessandro's prize winnings include first prize in the 1996 Concours musical de France, and second prizes at the 2005 Hummel and 2010 Isangyun Competitions. He also was awarded the jury discretionary awards at the 2009 and 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competitions, and fifth prize at the 2005 Gina Bachauer Young Artist Competition.

Alessandro has an extensive discography of over forty albums. He recently recorded the complete Chopin waltzes, etudes, and mazurkas; the complete piano/string works of Taneyev; and the complete violin sonatas of Grieg. His most

Alessandro's prize winnings include first prize in the 1996 Concours musical de France, and second prizes at the 2005 Hummel and 2010 Isangyun Competitions. He also was awarded the jury discretionary awards at the 2009 and 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competitions, and fifth prize at the 2005 Gina Bachauer Young Artist Competition.

recent recording of the complete Grieg Lyric Pieces was streamed over 200,000 times in its first month on Spotify. He has also released an all-Liszt album of the complete Mephisto Waltzes and the Sonata in B Minor, as well as a recording of the Bach Goldberg Variations.

Alessandro graduated from the Conservatorio Statale di Musica Giuseppe Verdi and the Istituto Gaetano Braga. He is currently professor of piano at the U. Giordano Conservatory of Music in Foggia, Italy.

The Program

Haydn, Variations in F Minor, Hob.XVII:6
Haydn, Piano Sonata in F Major, Hob.XVI:23

Haydn, Piano Sonata in E-Flat Major,



Alessandro Deljavan will perform Haydn and Chopin, Saturday, January 21, 2023. Photo by Luca Centola

Hob. XVI/52

Chopin, Four Scherzos

1. Scherzo No. 1 in B Minor, Op. 20
2. Scherzo No. 2 in B-Flat Minor, Op. 31
3. Scherzo No. 3 in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 39
4. Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, Op. 54

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TOYS FOR TOTS

Times **Feature**

Report: Most Charitable States predicted for 2023

With Americans having donated nearly \$485 billion in 2021, up 4% from the previous year, the personal-finance website WalletHub just released its report on the Most Charitable States predicted for 2023.

WalletHub also released its picks for the Best Charities for 2023 and a Charity Calculator to help donors decide where and how to give.

To determine where the most generous Americans are inspiring others to be more selfless, WalletHub compared the 50 states based on 19 key indicators of charitable behavior.

The data set ranges from the volunteer rate to the share of income donated to the share of sheltered homeless.

Most Charitable States

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Utah | 11. Maine |
| 2. Maryland | 12. Alaska |
| 3. Minnesota | 13. Colorado |
| 4. North Dakota | 14. New Hampshire |
| 5. Oregon | 15. Washington |
| 6. Wyoming | 16. Texas |
| 7. Pennsylvania | 17. North Carolina |
| 8. Delaware | 18. Arkansas |
| 9. Ohio | 19. New York |
| 10. Virginia | 20. Massachusetts |

Key Stats

- The charities with the highest ratings from WalletHub include the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, Animal Welfare Institute and World Resources Institute.

- Vermont has the most charities per capita, 55.07, which is 2.6 times more than in Utah, the state with the fewest at 21.09.

- Utah has the highest volunteer rate, 51.00 percent, which is 2.2 times higher than in Florida, the state with the lowest at 22.80 percent.

- Utah has the most volunteer hours per capita, 57.59, which is 3.3 times more than in Mississippi, the state with the fewest at 17.27.

Expert Commentary

What are the biggest challenges facing US-based charities in the current economic environment?

"The covid pandemic has been posing a series of severe challenges for U.S. charities, including but not limited to increased demand for (health and human) services, revenue loss from multiple sources, staff and volunteer unavailability due to labor shortages, and unstable financial conditions. The current economic environment is making things even worse. It is important to note that although every charity is being affected, some charities, especially small, grassroots ones, are hit harder than others."

