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AUGUST 2023 ■ VOL. 19, NO. 8

# Willow Glen **Times**

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## IN MEMORY

### Austin Lucero

July 12, 1936 – 2023

### Willow Glen

Austin Lucero was born on a ranch in New Mexico on July 12, 1936. His family moved six times while he was young, including to the Modesto area where they worked picking fruit for a time.

He would come to serve in the United States Army, earn his undergraduate and master's degrees from San Jose State University, teach in public education for 37 years, and raise a family spanning three generations.

Austin was proud he had made his contribution to America's armed forces. He was a radar operator in an artillery division at Fort Lewis, Washington, earned the designation of soldier of the month, and was also a drill instructor. He and his wife, Janis, were married while he was on active duty, and she traveled from San Jose to Washington to be with him while he fulfilled his assignment.

After completing his education, Austin began a 37-year career at Wilcox High School  
*See LUCERO, page 6*

## Dozens of cars in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood broken into at night

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

Some residents in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood woke up recently to a sea of broken glass after someone smashed out the windows of dozens of cars.

Community service officers spent the morning in the neighborhood, taking reports from victims. One of those victims said he was told the vandal or vandals hit up to 40 cars overnight in various parts of the neighborhood.

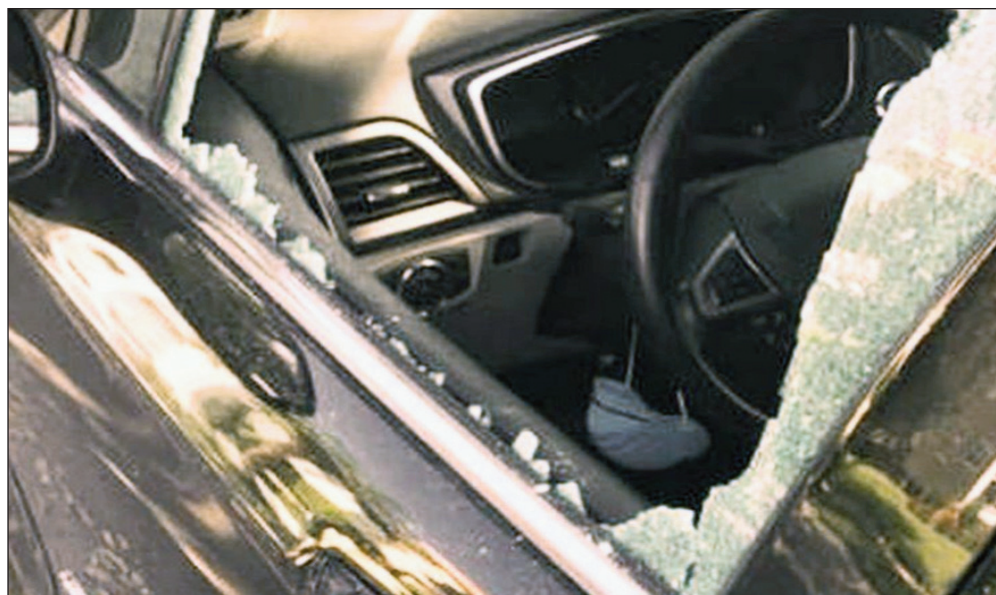
"I think it's really terrible," victim Daniel Bright said. "I hope they find the guys and grab them. But we'll see what happens."

The passenger-side window on Bright's car, parked on Glen Una Avenue, was smashed.

"Insurance, gotta take the car into the shop, gotta clean it up," he said. "Planned to work today, be with the kids, things like that."

Nothing was stolen, but there was still damage left behind.

Cars on Harmil Way and Beyerle Avenue were also vandalized.



In one surveillance video clip, the sound of a car's window being smashed and an alarm going off could be heard. Then, a small, white SUV was seen speeding away.

"Yeah, it's pretty quiet around here. Wild that it happened around the corner," resident Tom Patton said. "Hopefully they catch the person who did it. But definitely a bummer."

## Bay Area drivers may soon get automatic tickets for going 11 mph over speed limit

*The pilot speed camera program may be implemented January 2024 in several major cities, including San Jose*

By Sean Eastwood  
*Automotive editor*

Drivers may soon receive a speeding ticket in the mail without ever talking to an officer, if a bill gets approved authorizing speed limit cameras.

The program would give speed-



ing drivers a ticket by using speed cameras and an automatic billing system, according to Assembly Bill 645, introduced by Laura Friedman of Glendale.

"The speed safety system shall capture images of the rear license plate of vehicles that are traveling

11 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit and notices of violation shall only be issued to vehicles based on that evidence," the bill states.

