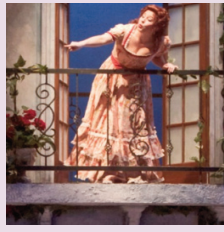


Opera San José presents new production of Rossini's Comedy *The Barber Of Seville*
SEE PAGE 6



Beautiful Day
Hundreds of volunteers show up to make improvements to Camden and Almaden intersection – PAGE 4

Holidays at the Ainsley House to open from Nov. 16 – Dec. 21
SEE PAGE 10



OCT. 27 – NOV. 9, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 22

YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR OVER 36 YEARS

Almaden Times

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Rising Cyber threats to seniors spark community response: The birth and journey of Cyber-Knights

Shreyas Kapavarapu presented with 'The Congressional Award', an honor celebrating young people's initiative, service, and accomplishments

By William Bellou
Publisher

Congressman Jimmy Panetta has awarded Almaden resident Shreyas Kapavarapu The Congressional Award, an honor celebrating America's young people's initiative, service, and accomplishments.

Kapavarapu, a senior at Basis Independent Silicon Valley High School and a representative of Cyber-Knights, was recognized for its work enhancing cybersecurity awareness among seniors in San Jose in just 20 months' time.

Through strategic collaborations and extensive outreach, the organization educates seniors on crucial cyber safety topics.

Reacting to the alarming rise in cybercrimes driven by personal experiences, local advocates shifted their focus from debate forums to real-world problems.

Last year, a local resident's grandmother became a victim of a cyber scam, losing her private banking information. Sadly, her ordeal was not unique.

The 2022 FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center Report disclosed alarming statistics: a sharp 84 percent increase in cyber threats targeting seniors from the previous year, affecting over 88,000 elderly individuals and causing a financial blow of \$3.1 billion.

Recognizing the acute vulnerability of seniors in an increasingly digital society, they took upon the mission of cybersecurity education for the elderly. Preliminary research indicated that awareness programs might slash the susceptibility of
See CYBER KNIGHTS, page 3



Congressman **Jimmy Panetta** (CA-19) awarded **Shreyas Kapavarapu** of Almaden Valley The Congressional Award, an honor celebrating young people's initiative, service, and accomplishments.

Senate Bill 10 & unhoused persons discussed by current and former State Senators Dave Cortese and Jim Beall

By Denelle Fedor
Special to the Times

The Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) hosted their monthly general meeting Monday, October 9 with keynote speakers - former State Senator representing District 15 and current Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Director, Jim Beall and current State Senator, Dave Cortese who replaced Jim Beall when he was elected in 2020.

Senator Cortese discussed a variety of issues, including the status of the on-going investigation of organized crime that has run rampant which resulted in defrauding funds from the Office

of Employment Development Department (EDD) during COVID in 2020 and thereafter.

Senator Cortese spoke about his Senate Bill 10 which he authored which would require all California public schools to provide training to all school employees on life-saving responses regarding the increase in opioid, fentanyl and overall drug use under a formal plan known as the Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP). Cortese's legislation would also create a state framework for parents and students to be educated about the current and growing risk of fentanyl exposure and

See BILL 10, page 3

COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK



Councilmember **Arjun Batra** with **Ria Kumar**, **Apurva Tadimeti**, **Amulya Tadimeti**, and **Saachi Basavaraju** from Girl Scout Troop 60609.

District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra recognizes Girl Scout Troop 60609 for Graystone Elementary project

By Denelle Fedor
Special to the Times

District 10 (D-10) Councilmember Arjun Batra recognized Girl Scout Troop 60609 for their Girl Scout project at Graystone Elementary.

Saachi Basavaraju, Ria Kumar and sisters, Amulya and Apurva Tadimeti worked together on their Girl Scout project restoring and updating the Community Garden at Graystone Elementary School for which they received a Silver Award.

Each girl scout contributed a minimum of 50 hours to improve the Community Garden which fell into disarray during the COVID-19 shutdown. They all had prior

experience and a fondness for gardening - including working with irrigation systems. They pulled weeds, planted new plants and herbs, painted the shed, and repaired the bench among other various improvements they made.

All the girls are freshmen at Leland High School; but not all attended Graystone as children. Saachi and Ria attended Graystone, but Amulya and Apurva went to Williams Elementary. When Ria attended Graystone, she would pick herbs from the garden which her mother used in her cooking.