—Jiahuan Lu, Ph.D. – Associate Prof. & MPA Program Director, Rutgers University, Newark

"Some evidence suggests that donors/donations are pretty resilient to inflation and we've seen lots of positive, charitable

responses to the needs raised by the pandemic. That said, donations are somewhat sensitive to the strength of the stock market. General economic confidence is an important factor that US-based charities should consider in predicting donations. Another important consideration for US-based charities is to realize that while donations have remained high, the average donor profile continues to shift away from the middle class. Fewer, larger gifts from more wealthy donors have become the norm. Charities that have typically relied on more, smaller gifts from less-wealthy donors will need to account for this trend, which seems to have some permanence."

—Robert K. Christensen, Ph.D. – Professor and Research Fellow, Brigham Young University

What advice do you have for choosing the right charity?

"The right charity is the charity that resonates with a donor's values, stewards their money well, and demonstrates impact or the ability to impact the world through its mission. Of course, you want to be a wise steward of your funds, so check the organization's financial outlook through annual or financial reports that transparent organizations will have access to on their websites or you can find financial documents for many charities on Candid, formerly GuideStar. I encourage folks to look across three to five years for a stronger understanding of your charity's financial health than just a one-year snapshot. Also, some watchdog charities such as the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giv-

ing Alliance or Charity Navigator rate organizations and can offer additional information about an organization's adherence to best practices regarding board governance or financial reporting, but donors should also know these ratings do not tell much, if any, of the story about an organization's impact."

—Margaret F. Sloan, Ph.D. – Director, Professor and Advisor, Nonprofit and Community Leadership Concentration, James Madison University

What percentage of income should households donate to charity?

"In short, greater than zero. The benefits of including charitable donations in one's budget are fairly well documented. Beyond the financial benefits of reducing tax burdens, charitable giving promotes deeper feelings of personal satisfaction, higher morale, and lower stress. Identifying the specific proportion of one's budget that should be dedicated to charitable donation should, like other budget decisions, be systematically reviewed. As particular needs arise, e.g., the pandemic, or as a household's financial capacity increases, having an up-to-date giving plan is key. Including other members of the household and, when helpful, a financial planner, is a smart approach. Much like planning and budgeting for a vacation, planning and budgeting for giving can be a very rewarding process in and of itself."

—Robert K. Christensen, Ph.D. – Professor and Research Fellow, Brigham Young University

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San Jose Museum of Art announces new acquisitions by 27 artists

The San José Museum of Art (SJMA) has announced the acquisition of 41 works by a diverse roster of 27 artists for its permanent collection.

Acquired through purchase and gifts from generous donors from July 2021 to June 2022, SJMA continues to build momentum in its collecting strategy focusing on gender parity, cultural diversity, and artistic innovation, while proactively acquiring socially relevant contemporary art.

"We are incredibly thrilled with these new additions to the permanent collection and this year's acquisitions are exceptionally timely and monumental," said S. Sayre Batton, Oshman Executive Director, SJMA. "I thank the Acquisitions Committee and curatorial team for their thoughtful strategy and their dedication to the Museum's mission. I am especially grateful for our supporters and donors



At left: Felipe Baeza, *Emerging in difference*, 2022. Ink, graphite, glitter, interference powder, twine, acrylic and cut paper collage on paper, Museum purchase with funds provided by Kimberly and Patrick Lin, Geraldine and Marco Magarelli, and Yvonne and Mike Nevens, 2022.11. © Felipe Baeza. Courtesy Maureen Paley, London. Above: Patricia Piccinini, *Cleaner*, 2019 Fiberglass, auto paint, silicone, and human hair, 11 3/4 x 27 1/2 x 35 3/8 inches Gift of the Lipman Family Foundation in honor of the 25th anniversary of Hosfelt Gallery, 2022.02. Courtesy of the artist and Hosfelt Gallery. Photo: Miles Petersen.

who entrust SJMA to care for and present these works to the people of San José and Silicon Valley."

This year's acquisitions include a significant representation of California artists, especially from the Bay Area. Many of these artists' homegrown works address recent

national and global events.

Significant large-scale works include Felipe Baeza's *Emerging in difference* (2022), currently on view in *The Milk of Dreams*, the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia; Huma Bhabha's *Receiver* (2019), a towering 8-foot sculpture; Mag-

dalena Abakanowicz's *Crowd No. 2* (1988); Sam Durant's *Proposal #2 for Monument at Altamont Raceway, Tracy, CA*, (2003); and Tom Friedman's *F___k It* (2002).