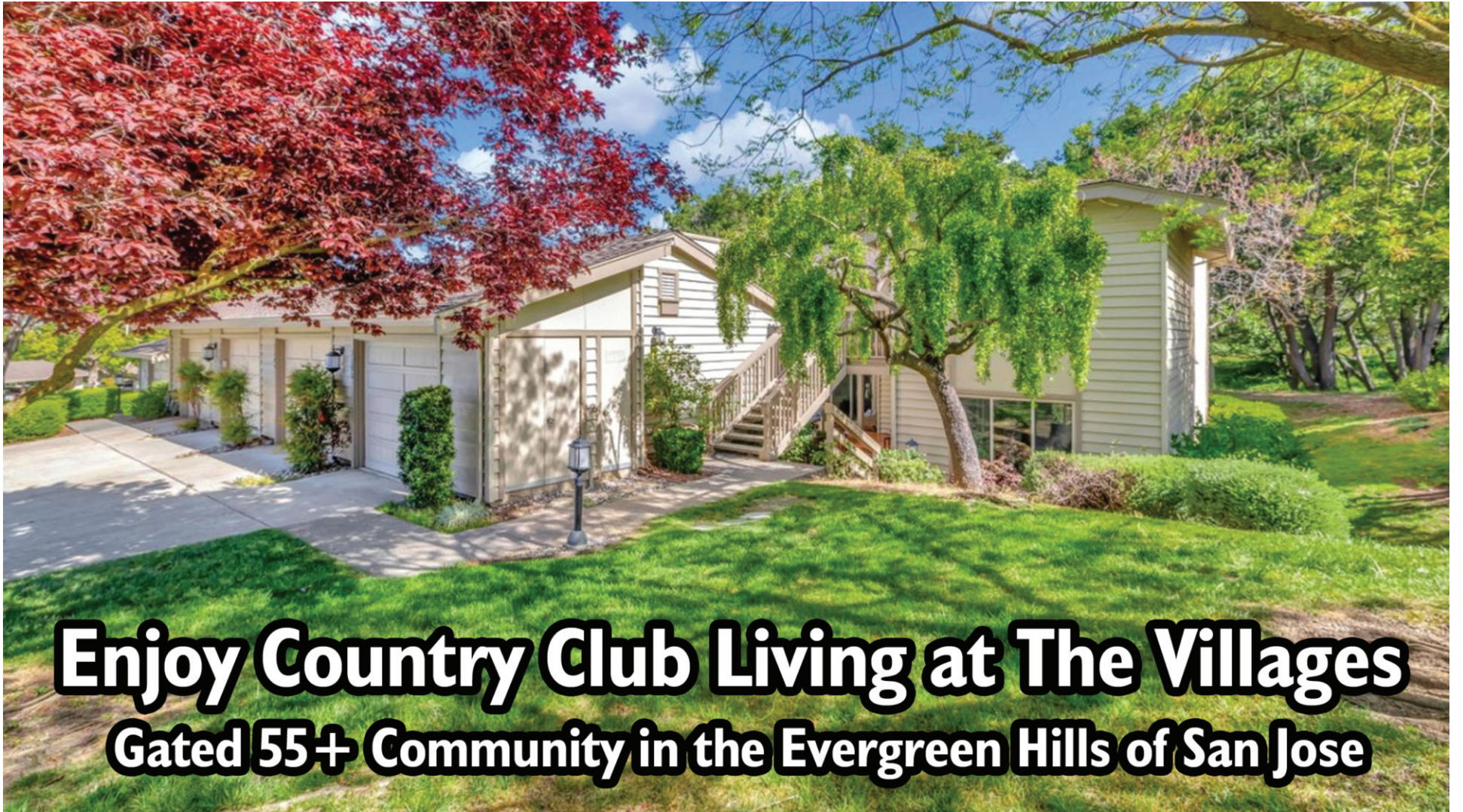
The new pilot speed camera program would be implemented as soon as January 2024 in sever-

al major cities, including San Jose, Oakland, Glendale, Los Angeles, Long Beach and the city and county of San Francisco.

Fines would start at \$50 for going 11 mph over the posted speed limit and increase from there.

**SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 19**



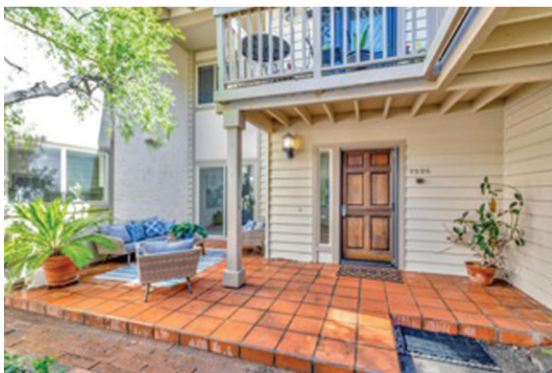


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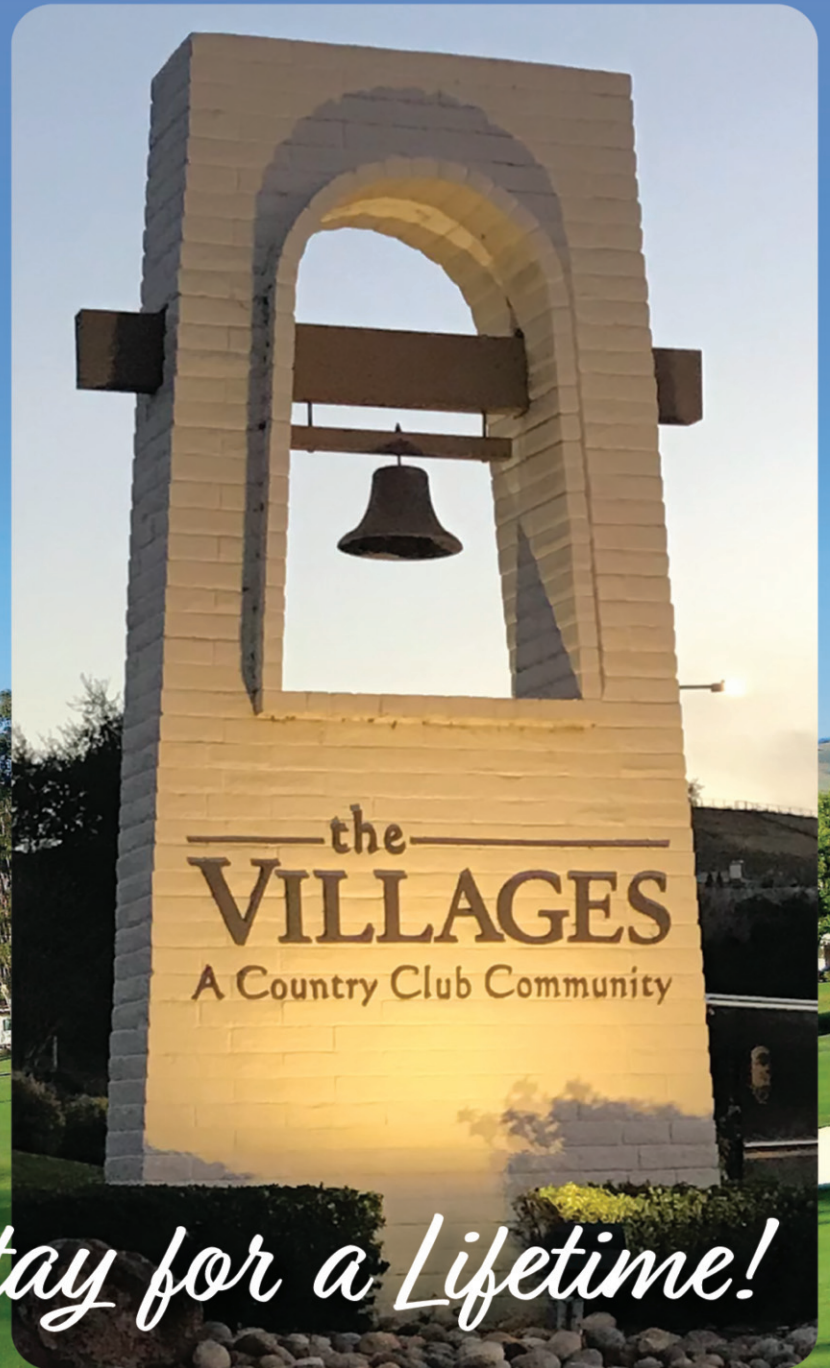
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## NOTEBOOK

## Foothill student finds international organization

After being challenged to simulate homeless conditions on a camping trip, Jiya Patil, a sophomore at Foothill High School, couldn't fathom how anyone survived without a consistent food supply.

