

Will Silicon Valley lawmaker's plan to toss Trump off ballot work?
SEE PAGE 4



People helping people
Mayor announces neighborhoods selected for the Pilot Together SJ Initiative **SEE PAGE 5**

Want a degree without classes and lectures?
California community colleges test new approach **SEE PAGE 6**



YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR OVER 36 YEARS

Almaden

SERVING ALMADEN VALLEY SINCE 1986 ■ ALMADENTIMES.COM

Times

SEPT. 29 – OCT. 12, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 20

Almaden teachers begin using artificial intelligence detectors

Issues are presented in the validity of software that flags student work improperly

By **Sucbeer Maddury**
Special to the Times

As Almaden education gears up for the bulk of the school season, students see the horizon of tests, quizzes, and other integrity-sensitive assessments.

With the threat of artificial intelligence looming around the corner, many teachers have employed various in-class methods to stop the use of AI. Different period-based versions, a return to on-paper tests, and free-response-based exam questions are all part of the arsenal of anti-cheating measures.

These methods are and have always been fairly effective at stopping cheating during an exam but how can the use of generative technologies be regulated in homework assignments, or even worse, exams for programming-related courses?

One technology that emerged as a result of the arms race is the artificial intelligence-detector, a feature that has already been implemented in Turnitin, an educational plugin that allows teachers to verify plagiarism, grammar, and provides various grading features. The Turnitin AI detector automatically performs an integrity check of the work, through a neural network derived from the discriminator of the ChatGPT algorithm. The detector then outputs a probability that the work was written by AI, but the question remains: are these detectors accurate, and are they worth using?

AI detectors are found to be not fully accurate

Currently, the answer is a resounding no. Unfortunately, these detectors are far from foolproof, and give false positives as often as



true positives. In fact, one can even type out a legitimate sentence written by themselves, and the majority of detectors will spit out an "AI-generated" result. These AI detectors are trigger-happy, and thus if used in the context of a school, could easily convict a student of cheating when in reality, that student was

innocent. To me, this is significantly more harmful than letting a cheating student go free, since cheating files can easily invalidate a student's application to many universities.

Teachers have false conception of AI detection software

Many teachers are also not aware
See AI DETECTION, page 4

PHOTOOP



QUICK BUILD

Volunteers are ready to start a complete build of a Fort Model T, including driving the auto away. at The Antique Auto Show held at San Jose History Park on Sept. 9. The team completed building the Model T in less than 15 minutes. Thousands attended the event that featured period-correct pre-1946 vehicles, fire equipment, bicycles and motorcycles.

San Jose official allegedly hit homeless man with car

By **Jana Kadah**
San José Spotlight

San Jose councilmember allegedly hit a homeless biker with his car and then gave them money at a busy intersection in downtown San Jose, according to three witnesses. Video obtained by San José Spotlight shows District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra handing money to a man after Batra allegedly struck him with his 2022 Lexus.

The incident happened at approximately 2:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon at the intersection of San Fernando and Fourth streets. Batra was turning left onto Fourth Street on a green light when he suddenly stopped his car, according to witnesses.

A downtown employee, who asked to remain anonymous out of fear of retribution, said she



San Jose Councilmember Arjun Batra is pictured in this file photo. Photo by Jana Kadah.

witnessed the accident and later caught the money handed on video when she recognized Batra. Batra denies it, saying he did not strike the man with his car but instead had a "close call." Batra told San José Spotlight he gave the man \$40 after the biker asked him for help

because he was "down on his luck and homeless."

"It's just false. There was no accident," Batra told San José Spotlight. "I am not a politician, and, in my life, I have always tried to show compassion for others, particularly those who seem like they need a helping hand. That is what I did here."

Ann Leyva, a security guard across the street, said she didn't see the accident, but that she heard sounds of a collision. After hearing what sounded like a crash, Leyva checked to see who had the right of way—Batra or the biker. She said the biker crossed the street toward the library without the crosswalk light on.

"It was a loud metal on metal sound. Maybe the SUV hit the guy's thermos (on his bike) or something," Leyva told San José Spotlight. "The man didn't seem injured."

See BATRA, page 4

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER



Now is your time to enjoy everyday luxury living in The Villages Golf & Country Club: A Gated, Active, Senior Community located in the Evergreen Hills of Silicon Valley - near Silver Creek Valley Country Club. Are you 55+ ???? Downsizing? Retired? or Still working? If you want to enjoy life at its best -- be sure to preview this home with an inviting Front Courtyard and Nature from EVERY window!