A list of recent acquisitions is available on SJMA's collection database at sjmusart.org/embark.



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Iran

Continued from page 1

face cruelty for wearing her hijab incorrectly, nor does she want me to experience the same struggles as someone who the government would recognize as female. As much as I would love to revel in Iran's rich history, it is unrealistic for me to return because of the after-effects of the 1979 Revolution. Now, there's a new revolution on the rise, one that feels different to those who lived through it the first time. Why? What's the difference between now and then? Well that, my friend, is what I'm planning to explore.

The first thing one must understand is that this war on women is not new. It all truly began in 1979, when suddenly hijabs were being forced on young girls as they were being beaten in the streets for wearing them incorrectly. They were no longer allowed to leave the country without the permission of a male counterpart. Even before the Shah (king) left Iran at the start of the Revolution, the difficulties of the newfound government's regime was being set in stone. A cruel, merciless dictator took over and the lives of Iranians, especially women, changed forever. Fast forward to today, and things have only gotten worse.

The Morality Police has an iron grip over the women of Iran – imprisoning them for showing their hair, dancing, even going on the internet to communicate with family outside the Middle East. Protests and outrage have overwhelmed the streets over the unjust death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old wrongfully imprisoned citizen killed by the Morality Police for having a mere few strands out of her hijab, despite her trying to comply with the rules of the country. Now, this story is nothing new. Persians have been hearing of more and more women dying like this for decades. The primary reason for such a public reaction to Amini's death is because it was incredibly random. Amini wasn't trying to make any form of a political statement, but simply trying to visit her brother in Tehran. The fact is, she died for simply having hair. In Iran, simple things such as hair, music, and going online have become so politicized that those who participate face the possibility of death row. No one is safe.

This massive wake-up call brought attention to all kinds of social justice issues in Iran all over the globe. Amini's death revealed how corrupt the government truly is, abusing religion to cover up their own mistakes. The very same politicians who intensely enforce the laws against women have American children, free from the stereotypes they enforce. Previous acts of money laundering and environmental wreckage have since been revealed. Social media has been having a field day with the amount of shocking, hypocritical acts performed by government offi-



cials, which is great for two reasons; 1) It finally brings global attention to the situation in Iran, and 2) The officials have no choice but to face the humiliation and wreckage brought about by their actions. As much as they try to deny it, their corruption is looking them in the eye as its being immortalized online.

Part of the reason for the extreme online presence is because the idea of free speech was stolen from the innocent citizens of Iran. The government posts mass amounts of propaganda, such as when the singer of the viral song "Baraye" (translating to "for you"), which grew to become a song of hope and freedom, was imprisoned. His social media was revoked and hacked, riddled with a post regarding how the song was not intended for what it is used for (obviously fake based on the lyrics). We as Iranian-Americans have the privilege of being able to receive direct news regarding the uproar with the benefit of being able to post whatever we want on our various platforms, despite the possibility of not being allowed back into Iran. This is why Instagram infographics and Twitter threads have been circulating so much – it is our form of protest in the best way we know how.

Now one may be wondering, "What does this have to do with refugees? After all, this is a refugee nonprofit." As one may well know, after the 1979 Revolution, there was a large boom of Iranian immigrants and refugees, especially students. As conditions grew more and more dangerous in Iran, the younger, more independent generation tried to seek refuge in the US. Currently, celebrities and those with a positive influence are unable to leave or enter Iran – those who have not been imprisoned have

had their passports taken away. Based on the current state of the protests, it is safe to assume that if this current revolution fails, a similar surge will occur.

One of the most important points to note, however, are the economic differences between then and now. We have all heard the various jokes regarding how rich LA Iranians are, however today's economy has reached a pitfall while rates in the US have only increased. The money that should be going back to the citizens has been spent on military control all across the Middle East, preventing citizens from leaving the country. This leads to the nightmare that is Iran's current economy. Since the start of June, 2022, the value of a rial (Iran's currency) has dropped 4.4%, making it 0.000024 per US dollar. If today's younger generation decides to leave once they are able to, they will be starving students struggling to pay for their school and reach a steady income. Many students will risk anything and everything to leave the Middle East, and they are willing to take the risk of not being able to pay for their basic needs if it means they are able to receive their rights as human beings.