"Ten percent of the world experiences food insecurity every day—a percentage that should not exist in 2023," Patil said. "Consequently, I decided to build on my love of cooking to begin making biweekly meal donations to Building Futures, a homeless shelter in San Leandro."

After a few months of donating trays of pasta and bread to the shelter, Patil wanted to do more. She wanted to interact with the people who were directly receiving her donations; so she chose to begin donating meals to a homeless encampment in Oakland.

At the Oakland encampment, Patil spoke to more than a hundred people living on the streets through her donations of sandwiches and brownies. One woman in particular stood out to her. As this woman grabbed a sandwich on her way out of the church, she noted, "You know, it's so hard out here." She paused to point at the tents behind her. "When they hurt me, the hospitals wouldn't provide any help. Then someone took my car and left me with nothing. God bless y'all for helping me out today!"

As a result of this interaction, Patil became increasingly determined to try and reach as many people as she could and began selling handmade bath scrubs on Etsy and working a job to raise



**Jiya Patil**, a sophomore at Foothill High School, helps individuals in need survive with a consistent food supply through her non-profit organization, Gold Bear Foundation.

money for those who were economically disadvantaged.

After raising more than \$1,000 dollars in less than six months, Patil began donating items such as hygiene products to nearby homeless shelters, such as Tri-Valley Haven and Building Futures San Leandro.

As her peers at school became interested in supporting her efforts, she turned her passion into building the Gold Bear Foundation: a non-profit organization that she founded in 2021.

Patil had a simple mission -- inspired by her trips to homeless shelters and encampments.

She was determined to make sure that those in need never felt neglected and with the help of her peers, she established chapters of the organization throughout the Bay Area.

Through hours of group fundraising and planning, the team made donations of hygiene products and meals to homeless shelters, encampments, and economically disadvantaged schools.

See PATIL, page 13

# Valley Currents

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



The 10,000 Degrees 'College Opportunities Summit' at Evergreen Valley College is part of a summer series that 10,000 Degrees is holding at six partner colleges across the Bay Area.

## Evergreen Valley College 'College Opportunities Summit,' a free college success program for high school seniors

*The free one-day In-person program created by Bay Area nonprofit 10,000 Degrees prepares high school seniors for college success*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

10,000 Degrees, an organization dedicated to empowering students to enter and graduate college in Santa Clara and seven other Bay Area counties, will hold its annual 'College Opportunities Summit' on Thursday, July 27 at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose.

The 'College Opportunities Summit' is a one-day in-person college success program that focuses on preparing college-bound high school students, from low-income backgrounds, for their senior year of high school and postsecondary education.

The 10,000 Degrees 'College Opportunities Summit' at Evergreen Valley College is part of a summer series that 10,000 Degrees is holding at six partner colleges across the Bay Area.

"Empowering the leaders of tomorrow begins with unlocking the potential of our high school seniors today. As Evergreen Valley College proudly hosts the 'College Opportunities Summit' by 10,000 Degrees, we reaffirm our commitment to providing a transformative pathway to college success," said Dr. Tammeil Y. Gilkerson, president of Evergreen Valley College. "Through

this one-day program, we equip students in our community with the confidence to navigate the college journey and understanding that with proper planning, their dreams have no bounds."

At the 10,000 Degrees 'College Opportunities Summit,' students will have the opportunity to participate in the following workshops and activities led by 10,000 Degrees staff and recent college graduates:

To learn more about 10,000 Degrees services and programs, visit [www.10000degrees.org](http://www.10000degrees.org).



## Willow Glen Times

Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU

[williamb@timesmediainc.com](mailto:williamb@timesmediainc.com)

STAFF WRITERS: LORRAINE GABBERT, SHUBHI ASTHANA, ANGELA COPELAND, SNIKITHA BANDA, CLAIRE CHEN, KEN DEHART, SEAN EASTWOOD, DENELLE FEDOR, MATTHEW FRAZIER, JANE JOHNSON, KEVIN LARSEN, FRANK SHORTT

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM

[graphics@timesmediainc.com](mailto:graphics@timesmediainc.com)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:

SANDY BELLOU

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## IN MEMORY

### Deanna Scheler

March 11, 1938 -

May 21, 2023

Willow Glen

Deanna Joan Scheler, at the age of 85, passed on peacefully, with loved ones by her side, on May 21, 2023.

Deanna was born to Jens and Gertrude Dahl in Minnesota on March 11, 1938; she lived most of her life in Willow Glen.

Deanna was a second and fourth-grade teacher at Baker Elementary School. She was a lifelong learner, forever curious and delighted in even the smallest things.

She loved traveling with her friends, going to plays, and cooking Holiday meals with all the trimmings and decorations. She also enjoyed cookies, Coca-Cola, and gnomes. She survived her brother Tom Peter Dahl, her husband William III, and her daughter Shawn Lynn. Those whose lives she touched remember her kindness, subtle wit, and ability to "roll with it." She was a mentor and confidant for many; she is deeply missed and will be with us forever. A private graveside ceremony was held on June 24th at Oakwood Memorial Cemetery.

Donations to Mission Hospice in San Mateo are appreciated.

## Lucero

Continued from page 1

teaching Industrial Arts and Electronics. He also worked at Lockheed for a time before entering the classroom, an experience he always felt made him a more effective teacher. He was an innovator in curriculum development including early adoption of robotic technology, reflected in his being named teacher of the year for his district. One of the areas of focus of his programs was to help give students an opportunity for good quality employment who might not otherwise have access to college.

Austin was devoted to Janis and the family they built. They were married 62 years at the time he died. Among the family activities he greatly enjoyed were camping trips that began when his sons were children and continued up through when annual trips included adult grandchildren. He particularly liked cooking the large family breakfasts and having everyone together. Another of his favorite activities was to create woodcraft projects he could work on together with his grandchildren. Austin was also a dedicated son and brother.

