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MAY 2023 ■ VOL. 19, NO. 5

Willow Glen Times

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Subjects of the portraits in Willow Glen artist **Eve Page Mathias'** "Big Red Chair Project" are friends and loved ones she missed during the pandemic. The 19 portraits in the series will be exhibited through Aug. 13 at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara. Each acrylic painting is done in bold colors on a 5-foot-by-4-foot canvas. (Courtesy photo)

'Big Red Chair' reconnects long-time Willow Glen artist with loved ones

Portrait series is on exhibit at the Triton Museum of Art

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Willow Glen artist and retired college art professor Eve Page Mathias got her inspiration for a series of portraits from an overstuffed red chair.

The chair, located in her living room, was her dog Luna's special chair in which she enjoyed sitting on while gazing out the window.

Luna died and the chair got old, so Mathias moved it into her art studio as a constant reminder of friends she cherished. The red chair eventually became a symbol, she says, of where she was during the pandemic. COVID-19

See MATHIAS, page 3

'Did a gun go off at Willow Glen High School?'

San Jose school district parents want answers

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

Livid parents want answers why students with loaded guns are showing up on the campuses of Willow Glen High and Hoover Middle schools in the San Jose Unified School District.

Two school resource officers arrested a Willow Glen High School student who walked onto campus armed with a loaded ghost gun and knife on May 17. The high school and bordering middle school went on lockdown during the incident. Prior to the high school incident, a Hoover middle school student on April 21 was caught carrying a loaded firearm. San Jose Police Department officers took that student into custody.

One high school student said it's something she never thought she'd experience. She said the students should have been told what was happening. Her father was upset that he didn't receive an email from the school district until 10 p.m. that night.

"It was definitely super scary," she told San José Spotlight. "It shouldn't have happened."

Jennifer Maddox, spokesperson for San Jose Unified School District, said two campus police



A student was arrested at Willow Glen High School in San Jose for having a ghost gun on campus. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

officers were able to peacefully resolve the situation at Willow Glen High School.

In addition to the two arrests, Maddox said there was also a recent threat on social media saying someone was coming to Lincoln High School to harm people, which police deemed as not credible.

Amanda Law, a Willow Glen Middle School parent, said the middle school was also on lockdown the day before the ghost gun incident due to a false report of a suspicious person on campus. When Law called the school about the lockdown, administrators told her there was an incident on Newport Avenue, a suspect was

apprehended and everything was fine. Law thought it was a neighborhood crime until she learned police had arrested a student with a gun.

"Me having called and gotten incorrect information... it doesn't make me feel like I can trust them," Law said. "I really need to know what state my son is in. Is he safe? Is there someone with a gun? Did a gun go off?"

Law said key details should've been communicated to students and parents when the incident was over. Information from the school was so scarce that her son thought someone

See GUNS, page 3

The Philharmonic Orchestra performs Elgar, Britten in concert dedicated to youth and families

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2022-23 Season Finale Concert to be held on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, 2 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA.

This premier orchestra, made up of the most advanced students in the San Jose Youth Symphony, will open the concert with Elgar's Wand of Youth Suites, which feature his earliest musical works composed for a family play, spirited and lively, and full of childlike charm.

The orchestra will also perform



Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, an intricate theme and variations, that is meant to teach children about all the different instruments of the orchestra, as

a narrator takes the audience through this instrumental journey.

The performance culminates in a musical work of extreme power as all the instruments join to play

together at the end. This is a great treat for the whole family!

Editor's note: Tickets now on sale online, visit: <https://sjys.org/product-category/tickets> You can also purchase tickets on Concert Day at the Box Office, one hour before the concert at 1 p.m.



Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15



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2022 - 2023 SEASON

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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Times Cover Stories



Report: 2023's Best places for summer jobs

With summer approaching and a labor shortage leaving many employers looking to hire, the personal-finance website WalletHub took an in-depth look at 2023's Best Places for Summer Jobs.

To help job seekers find the best summer employment opportunities, WalletHub compared more than 180 markets in the U.S. across 21 key metrics. The data set ranges from the median income of part-time workers to the availability of summer jobs to the commuter-friendliness of jobs.