As the Revolution continues to grow and reach global recognition, the government's hold over women becomes stronger. Many protests have been shut down, with thousands either imprisoned or dead. Children as young as middle schoolers have been put in jail for using their voices, high schools all across the country have been raided to capture random students. The reality is, it is incredibly difficult for women to exist in Iran. As long as the regime remains the same, Iranian citizens cannot live peacefully. For now, the fight goes on.

OpEd

The growing problem of violence in our schools

By Lucille Carr-Kaffashan, Ph.D.

Since the fall of 2021, when most districts around the country had fully returned to in-person learning, educators have been sounding the alarm about an uptick in school-based violence.

This violence has taken many forms and has affected all members of the school community: students and their families, teachers, support staff, administrators, and school board members.

A handful of schools have experienced the unthinkable, a school-shooting incident. Many others have reported frequent brawls, physical bullying, and other forms of student-on-student aggression, including verbal and sexual intimidation and cyber-bullying. An alarming number of students have been caught with guns and other weapons on school grounds.

Teachers and other staff have also been targeted, either directly or because of their efforts to break up fights or otherwise de-escalate tense situations. Teachers, administrators, and board members have been subjected to verbal abuse, and sometimes to threats of physical violence.

According to a survey of 15,000 school personnel conducted by the American Psychological Association from July 2020 to June 2021, 59% of teachers, 58% of administrators, 48% of support staff, and 38% of school psychologists and social workers have reported being victimized in some way while at work. Support staff, e.g., school resource officers, aides, and bus drivers, were the most likely to report physical aggression, with more than 99% of the aggressors being students.

As reported by The Psychiatric Times, "The nation's public school system is now in a fragile and precarious position. Although every profession suffered during the pandemic, teachers are confronted daily with the threat of school shootings, lagging student performance, political agendas, curriculum wars, book bans, and more. In many ways, these are not new problems, but they do appear to be compounding."

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Clara with her Nutcracker in a scene from the 2018 production of "The Nutcracker."

57th Production of San Jose Dance Theatre's The Nutcracker

Experience the magic of this Bay Area tradition starting Dec 9-18
By Cathe Huynh-Sison
Special to the Times

Audiences across San Jose will be swept up in the magic of the season as San Jose Dance Theatre returns to live performances this December, with the 57th annual classic Christmas favorite: The Nutcracker, performing at The San Jose Center for the Performing Arts.

The longest-running live production of The Nutcracker in San Jose, celebrating its 57th year, has been a Bay Area family tradition since 1964. The company is very excited to perform once again with the Cambrian Symphony, with musical direction by Scott Krijnen.

San Jose Dance Theatre has created countless family memories and holiday traditions with the magical production of their Nutcracker! Step into an enchanting world of elegant sugarplums, a thrilling battle between brave soldiers and menacing mice, waltzing flowers, and a new extra-large Christmas Tree that grows to more than 200 feet tall.

This year features San Jose Dance Theatre's professional ballet company and youth ensemble – choreographed by Mark Foehringer, Mariana Zschoerper and accompanied by a live orchestra, the Cambrian Symphony.

This production offers an unforgettable experience. San Jose Dance Theatre is excited to present this year's production back in the theater at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose, December 9 - 18. Audiences will be awed by the grace and talent of exquisite performers from our professional company.

This year you will again be able to purchase The Nutcracker VIP package. See more than just the show, experience it!

VIP ticket holders will take a behind-the-scenes look at the production with a pre-show discussion. Meet and greet with the costumed cast members at the exclusive Candy Kingdom party held in the Ridder Lounge, all while enjoying delicious holiday

treats. VIP ticket holders also skip the crowds by using a special entrance into the theater and have use of the Ridder Lounge restrooms during intermission.

"We are very excited to be back in the theater this year, and with our professional ballet company performing in the original San Jose Nutcracker," Foehringer said. "I'm so excited to be able to share this Christmas tradition with the community again this year."