Austin died following a seven-year battle with lung cancer. Of importance, across that time period and everything it entailed, he never lost his relentlessly positive attitude, his sense of humor, or his defining generosity.

Austin is survived by Janis, his wife, Richard and Paul, his sons, daughters in law Pamela and Christine, grandchildren Brittany, Dori, Austin, Jake and Evan, great grandchild Cal, and sister, Diana.

A celebration of life memorial mass will take place for Austin on August 5 at 12:00 at St. Christopher's Church in San Jose at 2278 Booksin Ave. San Jose, the church where Austin and Janis were married.



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## Times Feature

### CAREER CORNER

## Grieve, and keep going



the moment. They do it to keep you engaged in their months-long interview process.

If the company hires someone, all other candidates are rejected. But, sometimes the company chooses not to hire anyone at all. To be honest,

By Angela Copeland

Receiving a rejection after a job interview can be devastating. Whether you had three interviews or ten, you were all in. Otherwise, you wouldn't have snuck away from your existing job to interview.

The process of interviewing for a job is a lot like dating. The longer it goes on, the more you can picture your new future. You begin to layout plans in your mind.

It's not hard to do this. In fact, it's natural. In the first interview, you're expected to share how soon you are able to start working. And, through the process you are often asked to lay out your ninety day plan. You're asked to design the strategy you might later implement. In order to perform well in a job interview, you must picture yourself in the new role.

Unfortunately, this comes at a high personal cost to many job seekers. Job interviews with one company can often span over multiple months. I've personally observed interviews as long as six months. You jump over hoop after hoop. You connect with your new team. The problem is that many companies take more than one candidate through this grueling process. It is not unusual to have at least two, if not three, finalists.

It's also not uncommon for the company to tell you that you're definitely getting the job. They do this because they feel optimistic in

est, many companies look at interviewing candidates like you might try on shoes at a store. If they aren't a perfect match, they put them back and go about their day. Rarely does a company truly understand the impact to the individual job seeker.

But, this doesn't make it hurt any less. It often makes the job seeker question their identity. You may find yourself wondering if you took a wrong turn somewhere. You will very likely grieve the loss of the future you would have had. You feel the pain of being stuck in your current situation.

Know that these are normal emotions. If you weren't all in on a company, you wouldn't land the job interviews. And, it's a real loss. But, it doesn't make you any less of a professional. It doesn't mean you should change your career path. If you made it to the final round, realize that you did a great job. And, if the company gives you an excuse about why you weren't selected, remember that it's an excuse. It may or may not be accurate.

Whatever you do, keep going. Keep applying. Keep interviewing. Grieve, but keep moving forward. And, don't give up on your dreams. One company having a disorganized, insensitive interview process is not a reflection on your own career potential.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at [www.angela-copeland.com](http://www.angela-copeland.com).

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\* Sessions are 55 minutes

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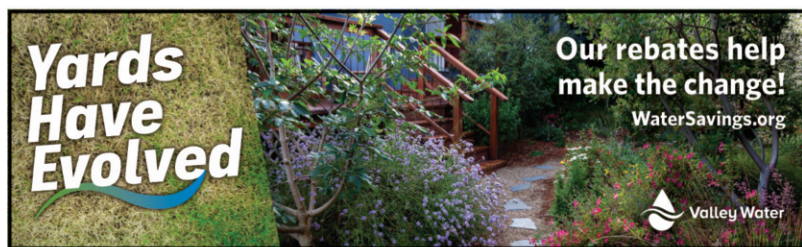


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## Times Feature



## Largest annual antique auto show in the West to be presented at History Park San Jose Sept. 9

Go back in time at the 23rd annual Antique Autos in History Park San Jose on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The 23rd annual Antique Autos in History Park presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San José will take place on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This event fills History Park (Kelley Park, 693 Phelan Ave, San José, CA) with 200 period-correct pre-1946 vehicles, fire equipment, bicycles, and motorcycles of all makes.

Also located on the grounds this year will be the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. There will be antique crafts demonstrated, antique collectibles, and toy trains. Also, take a trolley ride and see blacksmith demonstrations. Food will be available from food trucks and other possible outlets. Several activities will be provided for children attending the event.

### Music venue

Rhythmaires Dixieland Band will provide music. Songs will be sung by The Fabulous JewelTones along with dancing by the San Francisco Bay Area Vintage Dancers.

### Requirements for entering an antique vehicle

For those interested in entering their antique vehicle, there is no registration required. They can just bring their antique vehicle to the gate at History Park. All vehicles permitted on the grounds of History

Park must be manufactured between the late 1800s and 1945 and are period-correct. No vehicle will be allowed on the grounds of History Park during the show that is newer than 1945.

The featured vehicles this year are 1916 to 1930 Orphan Autos.

An example of an orphaned U.S. vehicle, is a 1920 Liberty Model 10-C, the nomenclature proclaiming that it's the longer and more powerful version of the two six-cylinder model lines that Liberty produced in 1920, pretty much the precise midpoint of its existence. This 10-C model is based on a 117-inch wheelbase and develops 56hp.

### Plan your day around the following:

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  - 12:00: The Fabulous JewelTones
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  - 12:30: Video: Merrily we Roll Along, narrated by Groucho Marx
  - 2:00: Model T Put Together
  - 2:30: Barbershop Quartet
  - 3:00: Silly Ricky's Juggling & Fun
  - 3:30: Drawing for Door Prizes
- Tickets prices at the door are: Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$8, Children (6 to 12) & History San Jose members: \$5. Participants & Children under 6 are free. (Adjacent City Parking: \$10.)

*Editor's note: There is NO alcohol, NO pets (except service dogs), and NO BBQs allowed inside the park. These are History Park rules and must be followed by everyone in attendance.*





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# Beetlejuice the Musical in San Jose

**B**eetlejuice, a musical based on the hit movie, is coming to town via Broadway San Jose this August 1-6 at the Center for Performing Arts.

Based on Tim Burton's beloved 1988 film, the play tells the story of "a demon with a thing for stripes" who is summoned from the "Netherworld" to wreak havoc on one very unlucky pair of new homeowners.

With an irreverent book, an astonishing set, and a score that's out of this Netherworld, Beetlejuice is "screamingly good fun!" (- Variety). And under its uproarious surface (six feet under, to be exact), it's a remarkably touching show about family, love, and making the most of every Day-O!

Upon the film's release, Vincent Canby of The New York Times declared it "a farce for our time."

