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Almaden area seafood restaurant permanently closes

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

After nearly 40 years of business in South San Jose, Red Lobster, located in the Almaden Plaza on Almaden Expressway, has closed down permanently, leaving local patrons without their favorite seafood spot.

The restaurant chain has been hurt by high food and labor costs. It lost \$15.3 million in the last quarter, well above a forecast of negative \$10.4 million.

This comes as a big blow to the south bay area, as it's the second major seafood restaurant to close in the last two years. Another popular seafood restaurant, The Fish Market, closed in 2021.

There are still eight other Bay Area locations for Red Lobster fish fans, including one in San Jose (Aborn Road) and one in Milpitas (Calaveras Boulevard). Red Lobster also has more than 40 restaurants in California.



'Newsies' musical to be performed by Pioneer High School Drama Department

Show times scheduled to run March 24-25, and March 29-April 1

By Jane Johnson
Special to the Times

Closure. Most of us strive for closure in life's dealings — especially when the incompleteness was somehow thrust upon us. Many times, that closure is out of reach, whatever the reason. Not so in this story. The often-elusive closure is just in sight.

Almost exactly three years ago, 'Newsies' was within two weeks of opening night. We all know what happened next. Everyone, from the director down through the youngest member of the cast was sure they'd just pick right back up where they left off, putting on the show to rival 'Les Miserables' from only a few years before. Alas that did not happen, and the show went dark for good.

Or so they thought. This year it was resurrected



"Seize The Day." Pictured from (left to right front) are Thomas Jordan, Deanna Scaletta, Natalie Burrill, Luke Jennings, John Lock, Ezra McCelleis, Alexander Wiklund, Nola O'Brien, Isis Colby, Juju Maldonado, and Jacob Schweizer.

with a cast including those freshmen (now seniors) who lived the heartache of having it shut-down.

They now have stepped into the lead roles themselves, with lingering memories of the ones who went before.

The seniors commented on how they want to do justice to the show not only for themselves, but to honor the cast who didn't get to see the first curtain call. And, to hopefully help them relive the memories together and heal when

their new production of 'Newsies' opens on March 24th.

As senior Alexander Wiklund explained, "Newsies" was the first musical I ever did (here at Pioneer High School) but we did not finish that show so I did feel like I was robbed of a first show and it's quite nostalgic to have it back. Technically (the show's) been ongoing for four years and we finally get to complete it. I think Mrs. Coleman (Director) and Mrs. Bacon (Vocal

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Philharmonic Orchestra performs Khachaturian, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Prokofiev March 18

A most beautiful event for you to attend
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The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its Spring Concert to be held on Saturday, March 18 at 2 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose.

The orchestra will open with Khachaturian's Masquerade Suite, with its beautiful, haunting, and suspenseful theme, and end with Prokofiev's enduringly popular Romeo and Juliet Suites.

This concert will also feature two



winners from the 2022 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony* Foundation. Outstanding young soloists, **Ekaterina Kabenina** (inset above), violinist, will perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto; and Kerry Xu, pianist, will perform

Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2. Ekaterina (Kate) Kabenina is a junior at Campolindo High School. She has been playing the violin since she was six years old.

This is her fifth season with the San Jose Youth Symphony, having been with the Concert Orchestra and then the Chamber Orchestra during her first two years before joining the Philharmonic Orchestra two seasons ago. Kerry Xu is a junior at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont. He started playing the piano when he was 4 years old. He first joined the San Jose Youth Symphony 5 years ago and is currently in his 3rd season as a violinist 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 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.

Note: To purchase tickets, visit: <https://sjys.org> "San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation and its use in all its variations is by license.

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FOCUS



Milli Seth co-creates a non-profit to care for children where inadequate care exists.

Annual SaloniHoli Festival returns to Bret Harte March 18th

By Jane Johnson

Special to the Times

Milli Seth co-creates a non-profit to care for children where inadequate care exists.

Inspired to pay it forward out of heartache and loss, Almaden parents Milli and Himanshu Seth created a non-profit to care for children where only inadequate care existed before.

In their quest to both honor their daughter, Saloni, and to help others, they, along with their team formed an annual joyful festival, held at our very own Bret Harte Middle School.

Saloni was born in India with a congenital heart defect. The stenosed aortic bicuspid valve condition worsened after a “botched procedure” was performed on the then six-year-old.

It turns out for children in India,

this was more the normal outcome than it ever should have been in this day and age of medicine.

Her mother was undaunted in her search to find someone, anyone, to help. Based on a study by the former director of the AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences): Every year, more than 240,000 children are born in India with congenital heart disease. Almost 95% fail to thrive or pass away slowly over months and years due to lack of appropriate pediatric cardiac care. Saloni’s parents were connected with Stanford Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital’s Dr. Mohan Reddy (now Chief Pediatric Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon, UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital) who literally saved Saloni from imminent death. Yet the damage suffered in India limited the prognosis, and the tenacious, beautiful, dream-filled young girl who wanted nothing more than to be a cardiac-thoracic surgeon left this world only seven years later.

Known as Saloni Heart Foundation (SHF), this 501(c)3 non-profit was created in California almost four years ago. The mission is to bring world class medical care to children in India. Shared Milli, “we believe that all parents should have access to the world’s best medical care for their children.” The foundation has created an advisory board to “give free and unbiased best-in-class second opinions so that parents and attending doctors in India can take the best course of treatment with the most skilled pediatric cardio-thoracic surgeons.

Our doctors guide them to the right treatment, right doctor and right hospital in India. SHF also enables doctors from India to discuss and exchange ideas with our team of doctors in the United States on their complex cases,” said Milli. In addition to

See *SALONI HOLI*, next page

Valley Currents

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

Animal shelters and nonprofits face uphill climb

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

Animal shelters and rescue organizations are turning to the community for help in addressing the overpopulation of cats and dogs.

Representatives from these groups spoke at the Feb. 13 Almaden Valley Community Association meeting to encourage residents to spay and neuter pets, as well as adopt, foster or volunteer to help care for homeless animals.

There are an estimated 125,000 homeless cats in Santa Clara County and cats make up two-thirds of the animals in shelters, according to the Town Cats website. To break the breeding cycle, animal shelters and their partners favor a Trap-Neuter-Return approach, where cats are trapped, spayed or neutered and returned to their original locations.

“Overpopulation breeds suffering,” said Kim McIntyre, director of the St. Francis Animal Protection Society. “Unfixed animals and limited low-cost services mean more dogs and cats than there are homes and resources to ensure the quality of life for each,” she said.

McIntyre said the halt of non-essential veterinary services like spaying and neutering during the height of the pandemic further exacerbated the problem.

St. Francis Animal Protection Society helps unhoused people care for their pets. In order to be eligible for housing where pets are allowed, people have to show proof of ownership, and vaccination and spay/neuter records. In the past year, the society fixed 100 animals and held numerous vaccine clinics at encampments.

“By helping the animals, we’re also helping the people,” McIntyre said. “We hope it relieves some of the strain from the shelters.”

Jay Terrado, deputy director of San Jose Animal Care and Services, said as cat and kitten intake increases during kitten season in March, the animal shelter will need to find adoptive or foster homes for them and are depending on its rescue partners for assistance. The animal shelter has many large dogs also in need of homes, he said.