- Performances**
- Fri., December 9, 2022 @ 7:30pm
 - Sat., December 10, 2022 @ 2pm & 7:30pm
 - Sun., December 11, 2022 @ 2pm
 - Fri., December 16, 2022 @ 7:30pm
 - Sat., December 17, 2022 @ 2pm & 7:30pm
 - Sun., December 18, 2022 @ 2pm
- Editor's note: Looking for a shorter production of The Nutcracker for young children? On December 9 and 16 @ 10:30am, SJDT will present Once Upon a Nutcracker, a condensed, 45-minute version of The Nutcracker at a reduced ticket price.*
- Tickets and more information are available at sjnutcracker.com.*



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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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- 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.

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BBB scam of the week

Watch for these scam posts in your local Facebook buy-and-sell group

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning Facebook users that sharing a certain kind of attention-grabbing post might put their friends at risk of falling victim to a scam.

How this scam works

You are scrolling through Facebook, and a gut-wrenching post about an injured, lost pet, or a missing child grabs your attention. You want to help, so you share the post on your own profile.

After you share the post, a scammer changes the original post to a deceptive rental ad or a link to a survey that "guarantees" a cash prize. Now, your friends think you have recommended that content. These bait-and-switch ads aim to either get a deposit for a rental property before the user gets a chance to see the home -- or get your personal information, which could lead to identity theft.

BBB has seen multiple variations of these shared on local buy-and-sell Facebook groups across Canada, and USA Today also reported about it in October. The commonality is the emotionality or urgency of the message, which encourages concerned people to share the news with their friends.

These posts are shared in local buy-and-sell groups because there is already a sense of community and trust within these crowds. Scammers sometimes also turn comments off on the posts so other group members can't oust them.

Tips for avoid a bait-and-switch social media scam:

- Do a bit of digging before re-sharing a post on your profile. Read the information carefully and look at the profile of the person who created and shared the original post. If the profile is from Florida but shared the post in a Canadian group, it may be a red flag of a bait-and-switch publication.

- Find out when the poster created the Facebook profile. Scammers always create profiles when their old one gets banned. If you click on their profile, it will tell you how long they have been a member of the group. You can also find additional information on their public profile.

- You should see it in the news. If a child goes missing or a tragedy occurs, you'll most likely see it on different news outlets or shared by law enforcement, not on a random post.

- Identify phony posts. First, do a reverse image search on Google. That will allow you to find out if the pictures you saw were used on other ads or websites in different cities. Then, find similar posts by pasting the text from the post into Facebook's search tool to see if other posts with the same text and different pictures show up.

Editor's note: If you've been the victim of a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. By reporting your experience, you can help others avoid falling for the same scam.

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Times Feature

Ask the DMV

Expedite your holiday travels with DMV's online services and more

The Thanksgiving season is one of the busiest travel times of the year.

The DMV wants to make sure that you are prepared for busy airports so you can catch your flight with ease. Your travels will be easier when you take advantage of DMV online services to get your REAL ID.

Q1: I am planning to fly home to visit my family this holiday season. Do I need a REAL ID to board domestic flights?

A1: While you will not need a REAL ID to board domestic flights or to enter federal facilities this holiday season, you will next year. The enforcement date is May 3, 2023. We highly encourage all Californians to give themselves the gift of a REAL ID this holiday season! REAL ID appointments are available, and you can also check DMV Office wait times online if you do not have an appointment. Before you go, complete your REAL ID application online and simply finish the transaction in person at a DMV Office.

Q2: I lost my driver's license and need to replace it before flying home for Thanksgiving. Can I request a replacement online?

A2: Yes, if your driver's license (DL) has been lost, stolen, damaged or mutilated, a replacement DL can be requested online by following these steps:

- Create an online account (if you haven't previously).
- If you've submitted a Change of Address (COA) confirm that the change has been processed and wait 14 days before requesting a replacement DL. (Confirmation can be done in the COA system.)
- Be prepared to pay a fee for your replacement driver's license.

You should receive your new DL card in the mail within two to four weeks. If you have not received your DL card after 60 days, call 1-800-777-0133 to check the status.

Q3: My car registration is out of date, and I don't have time to visit the DMV before the holidays. Can I renew my registration online?