Saachi, Amulya, Apurva and Ria took great pride revamping the
See SCOUTS, page 3

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

Times **Cover Stories****Bill 10***Continued from page 1*

use resources to help prevent and stop widespread drug abuse.

Senator Cortese shared that fentanyl deaths have increased 863% from 2018 to 2021 in Santa Clara County. Further, the senator shared that fentanyl was the cause of 20% of the deaths of young adults 25 years of age and younger. SB 10 is named after a 15-year-old young girl, Melanie Ramos who died of a fentanyl overdose in her high school bathroom in Hollywood. Melanie did not know she took fentanyl.

The senator received bipartisan support with 80 votes in favor and 0 votes against SB 10 to move Cortese's bill to Governor Newsom's desk for signature. Governor Newsom signed SB 10 into law on October 13, 2023.

In March of this year, Senator Cortese, called for an audit of the City of San Jose Housing Department's Homeless Program. Senator Cortese's request transitioned to a bipartisan proposal co-authored by Senator Rosilic Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), Assemblymember Evan Low (D-San Jose) and Assemblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom).

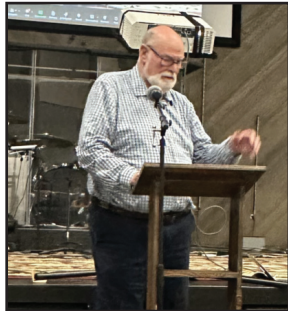
Cortese shared what prompted his audit request. "I went on a tour of Columbus Park in San Jose with Gail Osmer, a homeless advocate. I saw garbage that was not picked up, rats running around and unhoused people living in tents within the filth," Cortese explained. "I reached out to the City of San Jose City Manager asking her if she would support his request of an audit and she said she would. She also shared that the city has not spent any of the state funding at Columbus Park."

Cortese requested the California State Auditor to evaluate the City of San Jose's spending on unhoused individuals particularly with reports showing an increase in homelessness in San Jose. He shared that, "human suffering on our streets has persisted too long and we need to move unhoused people into shelters and provide supportive services."

Cortese originally asked that the audit be



Above: **Senator Cortese**;
below: **Jim Beall**



completed by September of 2023 so that any recommendations could be implemented through the state budget or legislation. However, the audit is now expected to be completed in December 2023.

The State of California gives approximately \$20 billion to cities in CA. for homeless resources. It was not known how much of the \$20 billion the City of San Jose receives.

Beall discusses homelessness

Jim Beall, former State Senator representing District 15 who is now an elected Director for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, continued with the topic of homelessness in San Jose.

In 2018, the *Martin v. Boise* Federal Case passed and preempts all local laws. This case established into law that an unhoused person cannot be punished for sleeping outside on public property if there are not adequate alternatives available.

As a result, the Santa Clara Valley Water Board (SCVB) urged Assemblymember Ash Kalra to introduce AB 1469 which would allow the SCVB to use Measure S, which is a special tax voters passed in 2020 that provides \$500,000 annually to the SCVB for the cleanup of homeless encampments and debris on the waterways.

Beall spoke about the importance of the governor signing AB 1469 as the passage of this bill will allow SCVB the authority to work cooperatively with the County and City in having designated places for the unhoused to sleep, so that the SVSB can legally and compassionately remove unhoused people from creek beds and waterways. Governor Newsom signed AB 1469 on October 10, 2023. This law goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

This writer asked Director Beall if he would lead a Town Hall Meeting in partnership with Times Media to review the Homeless Audits recommendation regarding the City of San Jose homeless. I suggested that the homeless monies the City of San Jose receives from the state (from the \$20 billion fund) be earmarked to pay for the recommendations put forth in the audit.

Cyber Knights*Continued from page 1*

seniors to cyberattacks by a notable 45 percent.

Backed by a tech caregiver certification from the distinguished American Air Force Association's cybersecurity division, the Cyber-Knights initiative was born. What began as a small-scale neighborhood awareness campaign swiftly morphed into a community-wide movement.

Over the span of 20 months, with strategic collaborations with the San Jose Parks & Recreation Department and CyberSenior.org, the team tailored educational resources. Their efforts reached 2,500 seniors across 60 percent of senior centers in San Jose, elucidating key cyber safety areas ranging from phishing threats to secure internet practices.