Pre-pandemic, San Jose Animal Care and Services took in more than 18,000 animals annually, including rabbits. During the past year, it took in 15,632 animals. Of these, 1,494 cats and 1,074 dogs were adopted. Others were returned to owners, transferred, released after being



Jay Terrado, deputy director of San Jose Animal Care and Services, said the animal shelter needs to find adoptive or foster homes for its cats and dogs.

spayed/neutered or died. In 2022, the animal shelter worked with over 90 rescue organizations and transferred over 5,400 animals to its partners.

Terrado said although the animal shelter wants to do trap and return spay and neutering services five to seven days a week, it faced staffing issues last year and continues to have two veterinarian vacancies. Working with partners, it has completed 119 spay or neuter surgeries since January. Pre-pandemic, in 2018-19, it completed more than 1,000 spay and neuter surgeries per quarter, with a total of 5,640 for the year.

Terrado said one of San Jose Animal Care and Services goals is to reduce the length of time the animals it cares for stay. He said shelter overpopulation affects the mental and emotional well-being of animals.

“There are a lot of pets in our shelter right now that need more support when it comes to their behavior, but it’s not something we can address,” he said, “...because the shelter is a stressful place for many of the animals we take in.”

San Jose Animal Care and Services is hoping to increase adoptions through postings on social media. It accepts financial donations as well as animal supplies like pet food, dog crates, blankets and newspapers.

“We definitely need more support from our community,” Terrado said. “We cannot do this alone.”

Vanessa Forney created Bay Area Cats to decrease the number of unfixed cats in the community. The organization helps with low-cost spaying and neutering and connects people with resources.

Forney said Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane way to control community cat populations. She said cats can reproduce as early as four-months-old and as often as every two to three months. One unsprayed female can result in 200 to 400 cats in a couple of years, she said.

Kittens and their mothers should be taken to shelters for Trap-Neuter-Return, she said, but feral kittens less than four weeks old should be left for their mothers to care for if they’re clean, healthy and not in danger.

Dinah Hayse, a volunteer with the Dancing Cat adoption lounge and founder of District 10’s Community Cats Working Group, said one of biggest reasons for people giving up their pets to shelters is landlords not allowing pets.

“Help somebody have a place to live and keep their pets with them,” she said. “As a tenant, make sure pets are on your lease. Please don’t go adopt an animal if you aren’t allowed to.”

Hayse said another cause of animal surrender is a family member dying. She recommends people plan ahead as to who will take care of their pets. She suggests pet owners set aside savings for medical emergencies or get pet insurance and have their animals microchipped.

“A microchip can make a difference in an animal having a long shelter stay versus going back to its owner who loves it,” McIntyre added.



Kim McIntyre, director of the St. Francis Animal Protection Society, said overpopulation of cats and dogs breeds suffering.

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Times **Community News**

Bills aim to help vulnerable residents get mental illness care

By Mayor Matt Mahan

Last week, I traveled to Sacramento to stand alongside a bipartisan group of big-city mayors and state legislators in the fight for conservatorship reform bills authored by Senator Susan Eggman.

These bills would help ensure that our most vulnerable residents suffering from severe mental illness get the care that they need. You can watch the entire press conference on YouTube, but I'll provide a brief summary in this letter and I hope you will also take a moment to watch my conversation with Kathryn, the mother of a son suffering from serious mental illness, below.

The backstory to the mental health crisis we see on our streets every day starts in the 1960s with a well-intended reform that failed. At the time, many Californians were concerned about the number of people who were held against their will in mental health institutions and the potential for violations of individuals' civil liberties. And not without reason, as many of these facilities were underfunded and our understanding of mental illness was not what it is today. Many voters also felt that mental health care could be better managed through a more decentralized system of community-based solutions.

Growing calls for reform led to the passage of the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act in 1967, which significantly curtails the state's ability to compel individuals into mental health institutions. As the state "de-institutionalized" (or began to shut down mental health hospitals, including Agnews here in San Jose, which

many of you may remember), what should have been a shift in funding to alternative solutions never fully took place – nor did those solutions work in the toughest cases without the ability to compel care. From this time to today, our mental health care system went from having over 300 psychiatric beds per 100,000 residents down to just 12 beds per 100,000 residents today.

The result is a system that allows far too many individuals suffering from serious mental illnesses to slip through the cracks, even when their family members fight to get them into care. While not the only or even the main cause of homelessness, we have all witnessed how this failure has contributed to the crisis today.

Almost daily, concerned residents ask me why the man yelling on the corner, running into traffic and living outside is not given the



From the Mayor
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose

help he needs. I am asked by loved ones why their pleas for care go unanswered as they file the 6th missing persons report attempting to lift their family member in extreme mental distress out of homelessness. I hear from our police officers that they have arrested someone for the 16th time this year – but they don't believe she can even tell right from wrong.

Thanks to Senator Susan Eggman (who is also one of the CARE court authors), we have the opportunity to support legislation like Senate Bill 43 (SB43) that will help us fill in the cracks.

SB43 ensures conservatorship court proceedings can consider vital testimony about an individual's circumstances and history from healthcare professionals and clarifies the definition of "gravely disabled" – the threshold needed for consideration of a public conser-

vatorship – to include people whose severe mental health or substance abuse issues prevent them from meeting their basic needs. As you'll hear below from Kathryn, this legislation could have saved her family years of heartbreak.

Conservatorships are the last line of defense. No one wants to take legal responsibility for another's well being without compelling justification. But, for families like Kathryn's and neighbors suffering on our streets without loved ones to advocate for them, we have a moral obligation to demand better from our system and facilitate their recovery.

Taking action now will help our entire community. I hope you stand with me as I advocate for our state to provide life-saving care to those in need. You can sign up right here to let us know you'd like to stay updated on the issues and do what you can to help.

Editor's note: You may send your comments and suggestions to Mayor Matt Mahan via email: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov, or call 408-535-4800

SaloniHoli

Continued from previous page

the collaboration and advisement, the foundation provides scholarships for children in India from poor areas so they can follow Saloni's dream to become a cardio-thoracic surgeon themselves.

Many will know yearly during spring in India, Holi is celebrated to "honor the nature, creator of blessings and commemorate the onset of the multi-colored springtime blooms," explained Milli. "It was Saloni's favorite festival." To support their mission, the SHF created a celebration of Saloni, of life, of commemorating a child's joy through SaloniHoli, a festival filled with color and community. Grab a pack (or more) of colored powder and shower your friends with color. Each color represents a meaning of life. Booths and vendors from local businesses and well-known food truck cuisine will all be there, and all accept credit card payments.

Profits and proceeds from the event go towards fulfilling SHF's mission. Last year over 500 attended; this year attendance expects to triple.

2023 SaloniHoli festival runs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 18th at Bret Harte Middle School on the football field. Wear white for the best color vibrance, but anything comfortable will do. Suggested but not required to wear eye wear (sunglasses, goggles) for the best experience.

Tickets are \$18 through advanced purchase (by March 11th) or \$25 after. Group rates available. Please visit www.saloniheartfoundation.org/events for more information.

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America should be in the middle of a schools revolution

The moment is ripe; COVID has left a lot of destruction in its wake

By David Brooks

The coronavirus caused by far the biggest disruption in the history of American education,” Meira Levinson and Daniel Markovits wrote in *The Atlantic* last year.