Top 20 Cities for Summer Jobs

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Orlando, FL | 11. South Burlington, VT |
| 2. Scottsdale, AZ | 12. Wilmington, DE |
| 3. Juneau, AK | 13. Providence, RI |
| 4. Warwick, RI | 14. Billings, MT |
| 5. Rapid City, SD | 15. San Francisco, CA |
| 6. Columbia, MD | 16. St. Paul, MN |
| 7. Portland, ME | 17. Seattle, WA |
| 8. Pearl City, HI | 18. Denver, CO |
| 9. Fort Lauderdale, FL | 19. Las Vegas, NV |
| 10. Minneapolis, MN | 20. St. Louis, MO |

Best vs. Worst

- Orlando has the most part-time job openings per 1,000 people aged 16 to 24 in the labor force, 590.420, which is 28.4 times higher than in New York, the city with the fewest at 20.76.



- Scottsdale, Arizona, has the highest median income for part-time workers (adjusted for cost of living), \$30,334, which is 3.4 times higher than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the lowest at \$8,894.

- South Burlington, Vermont, has the highest labor-force participation rate of people aged 16 to 24, 86.74 percent, which is 2.2 times higher than in Irvine, California, the city with the lowest at 38.86 percent.

- Madison, Wisconsin, has the lowest unemployment rate for people aged 16 to 24, 4.36 percent, which is 6.4 times lower than in Detroit, the city with the highest at 27.73 percent.

- Fremont, California, has the lowest share of people aged 16 to 24 living in poverty, 6.56 percent, which is 9.1 times lower than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the highest at 59.70 percent.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-places-for-summer-jobs/21137>

Mathias

Continued from page 1

gave her time to reflect on herself and to look forward to seeing absent friends and colleagues. Mathias' vibrant, painterly portraits of each of her sitters provide the viewer an emotional and intellectual depth for each of study.

"Now when I ask someone to sit in the red chair," Mathias said, "it connects the dots between those missing moments when I was separated from my friends and loved ones. I have been living in Willow Glen since 1978."

Mathias is excited that all of her 19 portraits are currently being exhibited as "The Big Red Chair Project" at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara through August 13. The acrylic paintings are done in bold colors on 5-foot-by-4-foot canvases.

Mathias, now 70, has been an artist for as long as she could remember. She is the youngest of five girls. Her father worked in aviation and was often away from home while her mother became fascinated with fashion and art.

"I always found a place to scribble, draw, push my crayons around," Mathias said. "Turned out I was actually pretty good at making images that looked like the things I intended."

Mathias earned a bachelor's degree in history and social studies at Boston University,

and also a K-12 teaching credential. Mathias continued her studies in visual arts at San Jose State University, graduating with a master's in 1992 and an MFA in pictorial art in 1994.

"I believe it is important to study anything that is your passion," she said. "Even as a very young kid, I snuck off to galleries and museums without my parents knowing."

Mathias was hired full time by San Jose City College in 1992 to teach painting, drawing and design in the art department, and she retired in 2022. Two of the portraits in "The Big Red Chair Project" are of SJCC students, and she says she still keeps in touch since 1992. Mathias also taught as an adjunct at Cupertino's De Anza College for two years, and was also a graduate assistant teaching drawing and illustration classes at San Jose State University. Mathias served three years on the San Jose Art Commission and two years on the city's Public Art Committee.

Artwork is the visual vocabulary that civilizes, that creates respect among 'others,'" Mathias said. "Through all the arts we come together using creativity as a common verb, as how we aspire beyond the drudgery and boredom of everyday life to delight in the extraordinary. It enriches our lives."

Editor's note: The Triton Museum of Art is located at 1505 Warburton Ave. in Santa Clara. For museum hours and more information, visit tritonmuseum.org.

Guns

Continued from page 1

had been shot. She wants more transparency and immediate communication from the school, district and a response from the city.

"As a parent, it's really scary," she said. "The type of communication that we're getting is too slow and too vague."

Her son said his classroom was pushing furniture against the door, making plans in case there was an active shooter and his classmates were crying.

Law said on March 24 she read a post on Nextdoor—the neighborhood community social media platform—from a parent whose daughter received a death threat from another Willow Glen Middle School student.