In recognition of these commendable volunteer efforts, the leader of Cyber-Knights was recently honored with the Gold Service Award by the congressional award team. The success of Cyber-Knights is attributed to its holistic approach—right from forging strategic collaborations to simplifying the labyrinth of cybersecurity terminologies for seniors. The commitment to seniors' digital safety remained non-negotiable, emphasizing clarity in communication and continuous content relevance.

Cyber-Knights' growth underscores the community's resilience in facing challenges head-on and the value of collective efforts. The organization's journey is a beacon, highlighting the importance of adaptability, community collaboration, and unwavering determination in catalyzing societal transformative change.

For more information, visit Cyber-Knights at <https://cyber-knights.org>

**Scouts***Continued from page 1*

garden together. They dedicated a plant bed to each grade at Graystone. Amulya shared that her favorite plant was lambs' ears because the plant is so soft. Other favorites are the geraniums because they smell so good. They planted a variety of herbs too. The plants and herbs were donated by the Home and School Club.

The young ladies hope that the children at Graystone can visit the Community Garden during breaks where they can feel and smell the plants and also pick some of the herbs to bring home.



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Valley Currents

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Valley Water holds groundbreaking to acknowledge completion of South County Recycled Water Pipeline

Valley Water held a groundbreaking event Oct. 4 to acknowledge the completion of the South County Recycled Water Pipeline Project.

The project expands the distribution of recycled water service to new customers in South Santa Clara County and supports future system expansion opportunities. The additional 3.5 miles of pipeline constructed will also serve as backup to the existing system to help ensure recycled water deliveries during emergencies or outages.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation awarded Valley Water a \$5.7 million grant to help reduce the

project's \$23 million cost.

With a hotter and drier climate and extended droughts, water supplies are becoming scarce. Recycled water is a drought-resistant supply of water used for landscaping, agriculture and industrial needs, which helps increase drinking water supplies in Gilroy, Morgan Hill and the unincorporated area of San Martin.

Valley Water was joined at the groundbreaking event by its partner agencies, the South County Regional Wastewater Authority, the City of Gilroy and the City of Morgan Hill.

Local students among National Merit semifinalists; High school seniors vying for \$28M in scholarships

By William Bellou
Publisher

Dozens of students from public and private high schools in Almaden Valley are semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The Almaden students are among 16,000 semifinalists across the nation — less than 1% of the nation's high school seniors — who will now be considered for more than 7,000 scholarships worth close to \$28 million next spring. Nearly 95% of semifinalists are expected to be named finalists, and approximately half of those finalists will earn a scholarship.

More than 1.3 million high school juniors in 21,000

high schools entered the competition through the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, or PSAT, which serves as the initial screening of program entrants. The semifinalists announced last week include the highest-scoring students in each state.

National Merit semifinalists from Leland High School in Almaden Valley are Claire Chen, Leonard Chen, Justin R. Etter, David Kim, Inseo Kim, Justin Lai, Daniel Lin, Breanna Lu, Sucheer Maddury, Medha Nemani, Sandhya Ram, Ethan Ransing, Imran Shaikh, Norah Shen, Kristie Sue, Anson Ting, Darren Tsai, Lexi Xu and Jeannine Yu.

Semifinalists from Bellarmine College Preparatory are Samuel Y. Arthur, Eddie J. Bae, Aneesh Bairagi, Saketh R. Dasaradhi, Gavin L. Griffin, Andrew S. Huang, Surya S. Krishnapillai, Aswin Surya, Andrew Wen and Daniel M. Yim.

Editor's note: Semifinalist Claire Chen is a contributing writer for the Almaden Times newspaper.

PHOTO OP



BEAUTIFUL DAY - For more than four years, Beautiful Day, sponsored by Westgate Church, has worked to enhance the Almaden Valley area. The group's final major project is the Camden and Almaden intersection, with enhanced landscaping for improved vehicle and pedestrian visibility, and new paint. Hundreds of volunteers came out to complete the project.



Almaden Times

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Times **Local News**

CITY COUNCIL

Via del Oro property to host 150 beds as an emergency interim housing site

By Arjun Batra

On Tuesday, the council agreed to accept the offer of John Sobrato, philanthropist, to use his property at Via del Oro (in D2/D10 EIH concentrated zone), for five years, to build 150 beds as an emergency interim housing site (EIH). Once opened, this EIH could help as many as 1,500 individuals transition into permanent housing.