Things have not reverted back to normal as COVID has gradually lost its grip on American life. Today’s teachers and students are living with a set of altered realities, and they may be for the rest of their lives:

- Shrinking enrollments. In the first full academic year of the pandemic, K-12 public school enrollment fell by 1.1 million students and fell by about an additional 130,000 students the following fall. New Stanford-led research finds that 26% of that decline was caused by students switching to home-schooling and 14% by students leaving for private schools. Another 34% of the decline is hard to track, but some students were probably going truant, doing unregistered home-schooling or simply opting out of kindergarten. (A declining school-age population explains the rest.) In the years ahead, enrollments, and the funding streams that go with them, will most likely decline further as birthrates fall.

- Academic regression. Since the National Assessment of Educational Progress was first administered in the 1970s, scores have usually risen or held steady. But two decades’ worth of math and reading gains were more or less erased for 9-year-olds during the pandemic. Declining academic skills will have long-term

consequences. Researchers calculated that the decline in math skills alone will lead to \$900 billion in lower future earnings over the course of students’ lifetimes.

- Rising absenteeism. During the pandemic, students got in the habit of not going to school. Those habits have persisted. According to one preliminary estimate, 16 million students were chronically absent during the 2021-22 school year.

- Worsening discipline problems. More than 80% of public schools say the pandemic has led to worse student behavior and lower social and emotional development.

- Surging inequality. As Robin Lake and Travis Pillow write in a Brookings Institution article, “American students are experiencing a K-shaped recovery, in which gaps between the highest- and lowest-scoring students, already growing before the pandemic, are widening into chasms.”

Parents, of course, are aware of these new realities and have begun to adjust their thinking. Historically, voters have trusted Democrats more on education. But, as Nat Malkus pointed out in *National Affairs*, by 2022, Republicans were as trusted as Democrats by voters, if not more so.

Parents are rethinking, but the nation’s leaders seem blissfully unaware.

In his State of the Union address, Biden offered no ambitious plans to fix America’s ailing schools. The Republican Party can’t utter a complete sentence on the subject of school reform that doesn’t contain the initials CRT. What we’re seeing here is a complete absence of leadership — even in the midst of a crisis that will literally bend the arc of American history.

This moment of disruption should be a moment of reinvention. It should be a moment when leaders rise up and say, “Let’s get beyond stale debates over charters, vouchers, gender-neutral bathrooms and the like. We’re going to rethink the nuts and bolts of how we teach in America.”

The moment is ripe. COVID has left a lot of destruction in its wake. But just as the pandemic spurred people to find creative new approaches to the workplace, it has propelled people to expand creative approaches to schooling. Some teachers and parents, for example, developed “learning pods” or “micro-schools” — smaller groups of students, sometimes across grade levels, who learn and socialize together.

A survey from EdChoice and Morning Consult found that more than 40% of parents express a desire for some form of hybrid, at-least-one-day-a-week-at-home learning. If these more personalized and parent-led forms of schooling are going to flourish, they need new forms of curricula, not off-the-shelf models suited for traditional school settings.

Some innovators are working on “mastery-based learning.” In normal school, the whole class studies a subject for a fixed period, then there’s a test that serves as an autopsy on how

well the students learned. In mastery-based learning, the feedback is more continual and steers each student to master the subject at his or her own pace.

Other schools are experimenting with 3,000-square-foot classroom areas where teams of teachers work with students in small groups or individually. Others are rethinking how teaching jobs are defined. “Having a superbly skilled early literacy instructor teach addition or watch students eat lunch simply because he’s a second-grade teacher is a bizarre way to leverage talent,” observes Frederick Hess of the American Enterprise Institute.

The pandemic reminded us how much we lose when teachers can’t do their jobs in the way they want to do them. But there now has to be political leadership to shake up a calcified system and hurry the reinvention that has to happen.

David Brooks is a New York Times columnist.



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Times **Community News****IN MEMORY****Carolina A. (Korotaj) Barbano**
January 8, 1920 - February 27, 2023*Carolina attended Old Almaden School in the 1920's*

Carolina Agnes Barbano, at the age of 103, passed away peacefully at home with family. Carolina was predeceased by her husband of 67 years, George W. Barbano.

Carolina was born on January 8, 1920, on a fruit ranch on Budd/Rincon Avenues, known as Campbell Redwood Estate, delivered by midwife and Godmother Mary Tomich. Carolina's birth was reported by the County as January 16, 1920 due to Dr. Blancher arriving by horse and buggy. Carolina was the 9th child born to the late Johan and Antonia (Kumek) Korotaj. Her first bath was given by neighbor rancher Prestigiacomio. In 1921, her father purchased 10-acre fruit ranch on Jarvis Road, Los Gatos District, known as Robertsville, where she spent her childhood with her 12 siblings. Unfortunately, the first child of the family died at birth in 1910.

Carolina's early years included helping the family by



picking prunes and cutting apricots. The apricots were cut, pitted and laid on trays and stacked on a fruit car into a sulfur house overnight. The trays were laid out on the fam-

ily property to dry and be sold.

A photo was taken in 1928 by the Mercury News showing the Korotaj family cutting apricots. This picture can be found in Santa Clara County history books and in the San Jose Historical Museum as a memory of how families worked together.

Carolina attended Old Almaden, Hacienda, and Valley View Schools. In 1937 at 17, she graduated from Campbell High School where she played girls softball and basketball.

Soon after graduation, she eloped and married George W. Barbano.

In 1937, the Barbano family owned a pear and prune ranch on Latimer Avenue, Campbell, where Carolina rode a tractor to harvest the fruit. She also worked at the Ainsley Cannery downtown Campbell processing fruit.

In 1945, Carolina was one of the Moreland School District P.T.A. founders, where she served as the membership secretary. In 1947, the Barbano family purchased several acres of prunes in Almaden Valley on Kooser Road. However, in 1948, the family decided to give up ranching and move back to Campbell.

Carolina was passionate about cooking and preparing meals from scratch using her Croatian-Austrian heritage and Italian family recipes. For the holidays she made rocky road, fudge, and chocolate-covered prunes and baked cookies like biscotti, cuccidati, sesame sticks, anise toast, and cenci. She canned tomato sauce, peaches and cherries. She made focaccia and walnut potica bread, ravioli, pizza, apple and pumpkin pies.

In 1975, Carolina became a cook manager for the Campbell Union School District, where she worked for 15 years, preparing menus on-site and cooking everything in large pots for 200 children a day at a cost of 25 cents.

She also attended cooking classes at the Community College.

Carolina had an interest in genealogy, researching family history, and collecting and organizing pictures in albums.

She was an excellent seamstress and crocheted beautiful doilies. She did crossword puzzles and cared for her flower and vegetable garden. She attended Campbell's Old Settlers Day celebrations and was proud to be born in Campbell. A vivid San Jose State and S.F. 49ers football fan.

She is survived by her children Charlene (Gordon) Case, Judith (Dwight predeceased) Crossen, Grandmother of James (Tina) Case and Eddie Crossen, devoted Great-Grandma of 6 and a Great-Great Grandma of 6. A sister, Louise Tedford, and nephews and nieces.

Friends are invited to attend a celebration of life Tuesday, 10 a.m., March 21, 2023 at Lima Family Santa Clara Mortuary, 466 N. Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, followed by burial at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery. Donations may be made to St. Catherine Church, Morgan Hill, CA.

Assembly Republicans unanimously oppose Gavin's gas tax proposal

All 18 members of the Assembly Republican Caucus have signed a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom opposing his plan to impose an oil windfall tax.