To order tickets, visit: <https://www.ticketmaster.com/beetlejuice-touring/event/1C005E84AE65267C?refArtist=K8vZ917Q817> Performances recommended for those 10 years and older.

## Patil

*Continued from page 4*

Just in the last two years, Gold Bear Foundation has been able to donate more than 10,000 items to nearly 2600 people in need.

The Building Futures Office Manager specifically noted, "Thank you so so much for your help Jiya. For a group of teens, your age to be helping out so much and giving to this cause so selflessly is amazing. Every time one of our kids or women needs help, we are all so grateful for people like you. Without you and your organization, none of this would be possible, so we are just so thankful for Gold Bear Foundation."

As more people recognized their work, the organization garnered more support, expanding from a small group of only 7 members to an international organization of more than 170 members volunteering in 12 chapters.

With the additional help, Gold Bear Foundation was able to recently donate 1900 items to a homeless shelter across the country in New Jersey, as well as a water filtration system to a village in India to help over 300 students cope with unbearable heat waves.

As Patil continues on her mission to help those struggling economically, she hopes to expand the organization even further to support as many people as possible.

For more information and how you can help with your donations, visit: <https://goldbearfoundation.wixsite.com/mysite>



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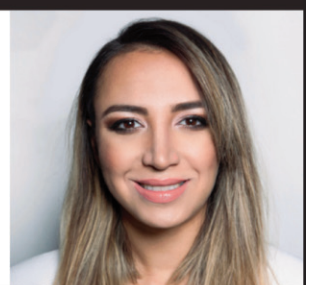
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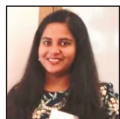


Times **Feature**

**TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK:**

**Virtual Reality**

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:

**Virtual Reality**

Did you miss on your favorite band’s live show because the tickets sold out in minutes? Worry not! In the last few years, musicians have been

able to stream concerts to Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, allowing fans to enjoy the virtual spectacle from the comfort of their homes. Now some VR platforms are going beyond just recreating the live experience, by offering viewpoints and interactions that users could never get if they were at the venue.

Let’s understand virtual reality more closely!

Virtual reality is an artificial environment that is created with software and presented to the user in such a way that the user suspends belief and accepts it as a real environment. On a computer, virtual reality is primarily experienced through two of the five senses: sight and sound.

The simplest form of virtual reality is a 3-D image that can be explored interactively at a personal computer, usually by manipulating keys or the mouse so that the content of the image moves

in some direction or zooms in or out. More sophisticated efforts involve such approaches as wrap-around display screens, actual rooms augmented with wearable computers, and haptics devices that let you feel the display images.

Virtual reality is making a huge foray into music. Launched in 2018, a startup called MelodyVR has built a library of live shows, recorded for streaming to Oculus VR headsets or iPhone and Android devices through its app later. It says it has worked with more than 850 musicians, including Kelly Clarkson, Wiz Khalifa and Lewis Capaldi.

As well as being able to watch from a position in the audience, users can view the concerts as if they were backstage, behind the sound booth, or even on stage with the band. The company has also created more novel experiences; a VR per-

formance by British singer Emeli Sandé displays two images of her simultaneously, one playing the piano and the other singing.

Virtual reality fits the music industry’s exploratory nature. However, it’s a fact that VR experiences still have room to grow to be considered mainstream. It will be up to the artists, producers, and technologists to create opportunities for people to access different VR music experiences. Experts predict that the trend will be about artists letting fans into their own VR universe, rather than simply engaging with a single music video or concert.

*Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at [shub.saxen@gmail.com](mailto: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**



# Way of the willows

By **Matthew Frazier**

*Qualified Stormwater Manager*

*Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper*

**W**illow Glen is the envy of many in Santa Clara Valley and the neighboring valleys.

The broad canopies of the willow trees provide sanctuary and shade to those who rest below. Morning to night these magnificent trees are sure to please.

Having attended high school in Willow Glen from 1993 to 1997 I often found myself sitting beneath one of these beautiful botanicals, closing my eyes and taking comfort in the shade they provided while feeling the ambient winds of winter or the radiant heat of spring.

Wednesdays were my favorite. The Wednesday willow became my go-to locale. Towards the east end of the property, the forefront of the school was home to a large willow which gave endlessly of itself to provide comfort. This went not unnoticed.

Beneath The Wednesday Willow I pondered Life's and The Universe's mysteries. Senior year, September 1996, Math Analysis, Lorde Terry Hause, my esteemed Mathematics teacher shared much in the way of knowledge and wisdom. It was beneath The Wednesday willow that I read and re-read and re-read the chapter summaries and key terms before delving and diving into the lesson plans.

To this day, 26 years later, I still equate Mathematics and Math Analysis with The Wednesday Willow and The Willow in general. Beneath the broad canopy, I read with

fervor and vigor, an insatiable appetite for knowledge of higher Mathematics. Nights came... reading the chapters at home from midnight to 3:00 a.m. was just not the same as the days beneath that mighty tree.

The midnight blue sky of Wednesday adorned the ambiance of this large and magnificent tree. The chapters and their sections became less daunting with the environment of The Wednesday Willow®. Providing comfort and solace ... I soon came to absorb and retain that which I learned and that which I read.



**Water Wise**  
**Matthew Frazier,**  
**Certified Water**  
**Manager**

It has been many years since those Wednesdays at that school. Now ... Young students with ambitions of studying Mathematics and Science sit beneath those willow trees between classes and on their lunch breaks. I hope that they find, and will find, the level of comfort I achieved in this space.

The willow trees of Willow Glen are to be admired. There is much they offer in the way of

beauty and function. Having worked in garden centers and nurseries from 2006 to 2021 there were many times I called upon memory to carry me through long and tiring shifts.

The magic and the majesty of the willow tree is not to be taken for granted. The memories of the Wednesday willow are forever etched and forged in the annals of my mind. With my mind's eye I can see this tree and its companions. I wish for the new students that they find comfort and solace in its presence.

I invite you to visit a willow tree and make it your own. If you have a story to share about a willow tree or any other special tree in your life, please feel free to reach out and engage. Good evening.

*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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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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# Free live concerts at the 'Festa' August 5 and 6

### 3 Bay Area mayors to participate in 'Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp'

From an international singing sensation to a Bay Area country music star, there's entertainment for everyone at the 2023 Italian Family Festa San Jose on Saturday and Sunday August 5-6.

