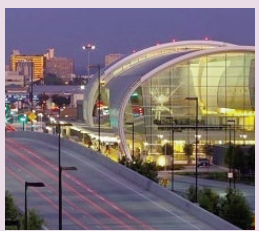


Holiday season gets off to a great start at San José Mineta International Airport
SEE PAGE 4



Cops try to nab thieves
San Jose targets retail theft with new police unit
SEE PAGE 7

Santa Clara County education office earns an 'F', unions say
SEE PAGE 9



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Times

DEC. 8 – DEC. 21, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 25

Winter Wonders of San Jose: Sacred Heart charitable scavenger hunt for a cause

Sacred Heart Community Service (SHCS), a 59-year-old anti-poverty nonprofit, invites local residents to immerse themselves in the festive spirit with the Winter Wonders of San Jose's civic and cultural gems.

Sacred Heart's charitable scavenger hunt not only promises fun but also aims to make a significant impact on the community happening now through Friday, December 14th. Participants are invited to embark on a journey across the city, donate, and receive discounts from participating retailers.

Scavenger Hunt locations include Enchant Christmas at the San Jose Earthquakes stadium, Broadway San Jose, LifeSport Fitness, Narrative Fermentation, Crema Coffee, and AJI at The Signa Hotel.

During this charitable scavenger hunt, the San Jose community is rallying together to provide holi-



day meal boxes and toys for over 12,000 residents.

Participants are encouraged to make a difference by donating canned food and unwrapped toys or making a financial contribution. To sweeten the deal, select scavenger hunt locations are offering exclusive discounts. Simply show

them your donation to avail yourself of these special offers.

For more information and to get involved, visit sacredheartcs.org/holidays23 or contact Sacred Heart's Director of Communications and Special Events, Demone Carter, at demonec@sacredheartcs.org.

El Niño could be 'historically strong' for California

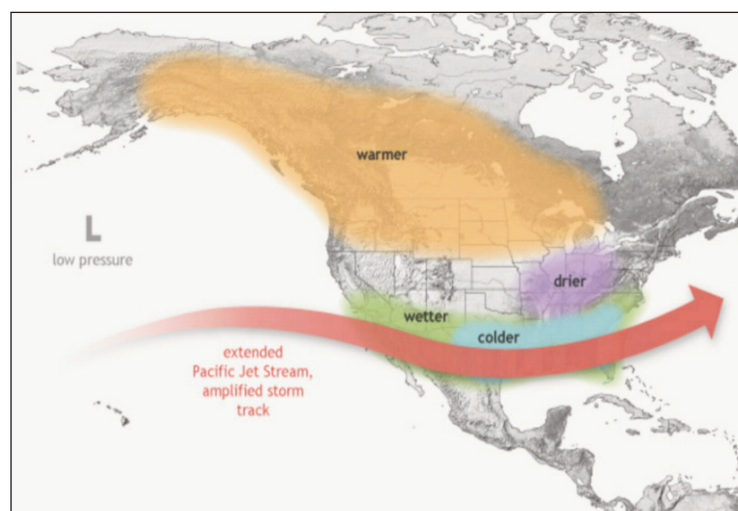
By William Bellou
Publisher

Past El Niño years will unlikely determine what this winter will look like, according to the National Weather Service, because conditions this year are not typical.

An El Niño was declared this past May, which means sea surface temperatures are warmer than normal in the equatorial eastern Pacific.

This region of the ocean typically drives large-scale atmospheric patterns that impact us locally, said Courtney Carpenter, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Here's what El Niño conditions mean for California, and what meteorologists predict winter in the northern parts of the state will be like, as of late November:



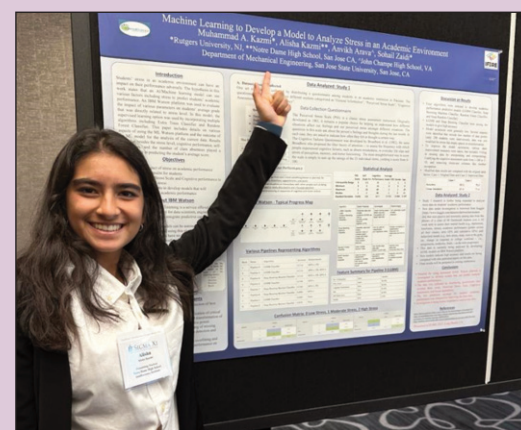
In the past, Northern California has recorded anywhere from very dry to very wet winters during El Niño periods. Conditions in this part of the state typically lean toward wet or near normal, Carpenter said, but the region has still seen some very dry El Niño winters.