"If I shoot up the school, you'll be the first one I kill," the post read, according to father Steve Pike, on Nextdoor. A police report was filed, and the student was suspended.

Law said the school never notified parents and that should happen anytime there's a shooting threat.

Communication needs to improve

Following the most recent incident, the school district sent an email to Lincoln, Hoover, Willow Glen Middle and Willow Glen High communities inviting them to a school safety meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at Hoover Media Center, 1635 Park Ave. in San Jose.

"This week has been challenging for our students, employees, and families with

threats to the safety of multiple schools," the email said. "We understand the anxiety and fear invoked by these situations, and we have put in additional supports for students at affected schools."

Maddox said the school district directs parents to the San Jose Police Department regarding criminal investigations and the District Attorney's office for information on what kind of charges can apply.

"We often are unable to share the details people want to hear because it's against the law for us to do so... when it regards a minor," she told San José Spotlight. "We share what information we're allowed to share."

But parents are not satisfied with the way the school has handled the incidents. Parents put out a flyer inviting other parents to attend Thursday's SJUSD board meeting at 6 p.m. at the district office at 855 Lenzen Ave. in San Jose.

"In the last three weeks, loaded guns have been found in multiple SJUSD schools, and gun threats have kept students from learning," the flyer said. "Communications about these events were inadequate, and the district must do better when emergency events occur. Join other SJUSD families to demand better safety and communications."

Like other Willow Glen High students, Raul Sanchez is on edge and wants to see more security.

"I felt like we weren't really protected at school," he said. "We don't feel safe anymore."

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NOTEBOOK



Miranda A. Lu, Leland High School (left) and Annmaria K. Antony, Harker School (right).

Two San Jose students named 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the 59th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, recognizing 161 high school seniors for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education fields.

Among the California scholars residing in San Jose are: Annmaria K. Antony, Harker School; and Miranda A. Lu, Leland High School (*U.S. Presidential Scholar in Arts).

“U.S. Presidential Scholars have always represented the future of our country and the bright promise it holds. I want each of these remarkable students to know: your passion and intellect, pursuit of excellence, and spirit of service are exactly what our country needs,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “On behalf of President Biden, I am delighted to join your family, friends, and communities in celebrating your accomplishments. Aim high, share your talents, and continue embracing opportunities to lead as your exciting future unfolds.”

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.

Of the 3.7 million students expected to graduate from high school this

year, more than 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2023 awards determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams or through nominations made by chief state school officers, other partner recognition organizations and YoungArts, the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.

As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 scholars in the arts and 20 scholars in career and technical education.

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 8,000 of the nation’s top-performing students. The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

The Presidential Scholars Class of 2023 will be recognized for their outstanding achievement this summer with an online recognition program.

A complete list of 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars is available at <http://www.ed.gov/psp>

Valley Currents

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



Abraham Andrade, executive director of the Fairgrounds Management Corporation, points to some new signage on a building at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on May 11, 2023. Photo by Joseph Geha.

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds plans plod ahead

By Joseph Geha
San José Spotlight

Plans to revamp the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds into a sports and recreation facility have been progressing for more than a year, but it’s unclear when shovels will hit the ground.

After more than a year of exclusive negotiations with the San Jose Earthquakes, Major League Cricket and San Jose State University—all of which are eyeing big developments on portions of the 150-acre fairgrounds—more time is needed to hammer out the details.

Abraham Andrade, executive director of the Fairgrounds Management Corporation, the nonprofit contractor that runs the county property, said agreements to extend the talks with all three organizations are in the works.

Progress is being made toward establishing a 15,000-capacity professional cricket stadium and a parking garage on a 14-acre parking lot that fronts Tully Road in San Jose. A vast soccer complex for the Earthquakes’ practice use and youth academies that could land on a 15-acre patch of land along Umbarger Road is also still under discussion. That development could also include an additional 18 acres for six public soccer fields that would be managed by the county.

“We’re deep in the negotiations with both, they’re moving along,” Andrade told San José Spotlight.

San Jose State, meanwhile, is hoping to create a commemorative track and field facility on nine acres in the middle of the fairgrounds, honoring the legacy of Speed City and the Olympic Project for Human Rights. The project would also include an indoor sports complex.