And it's all free! World Folk & Roots singer, Michela Musolino will be performing on Saturday August 5th, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The Sicilian-American singer has been internationally lauded for her unique ability to reimagine Sicilian folk and roots music. Her songs make your heart sing and your feet dance!

On Sunday August 6th, we'll get a little bit country with the Silicon Valley's own, Mike Annuzzi.

He takes the stage from 1:30pm-3:30pm. You've heard his hits on country radio, including "Just Getting Started" and "New Boots On."

The Anthony "Nino" Lane Band brings its classic Italian sound to the Festa Sunday August 6th from 4pm-6pm. Anthony has been performing since he was 10 years old. His credits over the past few decades are long and impressive.

Also joining a weekend of excellent entertainment are: Bay Area Sinatra - John DeMers, Gold Money Band, Blue House, Livewire, The Fratello Marionettes and Nadejda (Nadia) Poskatcheva.

Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp New this year, the Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp! Three Bay Area mayors will face



Michela Musolino (Photo by Nino Di Maio) At right: Anthony "Nino" Lane Band



off—with their feet! San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor and Milpitas Mayor Carmen Montano will battle in this first of its kind competition.

These distinguished city leaders will hop into barrels full of grapes and crush out the juice with their bare feet. You won't want to miss the fancy footwork of this messy competition... come out and root for your city's mayor!

The Celebrity Grape Stomp takes place Saturday, August 5th at 2pm at History Park—don't be late, the mayors have just one minute to stomp their way to victory!

We're also pleased to announce long-

time 94.5 KBAY morning radio host, Lissa Kreisler, will emcee the event.

More great news... you don't have to be a celebrity to compete in Grape Stomping! Anyone can try their hand (or foot) at it. All you have to do is sign up in person at the Grape Stomp Stage. There will be multiple heats Saturday August 5th from 2:30-3pm and Sunday August 6th from 2-3pm. There is a prize for the winner!

*Editor's note: The Italian Family Festa is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). All proceeds support the preservation of Italian culture and the Italian American Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program.*

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# Burt the war hero

## A look back at wartime thinking and initiative

By Kevin Larsen  
Times Media writer

This is a chapter of a look into a window of time in the life of Burton Victor Smith during his heroic earning of the meritorious recognition medal, at war time.

When you meet Burt, you instantly know he is a man of great substance, honor and integrity. He's well-known as a community helper in our area and other cities too.

### Volunteer

Believe it or not, while in civilian clothing, without anyone knowing, he is often asked, "Could you take on the role of Santa Claus in our event," with the person not even knowing that he does professionally represent Santa.

He just has that "Santa look." During Christmas time he regularly volunteers at many places to raise spirits and has done so for many decades performing in Christmas vignettes for underprivileged children and brightening the spirits of the little ones who face battles in hospitals. In recent times, in addition to helping kids, he also, on occasion has helped the houseless by visiting sketchy areas (under overpasses) visiting tents and giving food items with help of nonprofits and also giving a joyful uplifting moment to those less fortunate.

His warm beaming grin and joyful soft spoken fatherly voice is sure to make you smile as is what happens with every person he speaks with. Yes, without a doubt he's related to Chris Cringle because he has that special something in how he acts and effortlessly exudes elements of goodness to all people.

Perhaps all great galvanizers can disarm and inspire others in the way they act. Burt is a strong involved leader in the community and helps at Senior Community Centers with supreme graciousness, introducing speakers to the retired crowd. He knows how to chair and guide important gatherings, assemblies, conferences, and summits while

always equally respecting every person's individual point of view. Daily, he eats a healthy nutritious lunch at a Senior Center which is a great way to meet others. Almaden has many such Senior Centers and the suggested donation for a nice lunch is \$3 per day. It's a special place for seniors to get out of the house and network with friends and neighborhoods.

This man is of great substance and most all politiciansglom onto him because he's a quiet influencer, knows so many and welcomes all in working on key areas of change with the political shaping of our city. Be it mayors, city council persons, state senators and more, if you bump into Burt, be sure to ask him to show you a selfie of himself and those in the limelight. He often provides a good-natured story and it's wonderful to instantly communicate through showing others all the people he meets by use of phone photo display.

### He's Americana

Every sentence he states is solid. These qualities he owes to his mom and dad and his vast experiences including serving during times of war.

Perhaps the toughest men who walk amongst us do so with soft spoken words and quiet smiles in ways that radiate righteous truth which genuinely affect people and shore up our world in meaningful and peaceful ways. Burt transmits this powerful quality in the realm where action speaks louder than words!

This guy is Americana and of such high integrity one wonders what things he did in his past to command such a gracious limelight to all who come near or into contact with him.

### Combat on Navy ship

He's quiet about his awards and had to be prodded to share out his battle engagement experience during the Vietnam war.

In 1966, with combat in full swing, Burt served on Naval Attack Squadron 113 aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise and a challenge presented itself to the ship. He wore a green outfit in his job as he worked on the flight deck each day. It was very dangerous. He states, "My job was to go below the plane and ensure it was correctly in place to be catapulted."

Suddenly, he began to learn there was a backlog of needed avionics equipment due to faulty electronic parts inside key components which were occasionally going out and not working due to many factors. This hindered the effective strength of attacks and it became apparent that the situation was so great that aircraft availability would soon face a problem unless some kind of action was taken immediately.

Burt states, "The shortage of avionics equipment became noticeable. In my off time I went to the avionic shops on board the



Above: **Burton Victor Smith**, war hero. Below: Burt dressed as Santa Claus.



ship and helped repair navigation and communication equipment. Over a short period of time our aircraft availability of fully assembled working electronic equipment became the best in the fleet." Burt states, "So for a while, I was spending time on the flight-deck and also, I began to help out in the avionics shops on the ship. As I begin fixing components, within weeks, they moved me into electronic repair full time."

### 'Petty officer Smith, front and center'

Burt explained, "Each night while serving on ship I would crawl into a kind of small box which was my bed. My belongings were kept in a compartment under the mattress and I would sleep along with all my fellow Navy sailors with a wool blanket that covered me displaying the all capital initials USN. Over a bit of time, after I had been working to help the ship and all crew, one day, without notice, the entire squadron was mustered to have a meeting on the hanger deck. I was standing in a crowd of men when, without warning, the Master of Arms who stood next to the captain announced in front of the entire crew, 'Petty Officer Smith, front and center!'"