The letter, circulated by Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), noted that the proposal would put Californians at risk of fuel shortages and price spikes.

"We know why gas prices are so high in California: taxes, fees and regulations drive up costs and restrict our fuel supply," said Hoover. "The governor's tax plan is a distraction from those issues and could make things even worse. I'm grateful for my colleagues who are standing up for California drivers by opposing this new tax."

Last week, Hoover invited all 80 Assemblymembers to sign the letter and focus on real solutions to bring down gas prices.



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Acclaimed British Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor performs for Steinway Society, March 25: Live and LiveStreamed

Winner of Gramophone award for best instrumental album of the year

Classical pianist Benjamin Grosvenor returns to perform for Steinway Society – The Bay Area on Saturday, March 25 at the Louis B. Mayer Theatre, at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara.

Patrons will also be able to livestream the concert and view it for up to 48 hours afterward. Program notes and a recorded pre-concert lecture by classical music expert Dr. Gary Lemco are available at www.steinwaysociety.com

“Piano’s Golden Generation” concert, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will feature:

Bach-Busoni, Chaconne in D Minor (From Violin Partita No. 2, BWV 1004)

Schumann, Fantasie in C Major, Op. 17

1. Durchaus phantastisch und leidenschaftlich vorzutragen (To be performed with fantasy and passion throughout)

2. Mässig. Durchaus energisch (Moderate. Energetic throughout)

3. Langsam getragen. Durchweg leise zu halten (Slow and sustained. Gentle throughout)

Ravel, Le tombeau de Couperin

1. Prélude, Vif

2. Fugue, Allegro moderato

3. Forlane, Allegretto

4. Rigaudon, Assez vif

5. Menuet, Allegro Moderato

6. Toccata, Vif

Prokofiev, Sonata No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 83

1. Allegro inquieto

2. Andante caloroso

3. Precipitato

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Single Tickets: \$45 to \$70; General Admission: \$70/\$60/\$50; Senior & student: \$65/\$55/\$45; Livestream online: \$40 per household.

<https://steinwaysociety.com/tickets>

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Benjamin Grosvenor

Now among the world’s most admired pianists, Benjamin Grosvenor became the youngest-ever winner of the BBC Young Musician Competition at age 11. At 19, he was the youngest British musician ever signed by Decca Classics; his first album won the Gramophone award for best instrumental album of the year. He has also won the Classic Brits Critics’ Award, UK Critics’ Circle Award for Exceptional Young

Talent, and a Diapason d’Or Jeune Talent Award. Grosvenor has been featured in two BBC television documentaries, BBC Breakfast and The Andrew Marr Show, as well as in CNN’s Human to Hero series. Since 2011 he has appeared eight times at BBC Proms.

In January 2019, Gramophone named Grosvenor one of five “Piano’s Golden Generation” artists who are leading the way among today’s classical pianists.

Sought after and praised for his distinctive sound, his artistry described as “poetic and gently ironic, brilliant yet clear-minded, intelligent but not without humor, all translated through a beautifully clear and singing touch” –The Independent

Photo courtesy of the artist and Steinway Society



Classical pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** to perform for Steinway Society – The Bay Area on Saturday, March 25 in Santa Clara.

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Celebrating Women in STEM

(+ An International Women's Day Surprise)

By Apoorva Panidapu

Happy Women's History Month!

As you know, February was Black History Month. So, in honor of it, I shared my artwork of historic, bold, and inspiring Black figures who have paved the way for the world and society we know now.

One of the biggest factors of bias in youth is the lack of diverse role models they know about, which is why Black History Month and Women's History Month are so important.

How long have you known the name Albert Einstein? Or Isaac Newton? These are "staple" STEM figures. But what about Ada Lovelace, who is considered to be the first computer programmer? When did you hear the name Marie Curie? Or Katherine Johnson? These significant gender and diversity gaps in knowledge of STEM figures perpetuates the idea that these fields are for men. The lack of role models is not because they don't exist, but because they aren't talked about and taught about.

In this column, I want to highlight the extraordinary lives and accomplishments of three Black women in STEM history: Katherine Johnson, Dr. Gladys West, and Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price, whose portraits and stories I shared last month.



Katherine Johnson

"It's not every day you wake up with a mission in your mind, but I had a mission, and I was determined to accomplish it." - Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist, and is responsible for the success of the first U.S. crewed spaceflights. Her calculations and unmatched mathematical ability will always be a historical milestone of redefining what it means to be a "rocket sci-

entist" and a wonderful reminder that STEM is and should always be for everyone.

On International Women's Day in 2020, I auctioned this portrait of Katherine Johnson and ended up raising \$1,000 for BEAM, a summer program for underrepresented minorities in STEM.

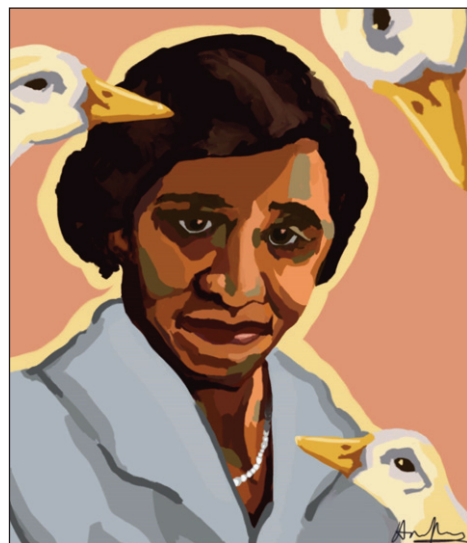


Dr. Gladys West

"I'll be a role model as the Black me, as West, to be the best I can be, doing my work."

Meet Dr. Gladys West, the woman behind the GPS you use everyday.

Dr. West is a mathematician and programmer whose incredible work in developing satellite geodesy models became the basis for GPS, changing the world we live in. She is also known for her precise calculations in modeling the shape of the Earth. During her career, she often did not get the recognition she deserved because of the prevalent racism against African Americans, but she persisted in doing the work that she loves. From winning a scholarship to go to college to earning her PhD at the age of 70 despite suffering from a stroke, Dr. Gladys West has always been a trailblazer, and her work will continue to inspire young girls for generations to come.



Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price

Meet Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price, a veterinary microbiologist who developed several vaccines for life-threatening duck (and other waterfowl) diseases.

See GEMS, next page

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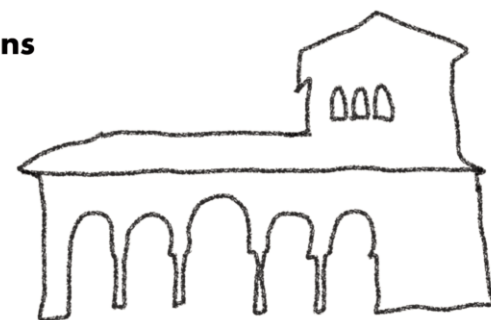
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Times Feature

San Jose small businesses can still apply for COVID rent relief

By Sonya Herrera
San José Spotlight

San Jose has opened its next wave of grants for small businesses to pay off their rent debts accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small business owners can now apply for grants of up to \$15,000 to help pay off the back rent they owe to commercial landlords. San Jose opened applications for the grants last week, which will remain available until April 30. To qualify for the program, a business had to be open prior to March 24, 2020, have fewer than 10 employees and be located in a commercial building in San Jose.