The community has made it clear that by accepting this EIH, they expect their neighborhood currently with two encampments to improve. I agree. For this project to be truly successful, it must have a positive impact on the surrounding community/area. To achieve this, the Mayor and I wrote a memo asking for some concrete steps which was approved unanimously by the council. The concrete steps, include:

- Collect and share before and after data on the condition of the neighborhood surrounding the Via Del Oro EIH site for the purpose of ensuring the neighborhood has actually improved.



District 10 Report
Arjun Batra
Councilmember,
District 10

- Deliver enhanced blight services for areas surrounding the Via Del Oro site starting immediately, prior to the opening of the new EIH. (Jimenez BD #23)

- Prioritize this EIH for those in encampments closest to the Via Del Oro site. City staff have committed to this, but we need to make sure this really happens when the site is opened.

- Prevent re-encampment of areas cleared once those in the encampments closest to Via Del Oro have been relocated to the EIH.

This is the beginning, and not the end of the process and I appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate these challenges together. With the backing of key figures, including Mr. Sobrato, and Joanne Price from Dignity Moves, I am committed to working with the community, the Mayor, my fellow city councilmembers, and city staff, in making the area around the Via Del Oro site an encampment-free zone. I firmly believe that together we are on the path to making a safer, cleaner community for everyone.



Downtown Ice will reopen this holiday season. San Jose Downtown Association File Photo.

Downtown Ice returns to downtown San Jose holiday season with new operator

Outdoor ice skating will return to downtown San Jose's annual holiday celebration beginning Nov. 17.

Special Ice, which operates many rinks throughout the US, has agreed to produce and operate the downtown San Jose skating rink in the Circle of Palms plaza this season, the San Jose Downtown Association announced Tuesday. The rink will operate from November through mid-January. Downtown Ice is supported by the City of San Jose.

"Downtown Ice is an iconic event that leaves a lasting impression," said Emery Lykins, president of Special Ice, based in Livermore. "We're excited to be a part of the rink's history, to contribute to this amazing city and hopefully usher in a revitalized future for the rink."

"I am thrilled to have our iconic ice rink back alongside all the many fun holiday-related activities in downtown San Jose that enrich families and people of all ages," said Alex Stet-

tinski, San Jose Downtown Association CEO. "More and more, families are looking for things they can experience together. We're in good hands having the largest producer of seasonal ice rinks in the state on board with us."

"People enjoyed roller skating, but we heard loud and clear that families and friends from all parts of Northern and Central California missed their tradition of coming to skate at our ice rink," said Tricia Lee McNabb, who has managed rink operations since 1997.

"It's increasingly important that Downtown Ice keeps coming back, especially in the wake of Raging Waters' recent closing," McNabb.

Nearly a half million people come to downtown San Jose to enjoy Downtown Ice, Christmas in the Park holiday displays, Winter Wonderland amusement rides, plus performing arts, concerts, Sharks hockey, museums and galleries, restaurants and shopping from Halloween through mid-January.

Downtown Ice is located at 120 S. Market Street, in the Circle of Palms plaza. Construction of the rink begins Oct. 2. Details including tickets, dates, hours and sessions will become available at sjdowntownice.com.

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See page 11, and call 408-494-7000 for more information.

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EVENT: Thanksgiving Celebration: Saturday, November 18th 3-5pm at the Almaden Community Center. Turkey Buffet dinner. Performance by the "With a Twist" singers. Tickets on sale, Wednesday, October 25th every MWF 8-10am in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

For more information, go to Almadenseniors1@gmail.com, or call
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Almaden Senior Association
at the Almaden Community Center
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Times **Local News**

Opera San José presents new production of Rossini's Comedy The Barber Of Seville November 11–26

Opera San José will continue its 40th anniversary season with an upbeat comedy for operagoers of all ages with Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

This new production by internationally acclaimed director Stephen Lawless, making his Opera San José debut, is subtitled, "The Useless Precaution." This opera buffa introduces the rascal barber Figaro (Ricardo José Rivera) who uses all his wiles to assist the love-struck Count Almaviva (Joshua Sanders) in liberating his true love Rosina (Nikola Adele Printz) from the clutches of her guardian, Dr. Bartolo (Dale Travis).

Conducted by OSJ Director of Music Joseph Marcheso, this comic masterpiece fizzing with entertaining hijinks and memorable melodies will play at the historic California Theatre in downtown San Jose for six performances. Filled with incomparable Italian music, a story featuring matchmaking, mistaken identities, and love at first sight.