Above normal snowfall during moderate and strong El Niño winters is typical at higher elevations, she said.

Probabilities

The probability of El Niño lasting through winter is 100%,
See EL NINO, page 5

Alisha Kazmi displays her research paper which used AI/Machine to figure out what impact stress has on academic performance. Kazmi, who attends Notre Dame High School, presented her research at the SigmaXi/iFore conference held recently in Long Beach, CA.



Alisha Kazmi uses AI to figure out what impact stress has on academic performance

By William Bellou
Publisher

Alisha Kazmi used AI/Machine to figure out what impact stress has on academic performance.

Kazmi, who attends Notre Dame High School in San Jose, participated in the SigmaXi/iFore conference held Nov. 10-12 in Long Beach, CA. Sigma Xi is the Scientific Research Honor Society.

The three-day annual conference welcomed scientists, engineers, students, artists, and supporters of science worldwide to participate in discussions and demonstrations of excellence in the research enterprise.

"Students' stress in an academic environment can have an impact on their performance adversely, Kazmi said. "The hypothesis in my work states that an AI/Machine learning model can use various factors including stress to predict students' academic performance."

An IBM Watson platform was used to evaluate the impact of various parameters on students' average grade that was directly related to stress level. In this model, the supervised learning option was used by incorporating multiple algorithms including Extra Trees Classifier and Random Forest Classifier.

Kazmi's paper includes details on various aspects of using the ML Watson platform and the outcome of the ML model for the analysis of the current data. Results show that besides the stress level, cognitive performance, self-study hours, and the number of class absentees played a dominant role in predicting the student's average score.

Attendees present, connect and collaborate

Attendees to the conference presented, connected, and collaborated on diverse ideas through symposia, panel discussions, workshops, individual presentations, student tutorial sessions, and networking events.

This is the second year for the Society's new IForE conference, which replaced the previously held Annual Meeting & Student Research Conference with its 2022 debut in Alexandria, Virginia. The move to the West Coast for 2023 will continue an initiative to reach more of the international research community in different parts of the country and across the globe.

The development of IForE '23 is being led by Sigma Xi's Fiscal Year 2024 President, Dr. Marija Strojnik, Executive Director and CEO Dr. Jamie Vernon, and the IForE planning committee, including volunteer members and Sigma Xi staff.

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Holiday season gets off to a great start at San José Mineta International Airport

With the rise in passenger traffic to and from Silicon Valley, San José Mineta International Airport (SJC) anticipates a busy holiday season ahead.

“Even with our reputation for being the best and most reliable Midsize U.S. Airport, as named by the Wall Street Journal, the travel during any holiday season can feel a bit overwhelming,” said SJC Director of Aviation John Aitken. “With a little advanced planning, holiday travel through San José Mineta International should be just as fun as your vacation.”

To enhance passengers’ experience during this season, SJC recently introduced festive decorations and musicians in the terminals during peak times starting.

Improved parking

SJC has improved its parking services with an expanded Online Parking Reservation System and the new Future Wash exterior car washing service. Travelers can reserve and pay for parking online, as well as book a waterless car wash in the Airport’s Hourly, Daily and Economy parking

Valley Currents

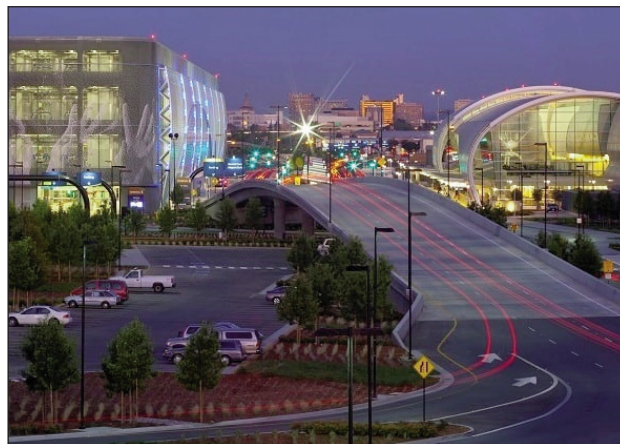
cur | rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

lots. Waterless car washes are environmentally friendly and use minimal amounts of water per car, in most cases less than one cup. Plus, our friends at Future Wash use eco-friendly products with only biodegradable ingredients. This means no harmful chemicals on the ground or your car.