"It can make the difference between (a) busi-

ness being able to meet its debts or failing," Vic Farlie, an analyst with San Jose's economic development department, told San José Spotlight. "If you're a small business, cash flow is very important to you, and so a grant toward your rent debt can be a really important way to protect your business."

The city's last wave of grant applications for rent relief ended in July. In that last phase, the city received more than 200 applications, according to Carlos Velazquez, spokesperson for the city economic development department. San Jose now has \$1.8 million for this next phase of grants, which will be issued as soon as the end of this month.

Velazquez said during the last grant phase, the city issued \$530,000 to 103 businesses. He said since the start of the pandemic, San Jose has awarded \$6 million in grants to 499 small businesses, all owned by low- to moderate-income individuals and many being San Jose residents of color.

"Our business development team has canvassed hundreds of small businesses in San Jose

See COVID relief, page 15

Gems

Continued from previous page

Growing up, Dr. Price had difficult financial circumstances and was often the only Black student in her classes, but she always persevered, powered by her keen interest in science. Her mother, Teresa Price, who greatly valued education, raised her on her own and encouraged her academic talents. Dr. Price's research focused on studying microbial diseases with the hope of decreasing duck mortality. Needless to say, she was tremendously successful in achieving her goal—she created not one, but two vaccines! Her work has greatly advanced understanding on how to control avian diseases.

Dr. Jessie Isabelle Price was a veterinary trailblazer, and her story and success will always be an incredible inspiration for all of us who wish to change the world with our passions.



Now, for the surprise! To celebrate 2023 International Women's Day, I painted a portrait of **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, a K'iche' Guatemalan activist, feminist, and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, to pay tribute to her lifelong advocacy for Indigenous peoples, women's, and human rights globally.

"Peace cannot exist without justice, justice cannot exist without fairness, fairness cannot exist without development, development cannot exist without democracy, democracy cannot exist without respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples." - Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

The courage she has displayed throughout her

life is beyond inspiring and her story is one everyone should know. From a young age, she began her advocacy by defending Indigenous farmers from colonial exploitation alongside her father in the Committee for Peasant Unity, despite facing discrimination as a woman. In the face of the injustice and devastating family tragedies she experienced during the Guatemalan Civil War, she resolutely carried on for her people, co-founding the United Republic of Guatemalan Opposition to continue organizing resistance to oppression in Guatemala. Today, she continues to advocate for Indigenous rights around the world and creates awareness for issues like economic inequality, climate change, and education.

Rigoberta Menchú embodies the purpose of IWD and Women's History Month, showing us first-hand the power of resilience and firm belief in a brighter future, saying, "What I treasure most in life is being able to dream. During my most difficult moments and complex situations I have been able to dream of a more beautiful future."

In recognition of Rigoberta Menchú's ongoing work and activism, let's all continue to dream and create a better world for all identities, peoples, and cultures.

The auction for the portrait of Rigoberta Menchú is live now, you can look up the painting by searching "IWD 2023: Portrait of Rigoberta Menchu Tum" on eBay!

It will end March 17, so don't forget to bid! 100% of the funds from this auction, excluding shipping and auction costs, will go towards the International Rescue Committee's earthquake relief efforts in Türkiye and Syria to provide the families there with emergency services and to support refugee families in countries around the world. (Ebay is matching up to \$250k in seller/buyer donations to support Türkiye and Syria during March!) In addition to the money raised for IRC through the official IWD portrait auction, I'm donating the proceeds from another art commission to the Navajo Nation Math Circle as a part of their Indigenous Outreach Fund, since my own math circle played a huge role in fostering my love for math.

Remember that it's not just this month, but all year round that we should celebrate and learn about Black history and women's history, because it IS history.

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

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Times **Feature****Tech Jargon of the week**
Data Classification

By Shubhi Asthana

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

Data Classification

Data classification is the process of organiz-



ing data into categories that make it is easy to retrieve, sort and store for future use.

A well-planned data classification system makes essential data easy to find and retrieve. This can be of particular importance for risk management, legal discovery, and compliance. Written procedures and guidelines for data classification policies should define what categories and criteria the organization will use to classify data and specify the roles and responsibilities of employees within the organization regarding data stewardship. Once a data-classification scheme has been created, security standards that specify appropriate handling practices for each category and storage standards that define the data’s lifecycle requirements need to be addressed.

Purpose of data classification

On top of making data easier to locate and retrieve, a carefully planned data classification system also makes essential data easy to manipulate and track. While some combination of all the following attributes may be achieved, most businesses and data professionals focus on a particular goal when they approach a data classification project. The most common goals include but are not limited to the following:

- Confidentiality. A classification system that values confidentiality above other attributes will mostly focus on security measures, including user permissions and encryption.
- Integrity of data. A system that focuses on data integrity will require more storage, user permissions and proper channels of access.

• Availability of data. When security and integrity do not need to be perfected, it is easiest to make data more easily accessible to users.

Importance of data classification

Data classification is a way to be sure that a company or organization is compliant with company, local or federal guidelines for data handling and a way to improve and maximize data security.

Examples of data classification

Several different category lists can be applied to the information in a system. These lists of qualifications are also known as data classification schemes. One way to classify sensitivity categories might include classes such as secret, confidential, business-use only and public. An

See *TECH JARGON*, page 15

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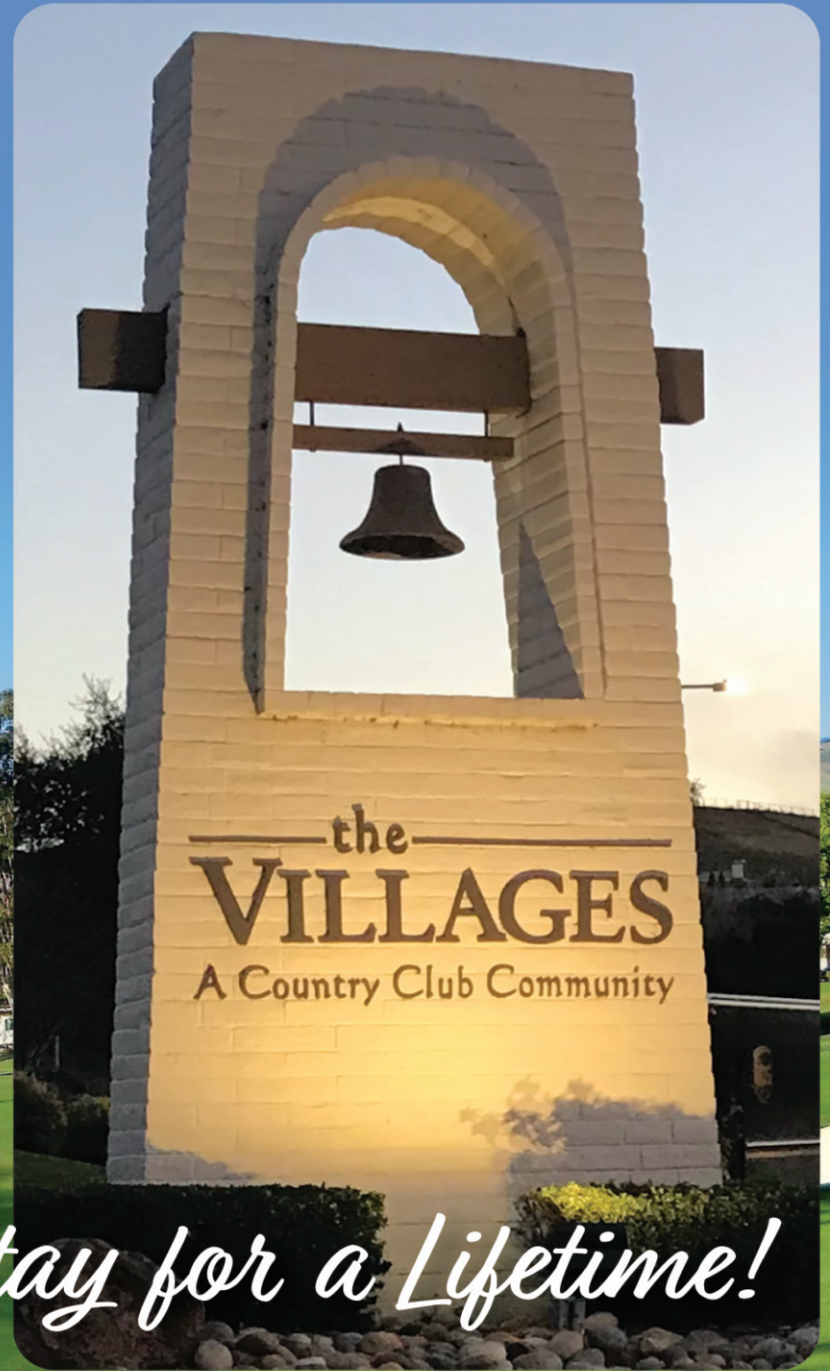
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Times **Feature**