"This classic comedy features some of the most iconic music in the world and has introduced millions of people of all ages to the joy and depth of opera, yet it remains a perennial favorite for the seasoned operagoer," said Opera San José General Director / CEO Shawna Lucey. "The story of the barber Figaro, and his schemes in smoothing the course of true love, returns with a splendid ensemble cast and whimsical production. This is an appointment with the barber you don't want to miss."

The vibrant cast of talented singers also includes Courtney Miller as Berta, Vartan Gabrielian as Basilio, Joshua Hughes as Fiorello and Michael Kuo as Officer. The chorus is comprised of Carter Dougherty, Andrew Fellows, Andrew Green, Glen Hall, Michael Kim, Eric Mellum, Michael Mendelsohn, Joshua Porter, and Nicolas Vasquez-Gerst.



Opera San José presents a family-friendly production of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," Nov. 11 – 26, 2023 at the California Theatre. Seen here in OSJ's 2011 production (L-R): **Torlef Borsting** as Dr. Bartolo and **Cathleen Candia** as Rosina. Photo by Bob Shomler

The creative team for this production is Joseph Marcheso (Conductor), Stephen Lawless (Director), Adrian Linford (Scenic Designer and Costume Designer), Thomas Hase (Lighting Designer), Y. Sharon Peng (Hair and Makeup Design), Johannes Löhner (Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master), and Michelle Ainna Cuizon (Assistant Director).

The Barber of Seville will be sung in Italian with English and Spanish supertitles, November 11-26, 2023 (performance dates/times below, including an added family-friendly matinee) at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose.

For more information or to purchase tickets (\$55–\$195), the public can visit operasj.org or call 408-437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm).

Two local residents named to Dean's List at Biola University

Sandee Carlson and Emily Starke of Almaden Valley have been named to Dean's List at Biola University.

Biola students are placed on the Dean's List to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

Carlson is working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a double minor in Biblical Studies and Spanish. Her passion is to walk alongside others and cultivate meaningful relationships, so she said she chose Psychology to better understand people and how they operate. Carlson worked for three consecutive summers in youth ministry.

Starke said, "I have been fascinated by infectious disease. After getting a master's degree, I look forward to a career in epidemiology, and hope to specialize in Disaster Management and Preparedness." Starke is currently working toward proficiency in French to translate several articles written during and about the 1918 flu pandemic.

"Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This



Sandee Carlson (left) and **Emily Starke**

honor signifies hard work, engagement, and investment in scholarship," said Dr. Tamara Anderson, Tamara Anderson, Senior Associate Provost.

Biola is a nationally ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. It was recently recognized as one of America's best colleges, earning a spot in the higher tier of the "Best National Universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges 2024 rankings.

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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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Symphony San Jose presents American Portraits December 2 and 3 at the California Theatre

Symphony San Jose presents five musical postcards depicting the vast beauty and diverse character of our nation December 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 3 at 2:30 p.m. at The California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose.



The program includes Ives' patriotic celebration from New England, Still's soulful southern soliloquy, Midkiff's Blue Ridge Mountain tribute, Shaw's homage to the fragrant orange groves of our home state, and Copland's famous western masterpiece.

This is the first appearance of a mandolin as a solo instrument on the series, and Midkiff's concerto (performed by the composer (Jeff Midkiff)), is full of foot-stomping, toe-tapping, virtuosic electricity that's just great fun to hear.



Soloist: **Jeff Midkiff**, mandolin (photo courtesy of Facebook)

Midkiff's Mandolin Concerto, "From the Blue Ridge," was composed and premiered in 2011 for the Roanoke Symphony and their Music Director David Stewart Wiley. The piece has been performed by the Rochester Philharmonic, Jacksonville Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Knoxville Symphony, Lancaster Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Shreveport Symphony, Williamsburg Symphony, Bryan Symphony, Northwest Florida Symphony, Symphony of Southeast Texas, Ohio Northern Symphony, Cal Poly Symphony, Carmel Symphony, Signature Symphony at TCC, Oak Ridge Symphony, Bryan Symphony, Lancaster Symphony, and the Yale Concert Band. Midkiff will make his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut performing the Concerto on July 23, 2023 at the Tanglewood Music Festival, Thomas Wilkins conducting.