1568sf - 2 Bedroom - 2 Bath home with spacious Living & Dining Rooms - Kitchen with attached Family room or Nook - Sliders from Living & Family room opening to Screened Back Patio overlooking a private & beautiful Wooded Meadow. Now that you've Relaxed -- Want to have FUN? Choose one or all of these amenities: 2 Golf courses (9 & 18 hole), 4 Swimming Pools/Spa, Tennis , Pickleball & Bocce courts, Billiards & Ping Pong Rooms plus miles of Hiking Trails .Now enjoy Fine Clubhouse Dining or Casual dining in Bistro or Patio. Come enjoy the Lifestyle You Deserve! \$798,000



Dee Ramirez
The Villages Realty Team

Lic# 00683945 ■ REALTOR

408.440.7617

Dee@RamirezRealtyTeam.com

www.DeeRamirez.com

2925 The Villages Parkway ■ San Jose ■ CA ■ 95135

Please note: I have not and will not be verifying or investigating any information supplied by others.

ATTENTION GOLFERS

Thinking about downsizing to a gated community?



Play golf on a Spectacular Championship 18 hole golf course
for ONLY. . . . \$34.00

The Villages Golf & Country Club

Homes ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.7 million

Enjoy Country Club Living in this 55+ Gated Community

Other Amenities:

Tennis - Pickle Ball - Bocce - Pools - Hiking - Billiards

Fine & Casual Dining in our Clubhouse & Bistro

Come for a Tour ~ Stay for a Lifetime



Dee Ramirez
The Villages Realty Team

Lic# 00683945 ■ REALTOR

408.440.7617

Dee@RamirezRealtyTeam.com

www.DeeRamirez.com

2925 The Villages Parkway ■ San Jose ■ CA ■ 95135

Please note: I have not and will not be verifying or investigating any information supplied by others.

Valley Currents

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

Will Silicon Valley lawmaker's plan to toss Trump off ballot work?

By B. Sakura Cannestra
San Jose Spotlight

A local state assemblyman wants to remove former President Donald Trump from the March primary ballot, but the law may not be on his side.

Trump's eligibility to be on the ballot hinges on the outcome of his federal indictment over the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The first trial date in Trump's federal indictment is March 4, but the jury selection and other procedural steps will likely push it out farther. That's according to Larry Gerston, a political science professor emeritus at San Jose State University.

"It'll be a miracle if that trial is held before summer," he told San José Spotlight.

Assemblymember Evan Low and eight other California legislators sent a letter to Attorney General Rob Bonta over the weekend calling for him to seek a court opinion on whether Trump is eligible to hold public office.

A number of states are questioning Trump's eligibility for the primary ballot, citing section 3 of the 14th Amendment. Section 3 states that if someone takes an oath to uphold the Constitution and then supports "insurrection or rebellion against the same," they cannot hold public office.

Gerston said barring someone from running under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment requires being found legally guilty of having engaged in an insurrection.

If a state did try to remove Trump from the primary ballot before his Jan. 6 case had a verdict, Gerston said he would likely sue. Without a court decision on the federal case, any calls to remove Trump from primary ballots are based on accusations, Gerston added.

According to Eddie Kirby, Low's spokesperson, the law's precedent shows a conviction may not be needed to disqualify Trump from the ballot, citing eight past cases.

"No conviction is required for removal from the ballot legally or historically," Kirby told San José Spotlight. "The point of the letter is to speed up the court's decision making on whether or not Donald Trump is disqualified



Assemblymember **Evan Low** is pictured in this file photo.

because of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

The secretaries of state have looked to the courts for answers, as the final decision on eligibility hinges on Trump's existing federal case. Lawsuits have been filed in Colorado and Minnesota seeking information on his eligibility ahead of the primaries, based on the 14th Amendment argument outlined by University of Chicago law professor William Baude and University of St. Thomas School of Law professor Michael Stokes Paulsen.

Low represents District 26, which includes Cupertino, a portion of San Jose, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale, and the unincorporated areas of Burbank and Fruitdale. He thinks California's attorney general is in a "unique position" to seek court opinion on the topic of Trump's eligibility.

"Whatever the courts decide, it is important that they do so quickly to avoid further political strife," Low told San José Spotlight.

But Gerston doesn't think legislators have a shot at removing him without a verdict.

"The best these folks can hope for ... is to wait to see what the judiciary says," Gerston said. "I understand people are desperate to try to shape the primary system in such a way to deny former President Trump, but you know those are the rules and you've gotta go by the rules."

FROM PAGE ONE



Picture of the man's bike. Photo courtesy of a witness who asked to remain anonymous.

Batra

Continued from page 1

She said the driver, Batra, immediately stopped and pulled over to the side of the road on Fourth Street in front of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library. The biker walked toward Batra and as the two began talking, Leyva said she saw Batra hand over something to the biker but couldn't make out what it was.