"You can see by the look on my face in the photo that when I walked out on flightdeck, I thought maybe I was in trouble and had done something wrong. I said to myself, 'Oh S\*\*\*,' then to my surprise the following letter was read to the entire crew!"

### 'Can Do' quality of Burt

This is the actual verbatim letter from the Secretary of U.S. Navy, Vice Admiral Bringle, which explains the "Can Do!" qualities of Burt and the power inside the man.

Burton Victor SMITH, Aviation Electronics Technician First Class, "For meritorious achievement while attached to the Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN

EMBARKED IN USS ENTERPRISE (CVA (N) 65) as an Electronics Technician from 14 January 1968 to 12 July 1968 during combat operations against the enemy. Petty Officer SMITH performed his duties in the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department in a professional manner. He continually sought other technical and supervisory responsibilities within his parent squadron. When the squadron was faced with unique and complex problems with new IFF transponder and UHF transceiver equipment, he voluntarily researched the problem, determined the cause and expertly corrected the difficulties. His technical competence and effective management techniques were confirmed by the amount of reliable electronic equipment processed by his assigned shop during the deployment. Petty officer's SMITH devotion to duty, professionalism and effective leadership reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Services." Petty Officer SMITH is authorized to wear the combat "V." (You can view the medal he received that day in this article, bottom left).

### Taking initiative

Burt used self-gained knowledge of all the avionics equipment which made him a unique asset to the repair facility. It was apparent that a backlog of damaged avionics equipment was in need of parts and trouble shooting. If the equipment was not to function, then aircraft available would be diminished.

He quickly determined the problems and took action by determining issues in the inner workings of each nonfunctioning component. Over time he went from shop to shop to fix and train.

As an expert trouble shooter technician, he began using new repair strategies and techniques which caused the backlog to be "liquidated." In addition, he spent vast hours working with new and experienced technicians to show and train them in unique ways of repair. His GUNG-HO attitude affected the war situation for Navy ships, helicopters and planes in a very short period of time.

Undoubtedly the direct result of his enthusiasm for working with electronic equipment resulted in key component availability in this war effort. Also, in addition to being the squadron's BULLPUP trainer (this was a missile training device that Burt maintained in the ready room), during his spare time he continued to work on and figure out how to improvise to make components work when suitable parts were not available.

### Russian trawler

Always with a smile, Burt shared a true combat story. Not unlike today when the balloons from China fly over our country to collect information, during the Vietnam War, Russian so called fishing trawlers were seen following our ships (ghosting them) in the South China Sea. It was stated by one Vietnam veteran that, "They weren't fishing at all, they didn't even have nets, but they had all kinds of electronic gathering gear strung up on their masts so everyone knew what they were up to."

Burt explains, "One time, on a helicopter trip from the U.S.S. Enterprise in the war zone, the pilot played a joke on the Russians. Before the flight, he took a waterproof tube and placed in it two rolled up Scientific American  
See BURT, next page







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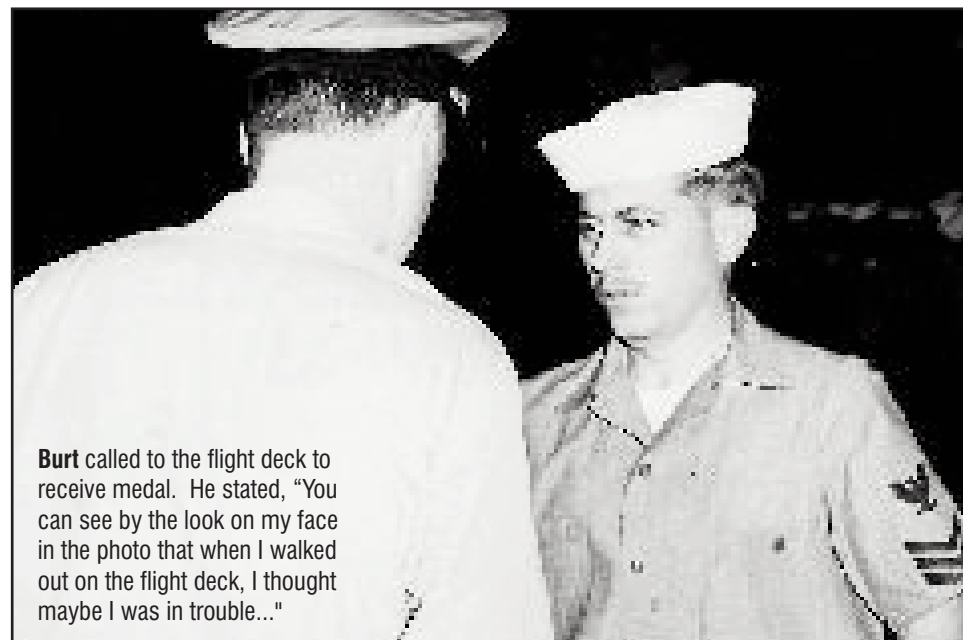
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Times **Local News**



**Burt** called to the flight deck to receive medal. He stated, "You can see by the look on my face in the photo that when I walked out on the flight deck, I thought maybe I was in trouble..."

**Burt**

*Continued from previous page*  
 magazines, two National Geographic magazines and two magazines of models in swimsuits (a publication invented by a man named Hugh). As they were flying by the pest Russian Fishing boat the pilot asked Burt (who had no idea what was in it) to toss the tube with red floating buoy and as it hit the water near the boat, they all pointed to the Russian so called fishermen to retrieve the gift and flew away on their trip to the Ticonderoga.

Later, they flew back to the Enterprise and as they looked down at the same Russian trawler and one of the Russians held up the magazine centerfold in the air spread out between his two hands as a gesture of war time thanks.

**Tet Offensive begins**

A week later, he went on a secret mission aboard a C1A cargo plane. they got to the main landing strip in Danang and were resting in the EM (Enlisted Men) Club when all of a sudden, the pilot ran into the room yelling, "We got to go, let's get out of here quick!" He would find out that secret intelligence stated it was the start of the Tet offensive that day, so best to be back on ship.

Another time he went on a mission ride on the Admirals helicopter to try to solve a critical combat control component instrument issue. A top-secret instrument needed some figuring out to help the aircraft determine if "friendlies" aircraft were approaching.

Burt stated, "Each jet pilot created a secret four-digit code that was assigned before takeoff. I was tasked with troubleshooting this IFF (IDENTIFICATION FRIEND OR FOE) system on the carrier Ticonderoga."