THE PROGRAM

Charles Ives: Variations on "America"

William Grant Still: Darker America

Jeff Midkiff: Mandolin Concerto (From the Blue Ridge)

Caroline Shaw: Valencia

Aaron Copland: Rodeo

ARTISTS

Christopher Rountree conductor

Soloist: Jeff Midkiff, mandolin
TICKETS: Phone: 408.286.2600; Website: www.symphonysanjose.org

Email: jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org; Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

American Portraits artwork (left) courtesy of Symphony San Jose.

This is the first appearance of a mandolin as a solo instrument on the series, and Midkiff's concerto (performed by the composer (Jeff Midkiff)), is full of foot-stomping, toe-tapping, virtuosic electricity that's just great fun to hear.

San José Mayor and council members call for audit of San José animal care and services

San José's Animal Care Center (SJACS), which has experienced years of staffing challenges, is caring for a record number of animals amid a nationwide shelter crisis. Community concerns have been raised surrounding animal care and engagement with rescue partners and volunteers.

In response, San José Mayor Matt Mahan, Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei, Councilmembers Bien Doan, Peter Ortiz and Omar Torres are calling for an objective and independent assessment of SJACS.

"Our animals can't speak for themselves – but luckily we have dedicated staff, volunteers, rescue partners and advocates who speak for them," said Mayor Matt Mahan. "This audit will add another voice to the conversation – an independent voice to evaluate concerns, see how our shelter stacks up against industry standards, and make sure we are providing the best care possible while our animals wait for their forever home."

The goal of this audit is to understand where improvements can be made, and ideally result in what staff, volunteers, rescue



groups and the community all want: the shelter to be the best that it can be, and provide the best care possible to the animals it serves.

"This audit will ensure that the public can have confidence in the services ACS provides and that we are able to respond to the present crisis judiciously," said Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei.



Choir tour to stop at Emmanuel Baptist

The African Children's Choir 2023 U.S. Tour, which will make more than 50 stops across the country, will perform in San Jose at Emmanuel Baptist Church (467 N. White Rd.), Friday, Nov. 24, 2023 at 7 p.m. The African Children's Choir is more than just a choir. It's part of a larger, international, Christian organization called Music for Life, which provides thousands of impoverished children throughout Africa with the education, discipleship, and leadership skills needed to rise above their conditions so they can bring positive, lasting change to their families, communities, and countries. For a full list of tour stops, visit <https://african-childrenschoir.com/tour-dates>.

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San Martin Horsemen will host in December at Harvey Bear Park: Harvey Bear Ranch entrance at E. San Martin Avenue and 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 12 noon. RSVP or questions: toni.whedon@cbnorcal.com.

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Safeway Holiday Ice Rink presented by Kaiser returns to San Francisco's Union Square

Opening Celebration to take place Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 5 p.m.

Willy Bietak Productions announced the return of The Safeway Holiday Ice Rink in Union Square presented by Kaiser Permanente, open to the public daily from November 1, 2023, through January 15, 2024.

Set in San Francisco's iconic Union Square, The Safeway Holiday Ice Rink is the only outdoor ice rink in the City and is one of the Bay Area's favorite annual holiday traditions.

The season of outdoor skating and special on-ice events kicks off with an Opening Celebration on Wednesday, November 1 at 5 p.m. The Safeway Holiday Ice Rink's roster of events includes the return of the highly anticipated Drag Queens On Ice, Learn to Skate presented by Kaiser Perma-



nente, Simba Saturdays presented by Disney's The Lion King, Flashback Fridays presented by 80s+, Silent Skate, and Polar Bear Skate. Tickets are on sale now at www.unionsquare-icerink.com.

"Kaiser Permanente is pleased to sponsor the San Fran-

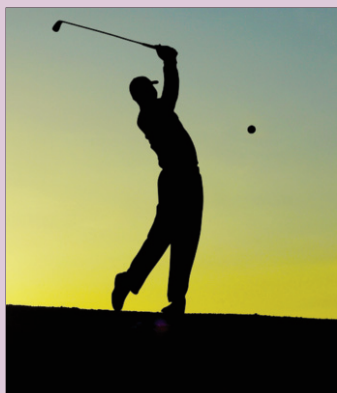
cisco holiday ice rink, located in San Francisco's Union Square, once again. This beloved and popular holiday tradition is a fun way to keep families active during the fall and winter months," said Tarek Salaway, senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente's Golden Gate service area. "Skating can improve balance and strength and is a great workout for cardiovascular health. We hope to see you, your friends and family on the ice!"