Another security guard, who works at a different nearby business, said he heard the screech from Batra's car before it stopped. He saw the biker inspect his bike before walking over to where Batra parked his car, the security guard said.

"It was little bang but not a big bang," he said. "Then when the guy went over there and talk to the driv-

er, the driver got out and examined the bike and (their talk) lasted about maybe five minutes and then the guy left."

Batra denies inspecting the man's bike. He also confirmed to San José Spotlight that he does not drink or take medications and was not distracted while driving.

The anonymous employee who recorded the video also took a picture of the homeless man's bike, which shows the back tire dented and deflated. She said the man was riding his bike when the collision happened. After Batra left the scene, the employee said they talked to the man and that he was shaken up, but not injured. He then wheeled his bike away because of the flat tire on the bike.

Police were not called, sources said.

AI detection

Continued from page 1

of the risk that these detectors pose. From my experience at Leland High School, most teachers I've talked to have expressed their confidence in the detector, completely oblivious to the massive failure risk. If dug deeper into, Turnitin itself admits the wide unreliability of these AI detectors.

We could improve upon current AI detectors to be more accurate, however this is a similar situation as that between virus and antivirus—a constant arms race between generative technologies

and detectors. If we want this solution to work, it is important to instill ethical AI principles in developers so that the goal remains that of utility, not replication of human work.

Overall, while Almaden has been one of the first regions to implement AI detectors in schools such as Leland, ultimately most teachers around the world will jump at the prospect of stopping AI in their classroom, and employ such detectors. Meanwhile, the risk of cheating via generative AI is also worrisome, however, current AI detectors may not be the optimal solution.

LIVE & STREAMED

Nikolay Khozyainov

Plays Chopin, Scriabin and more!

OCTOBER 7
7:30 p.m.

McAfee Performing Arts
and Lecture Center,
Saratoga

Steinway
Society
THE BAY AREA

steinwaysociety.com
(408) 300-5635



Almaden Times

Times Media, Inc.
(408) 494-7000

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
DIANE BLUM, SUNAY SANGHANI,
SEAN EASTWOOD, NIRBAN SINGH,
FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE
LUU, APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR
JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

PUBLISHER / CEO
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
SANDY BELLOU

Copyright © 2023 Times Media, Inc. All rights reserved. The ALMADEN TIMES prefers letters to the editor and submissions of guest articles and columns for possible publication to be sent by email to editorial@timesmediainc.com. All submitted materials become the property of Times Media, Inc., and receipt of unsolicited materials cannot be acknowledged. The opinions and viewpoints expressed by guest authors and columnists in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions and viewpoints of the Times.

Cinelux Theatres celebrates the Fall Season with a free Fall Film Family Festival

With a mission to re-engage families as summer ends and Fall starts, the first-ever CineLux free Fall Family Festival kicks off in September at all CineLux Theatres...and you're invited!

Locally owned CineLux Theatres will host free shows each weekend through October 8th at all CineLux Theatres. Films will start at 10 a.m. each Saturday and Sunday.

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile
2022 • Rated PG

Saturday, October 7 & Sunday, October 8

When the Primm family moves to New York City, their young son Josh struggles to adapt to his new school and new friends. All of that changes when he discovers Lyle — a singing crocodile who loves baths, caviar and great music — living in the attic of his new home.

For more details visit CineluxTheatres.com or subscribe to CineLux Theatres on Facebook or Instagram.



State Senator **Dave Cortese** addresses the concerns of opioid overdoses in middle and high schools.

Community leaders and parents urge California Governor to sign Senate Bill 10 Melanie's Law

Community leaders and parents gathered on September 18 at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) to show support for Senate Bill 10 (SB10).

The bill, also known as Melanie's Law, would

make changes to California Education Code to require middle and high schools to include in their site safety plans a protocol in the event a pupil is suffering or is reasonably believed to be suffering from an opioid overdose. SB10 was approved unanimously in the California legislature. Governor Newsom's signature is the last hurdle for SB 10 to become law.

"Having Narcan or naloxone on campus can possibly mean the difference between saving a life and losing one," said County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan. "The Santa Clara County Office of Education is a co-sponsor of SB10. I am thankful for the collaboration and partnerships that developed to inform our communities about the dangers of fentanyl."

Under SB10, California public schools would provide training to school employees on opioid prevention and life-saving responses as a component of their Comprehensive School Safety Plan. SB10 also ensures that all students and adults learn about the risks of fentanyl exposure and poisoning and have access to the resources needed to prevent and respond to fentanyl poisonings and overdoses. It requires the California Department of Education and county offices of education to have partnerships, resource guides, and toolkits to address the opioid crisis.

Mayor announces neighborhoods selected for the pilot TogetherSJ Initiative

By **Willam Bellou**
Publisher

San José Mayor Matt Mahan announced on Sept. 21 that the city would be rolling out the next phase of TogetherSJ.