A couple walks down The Alameda in San Jose past a string of businesses on March 3.
Photo by Sonya Herrera.

COVID relief

Continued from page 12

and relied on personal stories and anecdotes, as well as input from the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force to inform this need for rent relief," Velazquez told San José Spotlight. "The city continues to support landlords and tenants to reach agreement on back rent and avoid the cost and problems that follow eviction."

As a former small business owner, Farlie understands the importance these grants have toward stabilizing a company's finances. But help-

ing small businesses remain stable benefits the city as well, he said.

"From a city point of view, we want to try to protect the property market. We don't want to see evictions, and we do want to see landlords be able to maintain good income and good tenants," Farlie said. "It's a win-win."

Business owners can go online to submit an application at <https://www.accesssbd.org/sjrr22>, which. Business owners can also apply in person at the Silicon Valley Small Business Development Center office at 1887 Monterey Road in San Jose, or by calling (408) 385-9800.

Tech Jargon

Continued from page 13

organization might also use a system that classifies information as based on the type of qualities it drills down into. For example, types of information might be content info that goes into the files looking for certain characteristics. Context-based classification examines applications,

users, geographic location, or creator info about the application. User classification is based on what an end user chooses to create, edit, and review.

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

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Times **Feature**



San Francisco is rated the third most glamorous cities in the U.S. by website LawnStarter.

**Report: 2023's
Most Glamorous
U.S. Cities**

Many of us dream of a five-star lifestyle: the mansion, the Bentley, the Rolex, the country club membership.

But which U.S. cities serve up ritzy and glitz versus Ritz crackers and grits?

Ahead of New York Fashion Week, LawnStarter ranked 2023's Most Glamorous Cities.

The website compared the 200 biggest U.S. cities based on six categories broken down into 39 glam factors. They include metrics like the share of million-dollar homes, access to Michelin-starred restaurants, and the number of exclusive yacht clubs.

See which 10 cities put the extra in extravagant (and which 10 are more down-to-earth) below, fol-

lowed by some highlights and lowlights from our report.)


Most Glamorous Cities

- 1 New York, NY
- 2 Los Angeles, CA
- 3 San Francisco, CA
- 4 Miami, FL
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 6 Las Vegas, NV
- 7 Houston, TX
- 8 Atlanta, GA
- 9 Dallas, TX
- 10 Washington, DC

Least Glamorous Cities

- 1 West Valley City, UT
- 2 Warren, MI
- 3 Bridgeport, CT
- 4 Brownsville, TX
- 5 Laredo, TX
- 6 Moreno Valley, CA
- 7 Cape Coral, FL
- 8 Columbus, GA
- 9 Waco, TX
- 10 North Las Vegas, NV


Our full ranking is available here: <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/most-glamorous-cities-in-us>



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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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Times **Feature**

Opera San José unveils line-up for 2023–24 season

40th anniversary season includes premiere, new productions, role debuts, and virtual production

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

Opera San José General Director Shawna Lucey has unveiled plans for the company's gala 40th anniversary season, which will celebrate the organization's illustrious past, innovative present, and exciting future.

The 2023-24 season (September 9 – May 5) will feature four mainstage productions at the majestic California Theatre in downtown San José.

"We are proud to announce two brand-new productions and the revival of two beloved classics," Lucey said. "These operas will represent the very best of OSJ, featuring artist debuts that introduce Bay Area audiences to the stars of tomorrow, as well as an important Bay Area Premiere of Daniel Catán's masterpiece, *Florencia en el Amazonas*."

Lucey also announced plans to maintain Opera San José's international digital presence, utilizing its state-of-the-art Heiman Digital Media studio to produce works offered to audiences around the world, including a digital workshop of a new opera.

The season launches with Lucey directing an all-new production of Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*, with a diverse cast of rising young artists making their role debuts (Sept. 9 – 24, 2023), followed by a family-friendly romp with Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (Nov. 11 – 26, 2023)



Opera San Jose presents a family-friendly production of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," Nov. 11 – 26, 2023 at the California Theatre. Seen here: OSJ's 2011 production of "The Barber of Seville." Photo by Bob Shomler

that will feature opera star Dale Travis. The 40th Season continues with a thrilling revival of Verdi's *Rigoletto* (Feb. 17 – Mar. 3, 2024), followed by the Bay Area Premiere of the stunning magical-realism opera *Florencia en los Amazonas* by Mexican composer Daniel Catán (April 20 – May 5, 2024).

Opera San José also announces a planned digital workshop of the new opera *Zheng*, composed by Shinji Eshima with a libretto by Tony Asaro, based on the life of San Francisco mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao (Fall 2023, dates to be announced.)

For more information or to purchase subscriptions (\$150–\$585) the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm). Subscriptions, including an all-new FLEX four-pack, are on sale now; single tickets will go on sale on July 1, 2023.



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Times Feature

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Newsies

Continued from page 1

Director) got to open up something they never got to complete."

It was a tough decision for the production staff. However, "like all of our shows, 'Newsies' was chosen because it was the best way to showcase the unique gifts and talents of the students we have in the Pioneer Drama Department," shared Mrs. Coleman. And in fully moving forward with this new cast, "We are not re-doing this show; We are simply doing it." Fresh beginnings abound, as this will be the first performance on the newly dedicated Steve Dini stage, with the commemorative plaque hung in place and overseeing it all.

This new cast has risen to the challenge to take up the banner and begin again. Auditions concluded in December, followed by 4 days a week 3-hour rehearsals every night for 3 months. Director Ashley Coleman hopes from all of this hard work that "students walk away knowing dedication and passion walk hand in hand."

Coleman continued, "Every member of the cast and crew spends months of their life dedicated to one script, one character, and one cast. So much work is put into acting, choreography, music and tech, and so much of that work develops from a budding passion that ultimately leads to a strong dedication to not only a show, but to the craft as a whole. It is my hope that this dedication ultimately bleeds into every task encountered down the line."