The carrier sends out a pulse to airplanes to see if the 4-digit code is sent back accordingly to know if the aircraft is friend of foe. This system was not working properly on the carrier. Burt stated, "Upon arrival on the carrier, I trouble shot the situation and determined, being an older ship, the Ticonderoga did not have the capability to use the IFF system. The old system of IFF on the ship was not compatible with the newer systems on the jets in the CIC (COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER)." Burt explained, "The CIC was a very special place on the carrier where all com-

munications of battle took place. When working in that area on the ship everyone had to be quiet." Burt helped figure out this situation and later, steps would be taken to correct the communication circumstances on the Navy carrier.

**Veterans of America**

Just recently, after many decades, Burt was asked if he was in the VA System (Veterans Administration). He stated, "I never thought of myself as being a veteran but after learning more about it, I realized, that's who I am." Burt did not consider hearing bullets shot through the air during helicopter missions enough to call himself a veteran. He encourages all who were in wars to find out more about this important organization and what it does for veterans. "The VA has done so much for me," Burt states.

**A call back from retirement**

As the years progressed and Burt entered civilian work, his keen ability to work on instrumentation components found its way into the private sector. One day he decided to pay off his house with the private corporation's retirement buy-out package. To no one's surprise, a while later he received a phone call at home from a key supervisor where he used to work. "Burt, we need you, can you come back," said his previous manager. So, Burt did go back to help and worked in the same capacity only this time as a paid contractor. Today he is happily retired.

Burton Victor SMITH, the war hero, is an all-around great man, who teaches us what is means to be tough! If you get a chance, drop into the Evergreen Community Center to have lunch and sit at his table.

• *Editor's note: If you wish to join Burt's table for lunch at the Evergreen Community Center you can do so. Each weekday the San Jose Senior Nutritional Center offers delicious lunch with daily suggested lunch donations of \$3 per senior over 60. If anyone under 60 wishes a lunch they can reserve and pay \$9. Lots of activities and smart and savvy information for seniors can be found at all Senior Nutritional Centers in San Jose. Almaden Senior Nutrition Program: In partnership with TRiO, provides meals to Older Adults 60+ at 13 community centers throughout the City. All meals served at community centers meet county health standards.*

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**Chardonnay Cruise:** Sail on a 70' sailing yacht out of Santa Cruz Harbor, Wednesday August 16th. Price \$75.00 pp. Sign up MWF, 8:00- 10:00am in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

For more information, go to [Almadenseniors1@gmail.com](mailto:Almadenseniors1@gmail.com) or call Donna @408 266-4938 or Rich @408 219-8641

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**ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR**  
408-270-0850

No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

Hours:

**Mon-Fri**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Saturday**  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

2850 Quimby Rd. Suite 100 • 270-0850

## Driving School



**Advantage Driving School** is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses. Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

**Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;**

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

**Email: info@advantagedriversed.com**

**Website: advantagedriversed.com**

## Limousine Service



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**FROM \$125 PER HOUR**

- Lincoln Stretch Limo - Lincoln Town Car
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## Painting



**Free Window Cleaning w/ Ext. Paint Job!**  
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**CA. ST. LIC #651686**  
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## Employment

### Lead Database Administrator

Sify Technologies North America Corporation seeks Lead Database Administrator in Santa Clara, CA and Philadelphia, PA. Partner with architects of different engineering/application teams to engineer complex technical product in order to provide business solutions to various business divisions as a part of DBA Engineering project activities. Implement and administer Oracle streams for live reporting server, database consolidation, zero downtime migration. Travel to unanticipated client sites within the US. May need to relocate. Work from home is an option. **Send resume to: katta.reddy@sifycorp.com**

## Software Development

### Software Development

Manage cloud-based software development.  
2 years exp. \$123,885/yr.

Supermove Inc. 178 Bluxome St #202, San Francisco, CA 94107.

## Notices

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$64.99/mo plus taxes for 12months. Premium Channels at No Charge for One Year! Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. W/ 24-mo. agmt TV price higher in 2nd year. Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49/mo. is extra & applies. Call IVS 1-408-688-5490

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-988-1663

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ly being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-866-603-1640 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/evergreen>

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-877-920-0653

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-977-5344



## CATALYTIC CONVERTER ETCH AND PROTECT PROGRAM

Please join the San Jose Police Department and the San Jose Police Foundation for the Catalytic Converter Etching Program.

Etching a converter with your license plate or VIN number will assist police to help track the converter in the event it is stolen and recovered.

**AND IT'S FREE!**



1 Make an appointment with one of our partners by calling your choice below.



2 Register your vehicle for the program.



3 Get Etched!

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES ARE CURRENT SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ETCH AND PROTECT PARTNERS. IF YOU ARE AN AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS OWNER WHO WISHES TO PARTNER WITH THE SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ETCH AND PROTECT PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT CAPTAIN TRAYER: 3301@SANJOSECA.GOV

CAPITOL HONDA  
745 CAPITOL EXPY,  
SAN JOSE  
408-445-4422

STEVENS CREEK TOYOTA  
4202 STEVENS CREEK BLVD.  
SAN JOSE  
408-984-1234

SPEEDEE/MIDAS  
1825 E. CAPITOL EXPY,  
SAN JOSE  
408-531-0701

Disclaimer: Etching the catalytic converter does not guarantee it will not be stolen, nor is it guarantee of recovery...but it could help!

It's easy & FREE to get rid of your junk



Make appointment · Set out · We'll pick up



[SJenvironment.org/junkpickup](http://SJenvironment.org/junkpickup)

Help keep our neighborhood clean! Report illegal dumping: 408-535-3500



# 1199 NIKULINA COURT

## ALMADEN VALLEY



**THERESE SWAN**

408.656.8240

[tswan@tswan.com](mailto:tswan@tswan.com)

[AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com](http://AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com)

DRE 01355719



This distinctive multi-level home is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac with spectacular panoramic views including the Mt. Hamilton range. Five covered porches/balconies, recessed lights throughout, 96 oversized double pane Low E coated windows. Remodeled kitchen with as white Quartz slab counters and soft-close European style cabinets, Enormous primary bedroom oasis with balcony, atrium, and bonus room. San Jose Unified School District: Williams Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.

**\$3,650,000**

**5 Bedrooms**

**3.5 Full Baths**

**4760 Sq Ft**

**.75 Acre Lot**



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.

**VFLIGHT**