The initiative is intended to fight back against the epidemic of loneliness by increasing social connection and civic engagement through the bolstering of neighborhoods — providing them with the necessary resources to organize and thrive.

"When neighbors know each other, neighbors help each other," said Mahan. "As we strive to create a safer and cleaner San José, investing in our neighborhood associations is one of the most strategic actions we can take."

Mayor Mahan highlighted the 20 neighborhoods chosen to participate in the program's pilot and the different learning modules that will be offered. Originally announced in early August, the program was created in partnership with the city's Parks, Recreation, and Neigh-

See *INITIATIVE*, page 9

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK Generative AI

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:

Generative AI

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can produce various types of content, including text, imagery, audio, and synthetic data. The recent buzz around generative AI has been driven by the simplicity of new user interfaces for creating high-quality text, graphics, and videos in a matter of seconds.

Everyone has days when you're simply not in the mood to write another email, article, or line of code. Generative AI is there to support your creative process.

How does it work?

Generative AI usually uses unsupervised or semi-supervised learning to process large amounts of data and generate original outputs. For example, if you want your AI to be able to paint like Van Gogh, you need to feed it as many paintings by this artist as possible. The neural network that is at the base of generative AI can learn the

characteristic traits or features of the artist's style and then apply it on command. The same process is accurate for models that write texts and even books, create interior and fashion designs, non-existent landscapes, music, and more.

Generative AI and no code

Generative AI is important not only by itself but also because it makes us one step closer to the world where we can communicate with computers in natural language rather than in a programming language. With the help of generative AI, models become multimodal, which means they can process several modalities at a time, such as text and images, which expands their areas of application and makes them more versatile.

The process of simplification and democratization of human-machine interaction also positively influences the quality of the models itself since more people, including experts, are involved in their training. That means that generative models are much more than just fun or crazy art that you can generate when you have nothing better to do. In fact, generative AI might be that next step in the evolution of AI that we have all been waiting for.

About the Author

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



The Almaden Senior Association Members are a diverse group of enthusiastic active adults 50+ who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures. Join us today. Meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

Membership offers opportunities to enjoy...

- Exercise Classes for all levels & abilities.
- Lunch events with entertainment run by members of the association.
- Trips to local and not so local places of interest.

Stop by the front desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application. Currently Membership is free. Membership includes a copy of the newsletter and offers you discounts on classes through San Jose PRNS.

Current Events:

Diwali, Festival of Lights: Saturday October 21st 4-7pm at the Almaden Community Center. \$22.00 for members. Tickets go on sale Sept 27th, MWF, 8am-10am in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

SAVE THE DATE: Thanksgiving Celebration: Saturday November 18th 3-5pm at the Almaden Community Center. Tickets go on sale, Wednesday October 25th MWF 8-10am in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

Current Trips:

Les Misérables: Saturday, October 21st, 2pm, San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, \$90. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, LES MISÉRABLES tells a story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption. A timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. Tickets on sale now.

For more information, go to Almadenseniors1@gmail.com, or call
Events: Jeanne @408-425-5723

Trips: Donna @408 266-4938 or Rich @408 219-8641

Almaden Senior Association
at the Almaden Community Center
6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120



Erica Alvarez
Real Estate Agent

DRE#01743455

209-799-7315

ericaayurrealtor@gmail.com

www.ericavalvarezealestate.com

1133 N Carpenter Rd Ste 3, Modesto,
CA 95351



Times **Local News**

Want a degree without classes and lectures? California community colleges test new approach

With Competency Based Education, 'No more grades, lectures, seminars or deadlines'

By Adam Echelman

Eight community colleges in California are testing out a new education model, one that defines success by the skills a student learns, not the time they spend in a classroom. But changing the traditional education system isn't easy.

Eight state community colleges start pilot program

A revolution is in the making at California's community colleges: No more grades, no more sitting through lectures or seminars, no more deadlines. In a pilot program taking shape across eight of the state's community colleges, the only requirement for some associate degrees will be "competency."

Students who can prove that they have the relevant skills can earn that degree.

More flexibility in attaining two year associate degrees faster

In theory, this model, known as "competency-based education," could provide students with more flexibility and the potential to attain degrees faster in key job sectors. The pilot is geared toward working adults, many of whom left community colleges at record rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the state's population of K-12 students continues to shrink, leaving colleges with fewer students right out of high school, the pilot aims to attract adults who are already in the workforce by "valuing their lived and work experience," said Madera Community College President Ángel Reyna.