The hours for the Safeway Holiday Ice Rink in Union Square presented by Kaiser Permanente are 10 a.m.–11 p.m. daily through January 15, 2024, with special extended hours December 18–29 (8:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.) on weekdays. The rink will close at 9:30 p.m. on December 31, 2023.

Learn to Skate Presented By Kaiser Permanente Saturdays & Sundays | 8–9 a.m.

Report: 2023's 'Best Cities for Golfers'

Which U.S. cities are like a second home to the avid golfer?



To mark National Golf Lover's Day on Oct. 4, LawnStarter ranked 2023's Best Cities for Golfers.

The LawnStarter website compared the 200 biggest U.S. cities based on six categories. More specifically, they factored in public and premium course access, course quality, golfer groups, and climate, among 25 metrics.

See the 10 birdies and 10 bogeys of golf cities below, followed by key stats from the report.

Best Cities for Golfers

Rank	City
1	Scottsdale, AZ
2	Orlando, FL
3	Las Vegas, NV
4	Cincinnati, OH
5	Savannah, GA
6	Tucson, AZ
7	Los Angeles, CA
8	Birmingham, AL
9	San Francisco, CA
10	San Antonio, TX

Worst Cities for Golfers

Rank	City
1	Pasadena, TX
2	Paterson, NJ
3	Bridgeport, CT
4	Warren, MI
5	Miramar, FL
6	Santa Clarita, CA
7	Anchorage, AK
8	Garden Grove, CA
9	Orange, CA
10	Lancaster, CA

Key Insights:

Scottsdale Is King: For the second year in a row, the low round of the day goes to Scottsdale, Arizona, which ranked top 5 in 5 of 6 categories. Scottsdale blew away the competition, scoring a hole-in-one in Public Course Access, Premium Course Access, Training Access, and Course Quality. It also ranked No. 2 in Community.

The Perfect Storm: Florida-based golfers might feel they missed the fairway with only 2 Florida cities, Orlando and Tampa, appearing in our top 25. That's a bit of an eyebrow raiser for those familiar with Florida's reputation as the "golf capital of the world," thanks to legend Arnold Palmer. Florida cities were dinged for their Climate scores.

The Home of Golf: At No. 2 overall, Orlando, Florida, was the only city apart from Scottsdale, Arizona, with a top-3 ranking in at least 2 categories (No. 2 in both Premium Course Access and Training Access). Orlando also ranked top 10 in Public Course Access (No. 6) and Course Quality (No. 8). Orlando really is one of the most magical places on Earth — for golfers.

Golden Statement: California and Arizona each have 5 cities in the top 25, making them the most golf-friendly states on our list. California golfers will feel they won the match, however, with a total of 9 cities in our top 50 compared with Arizona's 6.

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Preserving Our Heritage

Holidays at the Ainsley House Nov. 16 – Dec. 21

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Ainsley House is getting ready to open this holiday season with Holiday events for the whole family, including Holiday Teas & Tours, Holiday Boutique, Evening Open Houses, and Photos with Santa Nov. 16 - Dec. 21.

The Ainsley House, located in Campbell, CA, will be decorated with the theme Christmas Cravings. Discover how each room in the House is inspired by favorite Holiday cravings. You will find a gingerbread room, candy cane corner, a Christmas Spice spectacular, and more.

Tours

Tours through the Ainsley House will be unguided and self-paced. The Ainsley House and Boutique will be open Thursdays-Sundays, from 11 am-3 pm beginning Nov. 16; closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Tour admission is \$10 for adults (18-64), seniors (65+) \$8 youth age 7-17 \$6, Museum members are free. The Holiday Boutique is located in the Carriage House as well as in several rooms on the first floor of the Ainsley House.

In the Boutique you will find unique seasonal gifts, ornaments, jewelry, scarves, and much more. The Boutique will be open during public visiting hours.

The Campbell Museum

Foundation's annual Holiday fundraiser: Holiday Teas and Tours will take place December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10. Seating will take place at 12pm. The tea menu includes finger sandwiches, champagne,



a special Ainsley blend tea, and tasty treats in the Carriage House, followed by a self-guided tour of the Ainsley House. Admission is \$60/ General Public and \$55/ Museum Member.

Admission proceeds go toward supporting education programs and preservation efforts at the Campbell Historical Museum and Ainsley House. Reservations are required for the teas and can be made at www.campbellmuseums.com. Reservations for the Holiday Teas and Tours are open now.