The proposals all fit into an effort more than three years in the making to rebrand the underutilized fairgrounds as a sports, entertainment and family destination.

Major League Cricket is responsible for the funding and development of the stadium, the county is handling the parking garage only.

Assemblymember Ash Kalra secured roughly \$9 million in state funding to help pay for the Speed City project, which will be held until agreements are made and construction begins.

Though the general shape of some of these agreements are in place, Andrade said it’s too soon to pinpoint specific cost details and timeframes.

“It’s a very high level of confidence that all three will

materialize on the fairgrounds property,” Andrade said.

Andrade believes as these projects move closer to reality, it will spur more momentum for other projects, including a potential 25-acre equestrian, livestock and agricultural education center. As these activities go live, the revenue generated could help the fairground tackle much needed renovations to current buildings like expo halls.

No housing at the fairgrounds

With visions for sports and entertainment facilities, the fairgrounds leadership and county are not allocating any space for transitional or permanent housing for homeless people, which housing advocates want. There are roughly 10,000 people without permanent housing in the county, and 77% of them are unsheltered.

Andrade said the county has done a lot of work to address the homeless crisis, and is actively pursuing other sites for housing solutions. A portion of the fairgrounds land was previously used for a community health clinic and affordable housing development.

District 2 County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, who represents the area where the fairgrounds are located, has been at the forefront of the effort to reimagine the site’s potential.

“Our residents and their children deserve an area they can use for active recreational events, sports competitions and park activities,” Chavez told San José Spotlight. “The urban area around the fairgrounds is densely developed.”

San Jose homeless advocate Richard Scott said he thinks the county could make space for sports, entertainment and housing homeless people on such a large site.

“It’s beyond my understanding that cricket fields and running tracks are more important than taking care of people that are living on the streets,” Scott told San José Spotlight. “When they could easily be side by side.”

The fairgrounds property currently hosts events such as concerts and religious celebrations, and rents out some of its property to paintball operators and utility contractors that need space to park vehicles and equipment. The fairgrounds also hosts off-track betting, as well as bingo nights. It was a county location for large-scale COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, temporary overflow shelter for homeless people and monkeypox vaccinations.

This summer will mark the return of the Santa Clara County Fair that hasn’t been held since 2019 due to the pandemic. It will run for 10 days, longer than usual, to make up for lost time.

“It’s the longest fair in 20-plus years,” Andrade said.

The site will also host its third year of Fairgrounds Live, a free weekly summer concert series with food trucks, a beer garden, night market and games, and free admission, beginning July 12, running for 12 weeks.

Willow Glen Times

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Times Opinion

Op-ed

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 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 Mahsah 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 officials, 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 it's 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.

Times **Feature**



San Jose urges drivers 'slow down' in face of record traffic fatalities

New safe driving campaign, 'Slow Down, San José,' officially unveiled

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

“Slow Down, San José” is the urgent request of a new safe driving campaign unveiled by City officials May 9.

Mayor Matt Mahan, joined by councilmembers Pam Foley and Bien Doan, officially kicked off the new campaign along Tully Road, one of the city’s Priority Safety Corridors and site of an upcoming safety improvement project.

The behavior-change campaign will appear on billboards, posters, yard signs, buses and bus shelters, and digital ads. Videos will be shared online and radio ads will be broadcast in multiple languages. The straightforward goal: get drivers to realize they can take a simple step to become part of the solution to San José’s growing problem of traffic deaths.

“Speeding can save a minute, but slowing down can save a life,” said Mayor Matt Mahan. “With traffic deaths far outpacing homicides in San José, this new campaign reminds us that the safety of the community is in all our hands.”

“This safe driving campaign couldn’t come at a more crucial time in our city’s history,” said District 9 Councilmember Pam Foley, who chairs the City’s Vision Zero Task Force. “We lost 65 neighbors last year. Those tragedies leave families and friends with holes in their lives that can never be filled. It’s time we all took responsibility for our actions behind the wheel.”

“Traffic fatalities afflict my district more than any other in San José,” said District 7 Councilmember Bien Doan, who serves as vice chair of the Vision Zero Task Force.

“I’m happy to see major safety improvement projects happening, like the Tully Road project coming this summer. But we don’t have to wait for construction to start to improve traffic safety. Let’s all slow down to protect our families.”