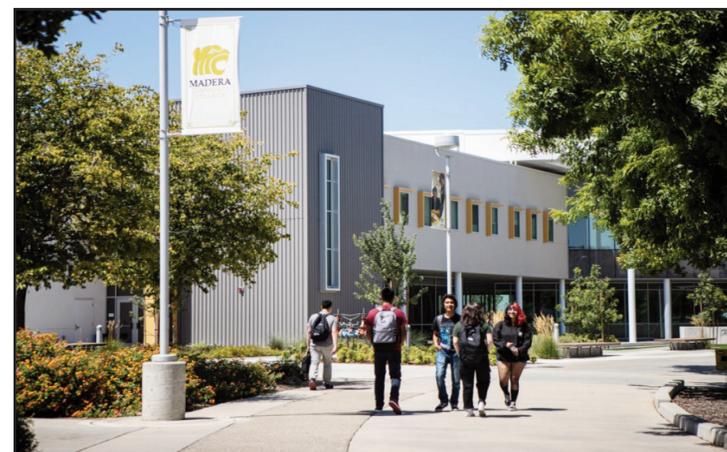
If successful, these community colleges will set themselves apart from every other two-year institution in the country. The pilot, which launched in 2021, provides eight California community colleges with up to \$515,000 over the course of four years to each design a single associate degree program using this new model.

The goal is for students to be able to enroll at some point in the 2024-25 academic year, said Aisha Lowe, an executive vice chancellor at the California Community College Chancellor's Office. In practice, colleges must overcome bureaucratic and logistical hurdles to make the new system work. At least one community college says it is struggling to hit the state's deadline.

The challenge is to create something that works "but isn't so different that colleges can still wrap their heads around it and engage," Lowe said. "It's definitely unprecedented."

A new way to measure learning
The new model restructures the requirements of a degree to reflect what students have learned, rather than the amount of time they spend in class.

Currently, all college degrees



Students walking along the walkway to the Academic Village building 2 at the Madera Community College campus on Aug. 28, 2023. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

require a certain number of hours spent in a classroom, either in-person or virtually. An associate degree, which California's community colleges offer, requires roughly 3,000 hours spent in a classroom or on homework in a traditional academic year. That's why some refer to it as a "two-year degree."

Teachers get paid in part based on the number of hours they teach. Because of the high number of part-time students, the state funds colleges and universities based largely on the number of hours that a student spends in class, not the number of students themselves.

In this current system, students may be required to sit through classes to get college credit even if they can demonstrate they already have some of the requisite skills. Students who may have less time for school because of work or family obligations lose out too, said Charla Long, the president of the Competency-Based Education Network, a consultant for California's pilot program.

"We've created an inequitable system because it's so time bound," she said.

In the new system, students seeking an associate degree in early childhood education at Shasta College in Redding will take 60 different exams, each one testing a specific skill, said Buffy Tanner, the college's director of innovation and special projects. Students in the program will have materials to teach themselves, teachers will be available to answer questions and counselors will be able to provide wraparound support.

Currently, a student is required to take 20 semester-long classes for that same degree. Students in the new program will be able to take an exam up to three times and can move as quickly or as slowly as they want, Tanner said. In-state students in the new program who do not qualify for financial aid will pay the same total tuition, just shy of \$2,800 for an associate degree, not including the cost of books, classroom supplies, or other miscellaneous fees. Shasta College, like the other colleges in the pilot, is still trying to figure out how much

to pay faculty in the new system.

Not a fit for all learners

Not every student can succeed in this self-paced format. Tanner said the plan is to vet students for the program through questions about their lives and study habits: "Do you need external deadlines? What kind of self-discipline do you have?"

"We have to make sure students fully understand what they're getting into," she said.

A growing phenomenon

Such alternative education systems have existed for decades. Since the 1970s, some colleges and universities have experimented with new models of teaching and learning that offer more flexibility and try to evaluate students based on what they know, not on how much time they spent in class, Long said.

In 1997, a group of 19 governors from Western states agreed to develop a private, nonprofit institution, known as Western Governors University, to provide "competency-based" education. With roughly 150,000 students today, it's the largest higher education institution in the country. Though headquartered in Utah, the university is entirely online and boasts students from all 50 states.

Other large for-profit and nonprofit university systems have experimented with the same model, including Capella University, an online college, and Southern New Hampshire University. California followed. In 2018, at the behest of former Gov. Jerry Brown, the state created a new community college, known as Calbright, which is free, entirely online, and exclusively "competency-based."

"This is radically different, and an incredibly powerful way to support our students," Calbright's blog says about its model.

This story was produced with support from the Education Writers Association's Reporting Fellowship program. Adam Echelman covers California's community colleges in partnership with Open Campus, a nonprofit newsroom focused on higher education.

One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding presents

G.R.I.T.