A3: Yes! Skip the line this holiday season and renew your vehicle registration online. The DMV offers a variety of online services that make completing your DMV business easy and efficient, from renewing vehicle registration to changing your address, or driver's license renewal – and much more! You can find a list of online services at [dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv-online/](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv-online/).

In addition to online services, the DMV offers other methods for completing select transactions to help reduce your trips to the DMV and save you time this holiday season, including DMV kiosks and Business Partner Automation (BPA) locations.

DMV kiosks are freestanding



self-service touchscreen devices that guide you through various DMV transactions, from registration renewal and payment to submitting proof of insurance. You can find a list of DMV kiosk locations at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/locations/kiosks/>.

Our Business Partner Automation (BPA) program authorizes qualified partners to process vehicle related transactions, including vehicle registration and titling, from their remote locations. Learn more about our BPA program and

what transactions can be processed at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/vehicle-industry-services/business-partner-automation-program/>.

For more information or answers to questions not listed here, please visit www.dmv.ca.gov.

*All DMV offices will be closed on Monday, December 26 – Christmas Day (Observed)**

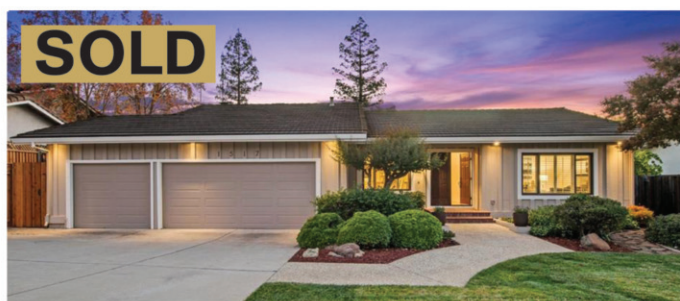
**Note: When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday is observed on the following Monday.*

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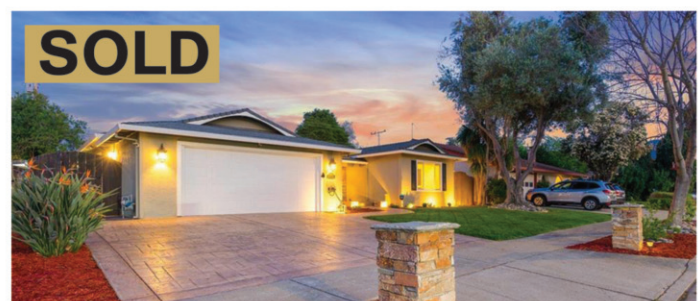
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Tech Jargon of the week:
Open Source

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:

Open Source

If you keep a tab on the latest news from tech industry, you may have heard or read about this word “open source” multiple times. But do you really know what that means? If not, then

you’ve come to the right place! Let’s go over what makes the code behind the curtain “open source.”

Most software that you buy or download only comes in the compiled ready-to-run version. Compiled means that the actual program code that the developer created, known as the source code, has run through a special program called a compiler that translates the source code into a form that the computer can understand. It is extremely difficult to modify the compiled version of most applications and nearly impossible to see exactly how the developer created different parts of the program. Most commercial software manufacturers see this as an advantage that keeps other companies from copying their code and using it in a competing product. It also gives them control

over the quality and features found in a particular product.

Open-source software is at the opposite end of the spectrum. The source code is included with the compiled version and modification, or customization is encouraged. The software developers who support the open-source concept believe that by allowing anyone who’s interested to modify the source code, the application will be more useful and error-free over the long term.

Firefox, Chrome, OpenOffice, Linux, and Android are some popular examples of open-source software, while Microsoft Windows is probably the most popular piece of closed-source software out there.

One of the main advantages of open-source software is the cost; however, the term “free”

refers to the freedom from restrictions and not so much its price. If a business (or even you) has the in-house capabilities and technical expertise to maintain the software and resources to implement, train and provide support to staff, then open source may turn out to be the most cost-effective solution.

Open-source code is one of the largest catalysts of broad programming innovation. By collaborating on accessible code, programmers can create communities of innovators who can make programs that we benefit from.

Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.sax-en@gmail.com.



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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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