As she described, it takes months and months of hard work by students, staff and volunteers alike to bring together productions of the caliber for which Pioneer is known. Vocal Director, Marissa Bacon, synthesized the lessons of the first cast's rehearsals to exponentially speed the blending and richness of the musical numbers this time around. Jim Wolk refitted the stage with everything he'd torn out only a few short years before. Lorie Biviano, set designer extraordinaire, found ways to weave the past and present together by highlighting this new cast's gifts with her small and large set touches, and also paying tribute to the original cast by insuring the special newspapers with the 2020 cast picture on them are used in this new production. It's her way of including them still in some small way. Costume mistresses Diane Zlotziver and Kyla Blili moved up their already hectic schedule to perform their usual costume magic so some of the kids could be photographed for this article. Andrew Stein (Senior), known only as Stein to most, assembled a tech crew to ensure the best lighting and sound mix is ready. Annalyce Upton did the same for the stage crew, ensuring set pieces, curtains and even performers move in and out on cue.

The show is high energy with memorable tunes that will stay with you long after you hear them. Disney's 'Newsies' follows the true story of newspaper boys in 1899, driven to strike by the unfair corporate practices of greedy publisher Joseph Pulitzer. Through activism, the boys organize a strike ultimately negotiating with Pulitzer to lower the price of the "papes." The effort is led by Jack Kelly. Jack is "the natural leader, trusted by his comrades to do the right thing. And he cares more about them than he does himself," explained Alex.

Katherine Plumber, the young reporter working for rival newspaper, The Sun, is portrayed by Loren Losarata (Senior). Katherine is key to helping the newsies make others aware of their plight. Loren's chosen to play her sassy, stepping into that role like someone who has wanted this role from a very young age. "I've been obsessed with musical theater ever since I was a little girl," shared Loren. "I used to do



"Watch what happens" is sung by **Loren Losarata** (Katherine).

shows back in elementary school, and I came across 'Newsies' in 7th grade. Playing Katherine is a dream come true. I didn't get a chance to do ("Newsies") freshman year, so having it come back again this year gave me another chance to do the show, which is great."

Watching a rehearsal, you can sense the show coming together — each cast member rooting for the others to succeed. "My favorite number is Taylor Pembroke's number. She plays Miss Medda Larkin. Every single time I watch her I'm smiling from ear to ear, she sounds so incredible. It's a genuine reaction from me, she's fantastic!" said Loren. Watching Taylor perform you'd have to agree.

Luke Jennings (Junior) is enjoying playing Davey, a character near to his own real-life experience. "In the show, my character Davey is like the brains of the whole operation. He's the one who figures out this is a strike, and this is what we need to do to get them to listen to us. I think that's my favorite part. I've always been a fan of activism, and I feel passionate about a lot of things myself. It's really cool to be able to play a character where they share similar views instead of playing the villain or the love interest. This show, this character, is very topical, very current." As his character, Davey, plots the dangerous strike, he's simultaneously watching over his younger brother, Les. "I relate to the character a lot because I'm an older brother myself - I'm the oldest of three. So, it's kind of sentimental, because it's fun to get in that headspace for a show."

Luke has been involved in theatre for the past seven years, beginning in local community theater at the age of ten. He's been everything from an ensemble member to a lead and gained something from each experience. He feels "that's helped me to become a better actor in whatever role I have played. I know how each role interacts with each other, and it helps me play better off of other people." Yet even Luke did not know fully about 'Newsies' before joining the cast. "I knew some of the songs and that 'Newsies' was a very dance-heavy show. I knew it would be a challenge. However, I didn't know much about the plot line or the characters themselves." Luke explained he preferred experiencing the show firsthand rather than having seen it performed by another cast.

When queried about the most impactful piece in the show, every single member mentioned



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Times Feature



"They're puttin' up the headline!" (pictured front row left to right) are: **Gabrielle D'Angelo, Natalie Burrill, John Lock, Nola O'Brien (middle) Maya Lewis, Deanna Scaletta, Alexander Wiklund, Juju Maldonado, and Olivia Strugis.** Back row (l to r) are: **Emerson Sandis, Kacie Petty, Scarlett Purkeypile, Ezra McCelleis, and Thomas Jordan, Luke Jennings, Evelina Ledakaite, Calista Lau, Jacob Schweizer, and Isis Colby.**

"Once and For All." "It's a powerful number. We're printing papers getting ready to spread the word of the strike, and it's really intense" explained Loren. Luke resonates with the lyrics "'there's change coming'. It's his favorite part of the whole show because the hope the song embodies reminds him of his own optimistic tendencies.

"It's a steppingstone for the newsies to achieve greater heights, to achieve what they want, in this case a better price of 'papes'. They're just trying to make an honest living," Alex added. "If you were to describe the show with one word, it's 'unity' and many of the songs have unity embedded in them — this one especially. It's our Vocal Director's favorite song, too."

Mrs. Coleman echoed their sentiments, adding one of her own, "'Newsies' is chalk-full of important messages of risk, camaraderie, social justice, love, and sacrifice. While the most recognizable song is definitely 'Seize the Day', I believe the most important one is 'Once and For All'. It highlights the certainty of change, and stresses the importance of standing up for yourself and others, even when it's difficult to do so."

Ezra McCelleis (Freshman) plays Crutchie, Jack's best friend. "I like to think they met at an early age. Crutchie is the emotional anchor of the show. When characters need motivation, he's there to show how big the threat is, and he's definitely an important character" reflected Ezra. "The newsies really stick together. It's about perseverance, brotherhood and a sense of community." Ezra has one of the few solos in the show, an emotional piece which he adds to "Once and For All" for its impact. In the song 'Letter from The Refuge,' Crutchie writes about the terrors of his detainment while still motivating Jack and the boys to continue on.

Pioneer's Drama program is important in so many ways, including fostering community within. "Drama is a way to express myself and cre-

ate friends," shared Alex. "I was quite scared getting into the Advanced Drama program here because I didn't know if I was going to have the same experience as I'd had with middle school theater. But it ended up, I've had a better experience."

We are fortunate to have this level of theater in our own backyard. The program is so good, cast members forego outside performing opportunities to dedicate their time to their high school production. And it's show quality at high school ticket prices. In the end, the cast wants the community to enjoy a night out and leave feeling hopeful and inspired.

"It's go time now. The next couple of weeks in prep for opening night are going to be so busy. I feel like we worked so, so hard for this" Loren said. "Even though we're here super late at night it doesn't feel like it because the time passes so quickly. It doesn't even feel like work, honestly, it's just a joy to be here."

Mrs. Coleman shared "As always, I hope the audience leaves our theatre happier than they entered, having reaped the benefits of watching students exercise their passions on stage. For 'Newsies' in particular, I hope they recognize that theatre can be a cultural phenomenon that demands society examine itself in the mirror. 'Newsies' is a social justice musical about rectifying child labor laws. It's gritty, inspiring, and absolutely deserves to be seen."

Come be a part of the joy, the return, the closure, the activism, and the energy that is 'Newsies.'

Advance tickets are on sale now online at phs-drama.ludus.com, or in person starting 6:00 p.m. each evening at the door. Show runs Friday-Saturday March 24-25, and Wednesday through Saturday, March 29-April 1 at 7 p.m.; Performing Arts Center, 1290 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose.