An Equine-Assisted-Learning Program for Women

SELF-CONFIDENCE

RESILIENCE

LIFE SKILLS

SAFE BOUNDARIES

"It is deeply healing to tap into the power of the centuries old bond between horse and human. It's truly profound that our two species, with such diametrically different views of predator vs prey, can come together in partnership and trust. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to learn what these incredible teachers have to offer us." - GRIT Participant

OSC has opened a new program for women based upon equine interaction and equine-assisted-learning, designed to develop self-awareness and self-acceptance, confidence and resilience, and safe boundaries.

G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead. The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll
one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net 408-778-3567

REAL ESTATE GUIDE



DEE RAMIREZ

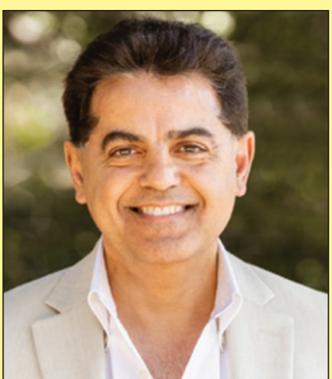
Realtor Lic. #00683945



(408) 440-7617

Dee@DeeRamirez.com

www.DeeRamirez.com



SHAWN ANSARI

COMPASS

shawn.ansari@compass.com

www.ShawnAnsari.com

DRE #01088988

(408) 529-4574

REALTORS: YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

STARTING AT \$89 PER ISSUE

**Call now to place your ad
by phone: (408) 494-7000**

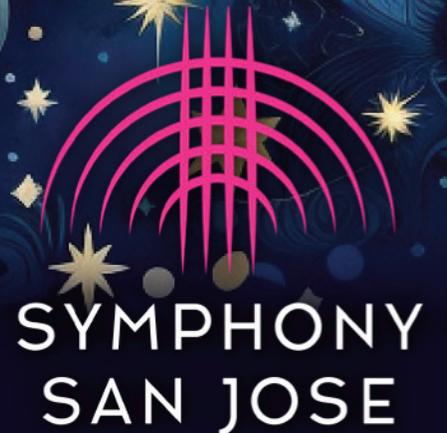


SYMPHONY SAN JOSE

WHERE YOUR MUSICAL JOURNEY BEGINS



MYTHS, FAIRY TALES, & LEGENDS



This performance will be at the CALIFORNIA THEATRE

For tickets Call **408-286-2600** Or visit: www.symphonysanjose.org



Now Open and Enrolling
Call for more information

KinderCare®
 LEARNING CENTERS

Virtual Tours Available

1081 Foxworthy Avenue,
 San Jose, CA 95118
(408) 265-7380
www.Kindercare.com

KinderCare offers unique, expertly designed early education programs for infants as young as 6 weeks to school-age children up to age 12, which includes preschool and pre-kindergarten programs.



Drive home the savings.

Al Olseen
 State Farm Agent
 3267 S White Road,
 San Jose, CA 95148
 Phone: (408) 274-4900
 Hours: 9 am – 6 pm
 (Lunch 1-2 pm)

Call for competitive Auto Insurance rates.

Like a good neighbor,
 State Farm is there.®
 CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm™

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
 State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
 State Farm General Insurance Company
 Bloomington, IL



COME AND EXPERIENCE The Wonder of Horses!

*Open To The Public!
 All Are Welcome.*

Bay Area Horse Associations Will Host Events

SEPTEMBER 9th
 Santa Cruz County Horsemen's will host in September on their showgrounds: 1251 Graham Hill Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. They will offer unique equestrian demonstrations every hour (vaulting, archery, breeds and exercise) with horse painting and mini horse/donkey grooming for kids from 10am-4pm. Food and drinks available for purchase. Horse camping limited to forty horses and their riders who reserve space. RSVP or questions: manemom@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 14th
 Santa Clara County Horsemen's will host in October from 3-6pm, at their clubhouse and arena: 20350 McKean Road, San Jose, CA 95120. Fall festival in the countryside with a mounted drill team performance and a variety of horse breeds on display. Participate in fun horse crafts, games and grooming station. They'll have a seasonal photo backdrop and delicious BBQ. To RSVP : <https://horsemens.org/event-4576502/Registration>

DECEMBER 16th
 San Martin Horsemen's will host in December at Harvey Bear Park: Harvey Bear Ranch entrance at E. San Martin Avenue & New Avenue, San Martin, CA 95046. Ride, lead or join without a horse along a flat, paved 2 mile loop and jingle all the way with bells on the horses! A great time spreading holiday cheer interacting with children and families along the route. Event begins at 12noon. RSVP or questions: toni.whedon@cbnocal.com.

*Interact With Horses
 Family Fun
 Great Food + Activities*

Initiative

Continued from page 5

borhood Services (PRNS), San José Police Department (SJP), with support from California Volunteers, Office of the Governor.