“Reducing and eliminating traffic fatalities is a top priority for the City administration, but we need the public’s help” said City Manager Jennifer Maguire. “While our Department of Transportation builds more safety improvements and our Police Department focuses on traffic safety hot spots, we need individuals to join us in tackling this urgent problem. We can all decide to slow down on the road and perhaps save a life.”

The campaign runs for three months. Materials are available at www.visionzerosj.org.



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Times Feature

Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi's Family Literacy Festival to be held June 10

Event offers celebrity and author story readings as well as family-friendly entertainment

By William Bellou
Publisher

Celebrities, Olympic athletes and Grammy award-winning musicians will come together Saturday, June 10 for the inaugural Family Literacy Festival hosted by the San José Public Library Foundation, Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream, and Children's Discovery Museum.

The event will feature readings by Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi, U.S. Silver Figure Skating Champion Polina Edmunds, Olympic Bronze Medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani (ShibSibs) and children's book authors New York Times best-selling author Jennifer Fosberry, Tim McCanna, and Maggie Tokuda Hall, as well as performances from Grammy-winners Alphabet Rockers and children's musician AndyZ.

The event is the brainchild of Olympic Gold Medalist, mother, and children's book author Kristi Yamaguchi who established Always Dream to increase early childhood literacy rates among underserved communities. "By collaborating with Children's Discovery Museum and the San Jose Public Library Foundation, we can align our resources and create a day-long celebration highlighting the importance of literacy in a fun, interactive environment, it's all about the power of one," she said.

The festival will take place at Children's Discovery Museum located at 180 Woz Way, San Jose, CA 95110 on Saturday, June 10 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for the morning session or 1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. for the afternoon session. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the door on June 10.

"We know from decades of research that reading to children opens the door to a brighter future by improving academic performance and supporting brain development. The San Jose Public Library Foundation is thrilled to co-host the Family Literacy Festival and hopes it will inspire more families to discover the joys and immense benefits of reading together. It's going to be a terrific event," said Dawn Coppin, chief executive officer of the San Jose Public Library Foundation.

Families will be able to enjoy all the Museum has to offer along with celebrity and author story readings, hands-on activities, art projects, and family-friendly entertainment. In addition, there will be an interactive Mobile Learning Adventure in the museum's West Wing Gallery showing parents the importance of early childhood education, while they and their children engage in fun activities that explore future occupations, including costumes, passports, and a photo booth.



The inaugural Family Literacy Festival hosted by the San José Public Library Foundation, **Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream**, and Children's Discovery Museum features readings by Olympic Gold Medalist **Kristi Yamaguchi**.

"Literacy is so essential for children to succeed in school and life," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "The Always Dream and San Jose Public Library Foundation have both transformed the lives of many young readers, especially those from disadvantaged families, a community that

the museum cares deeply about. Kristi and the San Jose Public Library Foundation have been friends of the museum for many years - we're proud to partner with them to open more doors for more children."

Capacity is limited so interested families should reserve their spot now.

Always Dream

Kristi Yamaguchi's *Always Dream* ensures children and families from underserved communities have access to high-quality books in the home environment and extensive family engagement support.

San Jose Public Library Foundation

The San José Public Library Foundation provides advocacy, financial support, and leadership to San Jose public libraries and educational programs throughout the city to create an educated, equitable, and engaged community.

Children's Discovery Museum

Kids lead the way at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, exploring and discovering through open-ended, play-based learning. Over 150 hands-on exhibits and programs in the sciences, humanities, the arts, nature, and health spark curiosity and ignite family fun where children build life skills in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and confidence.

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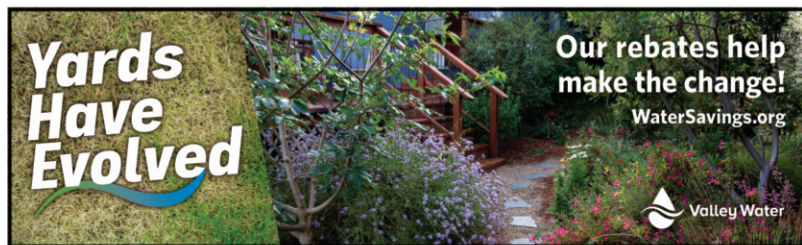
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Did you know that at least half of the water in a typical Santa Clara County home is used outdoors? You could save money on your water bill by transforming your lawn with the help of Valley Water's (Santa Clara Valley Water District) Landscape Rebate Program.