"Stay clear of The Refuge." Pictured are **Luke Jennings (Davey), Isis Colby (Les) and Alexander Wiklund (Jack).**



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Times **News**

The Philharmonic Orchestra performs Khachaturian, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Prokofiev March 18

Ticket purchases now available online

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its Spring Concert to be held on Saturday, March 18 at 2 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose.

The orchestra will open with Khachaturian's Masquerade Suite, with its beautiful, haunting, and suspenseful theme, and end with Prokofiev's enduringly popular Romeo and Juliet Suites. This concert will also feature two winners from the 2022 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony* Foundation. Outstanding young soloists, Ekaterina Kabenina, violinist, will perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto; and Kerry Xu, pianist, will perform Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Ekaterina (Kate) Kabenina is a junior at Campolindo High School. She has been playing the violin since she was 6 years old. This is her fifth season with the San Jose Youth Symphony, having been with the Concert Orchestra and then the Chamber Orchestra



Above: Ekaterina (Kate) Kabenina. Below: Kerry Xu



during her first two years before joining the Philharmonic Orchestra two seasons ago.

Kerry Xu is a junior at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont. He started playing the piano when he was 4 years old. He first joined the San Jose Youth Symphony 5 years ago and is currently in his 3rd season as a violinist 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.

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Times News



2023's Best cities for St. Patrick's Day celebrations

By William Bellou
Publisher

With St. Patrick's Day around the corner and at least \$6.85 billion expected to be spent for the holiday this year!

Believe it or not, celebrating St. Patrick's Day with parades didn't originate in Ireland, but instead started and became popular in North American colonies centuries ago.

What began as a Catholic feast day and gained more recognition with these colonial celebrations is today one of America's biggest cultural holidays. More than 31 million people in the U.S. claim Irish ancestry – that's more than six times the population of Ireland.

As this lucky group of people expanded over the centuries, so too did American St. Paddy's Day traditions. Chicago, for instance, gained fame for dyeing its river green, while other places are now known for their elaborate pageants, pub crawls or long processions of marching bagpipers.

The personal-finance website WalletHub just released its report on 2023's Best Cities for St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, as well as expert commentary. It's research team compared 200 of the largest cities across 15 key metrics to find the best places to wear green and save some, too. Our data set ranges from Irish pubs and restaurants per capita to the lowest price for a three-star hotel on St. Patrick's Day to the weather forecast.

- Top 20 Cities for St. Patrick's Day
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Boston, MA | 11. Henderson, NV |
| 2. Philadelphia, PA | 12. Worcester, MA |
| 3. Chicago, IL | 13. Fresno, CA |
| 4. Pittsburgh, PA | 14. San Francisco, CA |
| 5. New York, NY | 15. Tampa, FL |
| 6. Reno, NV | 16. Syracuse, NY |
| 7. Santa Rosa, CA | 17. Cedar Rapids, IA |
| 8. Naperville, IL | 18. Orange, CA |
| 9. Buffalo, NY | 19. Dayton, OH |
| 10. Boise, ID | 20. Milwaukee, WI |

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-for-st-patricks-day-celebrations/19603>

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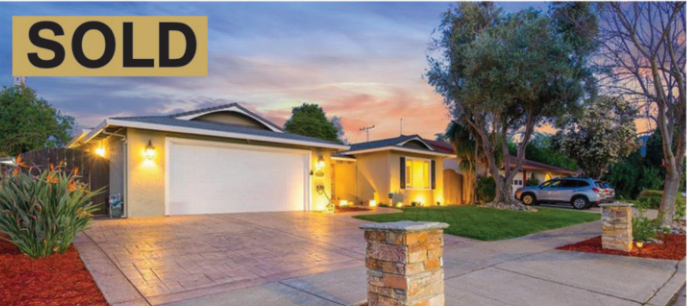
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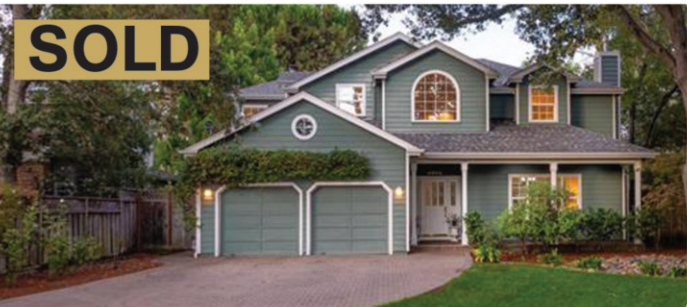
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We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, 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.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org

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Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182;

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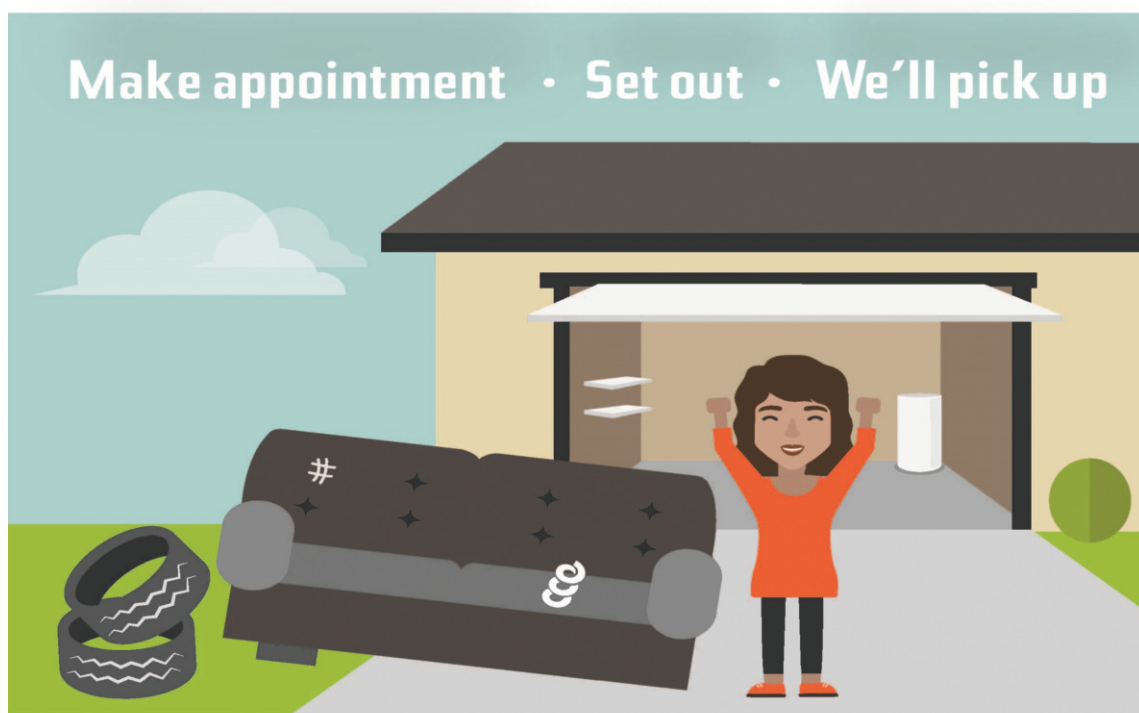
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All information presented here is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but may not be verified. All measurements and square footage are approximate. If your property is currently listed for sale with another realtor, this is not a solicitation.