"The feeling of belonging to a neighborhood and connected to our neighbors compels us to serve each other and make our community the best place to live, work, and thrive," said California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday. "In an often divided and disconnected world, Califor-

nia has made this investment to help us connect and work with each other to make our communities stronger."

Residents in each of the selected neighborhoods will be surveyed on areas such as trust in government, social isolation or connectedness, accessibility of city services, and perceptions of neighborhood safety to establish a baseline. Neighborhoods will then be provided resources that demonstrate how to organize and operate a neighborhood association, in addition to learning modules focusing on public

safety, emergency preparedness, and blight and beautification. In addition to the education aspect of this program, neighbors will be invited out in a social capacity, including to events like barbecues, block parties and more.

"Our role in the City is to bring communities together. This State grant for the TogetherSJ program is essential to promote neighborhood engagement through beautification efforts alongside departments and partners across the City," said Olympia Williams, PRNS Division Manager for the BeautifySJ Program.

TogetherSJ Neighborhood Associations include: Bakerwest, English Estates, Melody Serenade, Silver Leaf, Axis, Roosevelt, Penitencia, Creekside, Mt. Pleasant, Plata Arroyo, Buena Vista, Rosemary Gardens, Tropicana Lanai, Lone Bluff, Meadowfair, Creekside Evergreen, Rubino Park, Dartmouth, Martin-Fontana, and Orchard Creek.

After a year, neighborhoods participating in TogetherSJ will be surveyed again to gauge how much progress they've made and whether they feel more connected.

**New Almaden Quicksilver
County Park Association**

**Join us for
our annual
celebration of
New Almaden
Quicksilver
mining
history and
heritage**

**Restaurant
MEALS AT ALL HOURS
SANDWICHES**

**PIONEER
DAY
2023**

**Saturday, October 14, 11:00 am
Casa Grande, New Almaden**

Times Feature

ELLIOTT ADVOCACY

American Airlines downgraded us. Can I get the fare difference refunded?

By Christopher Elliott

American Airlines downgrades Thomas Sennett and his family to economy class on their flights from Boston to Phoenix. Why isn't it refunding the fare difference?



Question

Last year, my family and I had first-class tickets on American Airlines to fly from Boston to Phoenix. American Airlines delayed that flight and rebooked and downgraded us to coach class on another flight.

A few days later, I received an email from American Airlines that it had refunded the fare difference between first class and economy class and advised me to contact my travel agent.

When I returned from our vacation, I contacted the travel agent at AAA, who had arranged our tour through Pleasant Holidays. The AAA travel agent contacted Pleasant Holidays, which had no record of a refund from American Airlines.

Over the course of a couple of months, I followed up with AAA and Pleasant Holidays on the status of this credit, to no avail.

Finally, I reached out to one of the American Airlines executives that you list on your consumer advocacy site. The airline contacted me a day later and referred me to a website to check the status of the refund. That website indicated that a refund had been completed.

I still don't have our refund. Can you help me?
— Thomas Sennett, West Hartford, Conn.

Answer

If you get bumped from first class to economy — that's called an involuntary downgrade — you should get a prompt and full refund of the fare difference. Looking at your case, I can see the problem — and a possible complication.

EMBARK Beyond is a luxury travel advisory dedicated to creating thoughtfully designed experiences that go beyond a destination. Focused first on client needs, we have built (and continue to build!) relationships with the world's most sought-after lifestyle and fashion brands to open the world - beyond imagination - to our clients. Find out more at EMBARK Beyond.

The complication is the fare difference. Airlines often calculate the fare difference in a way that is advantageous to them. I like to call it airline math. So, if American were to give you a refund, it would be based on the difference between a first-class ticket and an expensive walk-up fare in economy class instead of the less expensive advance-purchase fare. That way, it wouldn't have to refund you much — or anything at all.

The second issue is that you have a tour operator and an agent involved. A good travel agency can fight for your refund. But the bureaucracy of getting the money from the airline to the tour operator to the travel advisor and finally to you — well, that's probably why it's taking so long.

When I asked you to send me the paper trail between you, American, AAA and Pleasant Holidays, you complied. I'm so impressed that you stayed off the phone and did everything by email. You had a thorough and very helpful paper trail that made this case relatively easy to resolve.

I see you also availed yourself of the company contacts for American Airlines that I publish on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. Nice work! I also have contacts for AAA in case you ever need them.

My advocacy team contacted AAA on your behalf to find out the status of your refund. It reached out to Pleasant Holidays. The company found your money and returned it to you. And best of all, American Airlines didn't try any funny airline math. You received a check for \$1,611 from the carrier.