As you walk through your neighborhood, you may have noticed that a growing number of homes in Santa Clara County have already traded their front lawns for a gorgeous water-wise landscape. Residents in Santa Clara County are discovering the many benefits of replacing lawns with the help of Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program. In fact, nearly 13,500 residents and businesses have already participated in the program!



Our Landscape Rebate Program can help you transform your thirsty yard into a beautiful water-wise landscape and make your irrigation equipment more efficient.

Get \$200 for every 100 square feet of lawn you convert, for a maximum of \$3,000 for residential sites, and \$100,000 for commercial and institutional sites.

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Visit WaterSavings.org, to learn more about our rebate programs, book an inspection for pre-approval of a rebate project, or request water-saving equipment. To inquire about how you can save water in your home and landscaping, email conservation@valleywater.org or call 408-630-2554.

Times **Feature**

The Meadowverse - Return of the wren

By **Matthew Frazier**

CLCA Expert Certified Water Manager

ECI Qualified Stormwater Manager

CalWEP Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper

With the return of No-Mow May here in San Jose and The Bay Area, there has been an influx of wildlife here throughout Santa Clara Valley, where I reside.

The dandelion is a beneficial weed

Right here in our front yard, the dandelions are emerging faster and faster with the passage of each day and week. It is something to observe. In addition to the native beneficial weeds, native insectary plants, and native beneficial predatory insects, there has been much flurry with both migratory and native birds. They perch on the stalks of the dandelions and forage for the seeds buried deep within the fuzzy globes. One of these bird species is the wren.

The wren is agile and musical

Though quite small, the wren is agile and musical at once. Appearing in troupes as time passes throughout spring, these beautiful birds bring an element of majesty to the landscape. There are many birds to observe. The wren is but one. But ... each morning, when I leave the house for a consultation, I have the distinct pleasure of hearing their calls and watching them scurry about in search of food.

The Meadowverse® thrives right here in Santa Clara Valley and beyond. Travelling through Evergreen Valley, on my way to Silver Creek Valley Outdoor Supply Hardware, there are many wonderful birds and environs to observe. The myriad colors and plethora species of wildlife is quite abundant and vibrant. The Wren makes its home in the small specialty birdhouses hanging from defoliated deciduous trees throughout the valleys of Santa Clara County and throughout the many gardens and landscapes of the valleys.

Evergreen Valley College is alive with birds,

from all angles and locations. Evergreen Valley itself captured my imagination years ago when I nearly enrolled at their local college to pursue an AS degree in Civil Engineering. The environs of Evergreen Valley are ripe with opportunity for these birds to thrive.

Back to the wren ... This small bird has found its way to our garden and our yard throughout the years. With the decision to let our front yard turf lawn grow wild and unencumbered by a mower, their return and proliferation has been one of wonder. Small

though they are, the wren brings an element of beauty to the local environs of the valleys and so too in Evergreen Valley. Seeing them increase in number this season, and over the years, is evidence of a changing climate and a changing terrain.

There are exciting ways to attract wildlife

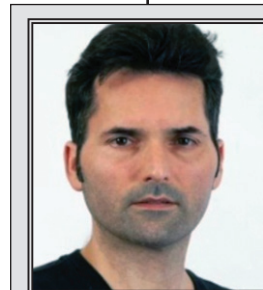
For those of us who cannot resist the splendor of migratory and native bird species here in the county and its valleys, I encourage you to create the conditions for these small musical birds by hanging the

small specialty birdhouses from your posts and trees and letting nature take its course.

We are most fortunate here in these valleys to have such abundant wildlife.

Happy birding to one and all, and thank you!

Editor's note: Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Stormwater Manager, and Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. You may contact Matt at (408) 656-5622 - Mobile; or by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



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Times **Feature**

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Big city mayors call for sustained state funding to address homelessness

'San Jose has 5,000 people sleeping on our streets each night,' states Mahan

By William Bellou
Publisher

Led by San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, mayors from California's 13 largest cities on Wednesday, May 17, held a press conference at the State Capitol to call for continued state investment to address the state's homelessness crisis.