Santa Claus will make a special appearance at the Ainsley House on Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m.-12pm. He will greet families and kids in the Sunporch room of the Ainsley House surrounded by a decorated Holiday scene. Reservations to take photos with Santa will be 9a.m.-10am, 10 a.m., 11a.m. and 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

While families wait to see Santa, there will be hot chocolate and holiday craft tables. Santa reservations can be made at www.campbellmuseums.com and admission is \$10 per family.

One of the best ways to see the Ainsley

House decorated for the Holidays is to attend one of two evening Open House events. The Open House events at the Ainsley House offer the public an opportunity to enjoy the holiday decorations at night, with live music in the Ainsley living room and light refreshments in the Carriage House. The Open House events take place 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17 and Thursday, December 21, 2023. Admission is \$15, \$10 for Museum members; children 17 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Carriage House the evening of each event.

Campbell Museum Foundation

The Campbell Museum Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, supports the Campbell Historical Museum & Ainsley House and by providing volunteers and financial assistance to support educational programs. The Foundation offers memberships featuring free admission to both museums, invitations to special events and openings, quarterly newsletter, and a discount at the museum stores.

For more info, visit www.campbellmuseums.org.

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Prompt Engineering

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:

Prompt Engineering

Prompt engineering is a mode of interaction between a human and a large language model that lets the model generate the intended output. This interaction can be in the form of a question, text, code snippets or examples.

An AI model can provide several outputs based on how the prompt is phrased, which can be as simple as a word or as complex as a paragraph. The prompt’s objective is to provide the AI model with sufficient information so it can produce output pertinent to the prompt.

In short, prompt engineering acts as a placeholder where the inputs are fed to generative AI applications, such as chatbots.

Why do AI models need Prompt engineering?

Prompt engineering has relevance across multiple AI use cases like text generation, language translation, providing informative responses to questions. Some of the needs of Prompt Engineering are listed below:

- **Accuracy of responses:** An effectively created AI prompt conveys a user’s intent to the AI model, which in turn generates precise, accurate and useful responses.

- **Enhanced performance:** When prompts are used effectively, it saves time and resources because user tasks are finished quickly, increasing output and performance.

- **Better user experience:** Well-crafted prompts optimize the user experience by letting users easily extract the desired information from the AI model. This improves the user experience and the perceived value of AI systems.

- **Enhanced decision-making:** Users can make informed decisions more quickly if they receive timely and accurate information via effective AI prompts. This can benefit both individual productivity and organizational decision-making processes.

How does it work?


Whenever an AI model is given a prompt, it goes through the patterns it has learned in its training data -- which can include large data sets -- to generate a response that’s contextually relevant to the input. This process is referred to as inference and involves computing the probabilities of various word sequences and correlations based on both the prompt and the training data.

For a prompt to successfully generate the desired output, it must be highly specific. For example, a prompt such as “Write an essay” will produce generic results. However, offering precise details such as the essay type, topic, tone, target audience and word count generates the desired output. Specificity in AI prompts also removes the chances of inaccurate responses.


In next week’s article, we shall go into the details of creating these Prompts. So stay tuned!

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.



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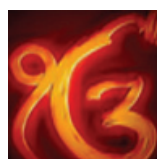


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The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching 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

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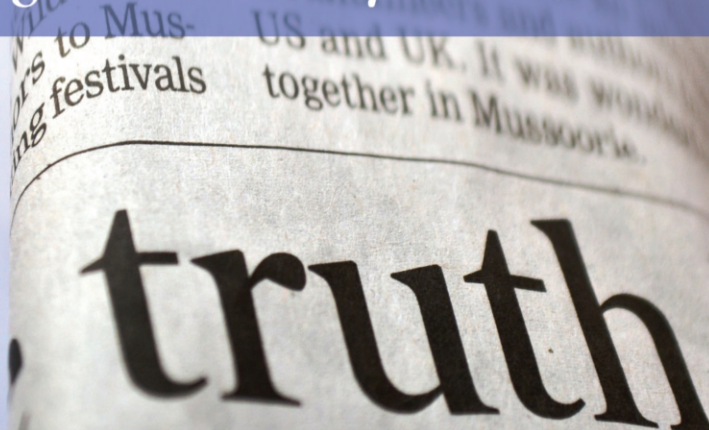
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