RED DOG SHRED



RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS PAPER SHREDDING

DROP-OFF SHREDDING SERVICE

WATCH IT SHRED!

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS MULTI MEDIA PAPER SHREDDING \$1000 PER BOX 10"x12"x15" HARD DRIVE SHREDDING

65 Gallon Container Executive Console

RED DOG SHRED PICKS UP

JUNK IT!

- OFFICE CONTENT CLEANOUT
- DOCUMENT PURGES
- PICK UP DOCS
- ON-SITE SHREDDING

www.REDDOGSHRED.com

408-377-2925

BAY AREA - SAN JOSE • 14944 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 (Cambrian Plaza)

WHEN JOURNALISM IS NOT PRESENT TO SERVE COMMUNITIES, BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

Trained journalists report authentic, credible information. And we fight for those who produce genuine news!

Almaden Times
Serving the community since 1986

- Times Media, Inc.
- Almaden Times
- Evergreen Times
- Willow Glen Times

Source: University of North Carolina School of Media & Journalism



New West LIMOUSINE

SERVING THE BAY AREA SINCE 1989

FROM \$125 PER HOUR

- Lincoln Stretch Limo – Lincoln Town Car
- Mercedes Grand Sedan – Mercedes Limo Van
- Cadillac Escalade SUV – Ford Expedition SUV

(888) 582-9987
reserve@newwestlimo.com
NewWestLimo.com

LOOK!!! FREE!!!

Spring Special!

- Free Window Cleaning w/ Ext. Paint Job!
- Free Pressure Wash w/Ext. Paint Job!
- Free Estimate & Color Consultation w/Job!

- Residential & Commercial
- Interior & Exterior
- Drywall Repairs
- Handyman Services

We'll Beat Any Reasonable Price!
30+ Years Experience
CA. ST. LIC #651686
Insured & Bonded
TEL: (408) 281-7500
www.faithpainting.com

Faith Painting DIAMOND CERTIFIED

Times Classifieds



Call to place your ad today!
408-494-7000

Limousine Service

LIMOUSINE SERVICE

New West Limousine
SERVING THE BAY AREA SINCE 1989

FROM \$125 PER HOUR

Lincoln Stretch Limo
Lincoln Town Car
Mercedes Grand Sedan
Mercedes Limo Van
Cadillac Escalade SUV
Ford Expedition SUV

(888) 582-9987
reserve@newwestlimo.com
NewWestLimo.com

Employment

Analyze logistics operations.
Bachelor's in International
Trade related. \$62421/yr,
Pumyang Shipping America
Inc., 3494 Depot Rd,
Hayward, CA 94545

Jewelry

M & L Jewelers

Jewelers & Watch Repair
Ring sizing - Watch bands
Watch batteries - Engraving
Stone replacement & More!

Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!

(408) 270-6080

3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

Shoe Repair

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



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through wor-

ship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family.



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

http://www.eicsan-jose.org
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148. (408) 239-6668 "As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you". Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran? A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayi-

latak" the English meaning is " May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.



Grace Church of Evergreen

GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

www.GraceChurchEvergreen.Com
408 274 1200 See you on Facebook. 2650 Aborn Rd at Kettmann, across from the Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 55 years. John Goldstein Pastor. john@GraceChurchEvergreen.com. Christian worship every Sunday at 11am. Together we build better lives and a better community. Music Institute (408)791 7772. After School Piano, Violin, Other classical Instruments. PreSchool, Ages 2-6 Caring for your child with God's love and affection. Check our website for current activities.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our mem-

bers. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office.



God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148

The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room

on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; http://www.SanJose-Gurdwara.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassispreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star-Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor

and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations: St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday

8:15 AM For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!



the^{point}.church

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrace Cir San Jose, CA 95148 (408) 270-7646 English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM Spanish Service: 11:00 AM Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM Mandarin Service: 11:00AM Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

To place a worship listing, email times@timesmediainc.com



Goodbye water thirsty lawns and hello beautiful water-wise landscapes!



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.

Some cost sharing areas may be eligible for even more! Start the application process online at watersavings.org to request a pre-inspection or call us at 408-630-2554 for more information.

Please note that application approval is required before starting any project.

With warmer weather approaching, consider letting us help you replace your water thirsty lawn into an 'evolved yard' using plants that are drought-tolerant, need less water and are native to California. An 'evolved yard' delivers a functional, attractive and easily maintained landscape, which will not only help to save you money but will help make water conservation a way of life.

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.

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



Make appointment • Set out • We'll pick up



SJenvironment.org/junkpickup

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

Mr. Peabody's

The Most Powerful Green Cleaning On the Planet



Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Complete Carpet Cleaning, Stone Polishing and Repair

(408) 444-9437

Serving Evergreen Valley since 1995