The big city mayors advocated for permanent, on-going funding to address homelessness across the State.

Since 2018, the state of California has provided direct grants to local governments for homelessness including large cities, counties and continuums of care, such as San Diego's Regional Task Force on Homelessness.

The Big City Mayors shared details on the positive outcomes they have achieved with this funding and outlined what is needed to continue making progress in addressing encampments and ending unsheltered homelessness across the state.

'Housing-now' solutions needed

"San Jose has 5,000 people sleeping on our streets each night," said San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan. "We need to embrace urgent, scalable solutions like interim housing and safe parking sites that move our most vulnerable into safe, dignified shelter now – not 5 years from now. And with the Governor and legislature's help, we can implement these housing-now solutions faster to end the human suffering we see in our communities every single day."

Collectively, the big city mayors represent more than a quarter of California's 40 million residents.

California mayors participating in the news conference included:

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, chair of Big City Mayors; Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson, Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao, Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh, Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan.



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Times **Community**



Valley Water Youth Commission seeks new members

By John Varela

Board Chair, Valley Water District 1

Valley Water Youth Commission is seeking new members.

The Youth Commission, which is made up of 21 high school students throughout Santa Clara Valley, is shaping the future of local communities.

The organization is looking for students interested in getting involved in water-related issues and those who have an interest in speaking up on how public policies affect water supply, conservation,

flood protection, environmental justice, and climate change issues.

Valley Water is now accepting applications for the Youth Commission's vacant seats in districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. To find out which district you reside in, visit valleywater.org, scroll to the Valley Water in Your Area section map and input your home address in the Near Me search window provided.

You can find more information about the Youth Commission, including the application at www.valleywater.org/youthcommission

The application period closes Monday, June 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Please help Valley Water get the word out about openings on our Youth Commission by sharing it with high school students who may be interested. We look forward to their participation.

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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.

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Times **Career Corner**

You are valued

By **Angela Copeland**



For most people, switching jobs is not something they plan out in much detail. For the majority of job seekers, they have a personal connection to the job opening.

The process is fairly straightforward and relatively painless. Most people tend to assume that's what job seeking is like. This all changes when a job seeker is forced to proactively find a new job with no connections. Ask anyone who has landed a job completely on their own, and they will very likely have a harrowing story to share.

When a job seeker is searching on their own,

the process can easily take anywhere from two to six months. This length of time is normal. It is not a reflection on the person's abilities or worth. But, it certainly doesn't feel that way. The issue is that the search process is completely different than when you know someone.

There are examples of difficult job searches shared every day on LinkedIn. Recently, a job seeker applied to 600 jobs. These applications led to 30 interviews. The 30 interviews ultimately led to one job offer. This job seeker had many years of experience and multiple advanced degrees. The entire process took three months.

And, a job search can often become elongated. The reason is that 570 rejections is emotionally exhausting. On top of this, friends and family judge the job seeker at how "difficult"

their search is. It leaves the job seeker feeling worthless, and wondering if they're even in the right career field.

Dear job seeker, please remember: it's not you. The application process is broken. You are competing against hundreds of online applicants. You are also competing with the friends of the hiring manager. And, you are contending with less than ideal economic conditions.

But, you are prepared for this. The key is to not lose hope. It's to realize that the system is broken; not you. You are the same talented, hard-working professional that you were before you started this search. You will find your path back.

Set goals for yourself. Keep doing your best to meet the goals, even when things feel difficult. In the example above, the job seeker applied to approximately 200 jobs per month, or 50 per

week, or 10 per business day. This process is a lot of work, but it will result in success.

In addition to applications, sit down and write a list of all of the great things about your background. Perhaps you have fifteen years of experience in project management. You are great at organizing teams. You have advanced knowledge in specific topics. Once you have your list compiled, keep it handy. Each morning, read the list. Remind yourself of who you are.

You are valued. You are needed. You are the same person that you were before the economy started to turn. Outside factors changed, but you have not. You remain the same person you always have been.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at www.angela-copeland.com.

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