Given the high demand during peak periods, parking reservations are strongly recommended. For parking inquiries, SJC’s parking services team is available at (408) 441-5570.

Arrive Early

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) advises travelers to arrive at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours prior to international flights. However, SJC suggests arriving early, particularly during the holiday rush, to enjoy new dining options such as San José Mac + Cheese Kitchen, Dunkin’, a newly upgraded Peet’s Coffee in Terminal B, as well as The Club SJC.



Speed Up Security with TSA Precheck and/or CLEAR

To expedite security clearance, travelers can enroll in TSA Precheck and/or CLEAR, available at both SJC Terminals and other airports nationwide.

Accessible Services and TSA Cares

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experience it is a priority at SJC. Passengers are encouraged to check the list of Accessible Services SJC offerings, the TSA Cares program and select the one that best suits their needs.

Use Cellphone Waiting Areas or Park for Airport Pickups

For airport pickups, SJC advises using Cellphone Waiting Areas or parking in the nearest hourly lot, as waiting at terminal curbs is strictly prohibited to maintain traffic flow.

Need more information before traveling through SJC? Contact SJC at info@sjc.org or (408) 392-3600.

Check-In

To streamline the check-in process during peak travel times, online check-in is recommended up to 24 hours before departure. Most airlines allow customers to pay for checked baggage in advance online, which speeds up the process at the ticket counter. Travelers with only carry-on luggage can skip the ticket counter entirely with online check-in.

Pack Smart

In preparation for security screening, travelers should familiarize themselves with TSA’s travel tips and keep holiday gifts unwrapped for poten-

The 40th Anniversary Celebration of “THE CHRISTMAS GIFT TO SAN JOSE”
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December 8-10, 2023

Friday, December 8 @ 7PM
Saturday, December 9 @ 2PM & 7PM
Sunday, December 10 @ 11AM (2nd half only)
Sunday, December 10 @ 2PM & 7PM



The Christmas Gift is a 90-minute musical production featuring Christmas songs & Christmas characters including Rudolph & Frosty! At the heart of the musical we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Reason for the Season and Savior of the World.

NO reservation or tickets required

LOCATION: Foxworthy Baptist Church
1774 Foxworthy Ave. San Jose 95124

Questions? Message @ 408-269-1212



Times **Local News**

Builders remedy

By Arjun Batra

District 10 Councilmember

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. As some of you may know, there are several development projects in District 10 that have been filed under what is referred to as the “Builders Remedy.”

What is the Builder's Remedy?

In California, the builder's remedy means that if a city doesn't plan enough homes as required by the state, it must approve any housing project meeting affordability criteria, like having 20% low-income homes. This is enforced under the California Housing Accountability Act, preventing cities from using zoning standards to reject qualifying projects. To qualify for the “Builder's Remedy”, the housing development project must provide 20 percent of its units for lower-income households or 100 percent for moderate-income or middle-income households.



District 10 Report
Arjun Batra
Councilmember,
District 10

The City's Response

A local jurisdiction can deny a qualifying project if both of the following criteria are satisfied: (1) the project is inconsistent with the jurisdiction zoning ordinance and general plan land use designation, and (2) the jurisdiction has a housing element in **substantial compliance** with State Housing Element Law. On June 20, 2023, the City Council adopted a resolution finding that our Housing Element does substantially comply with State law. Therefore, based on this resolution, the city has determined that any developments submitted after June 20, 2023, are not eligible for the “Builders Remedy” and must comply with the city's zoning ordinance and general plan land use designations.

To date, eighteen (18) applications have been submitted under the “Builder's Remedy.” The more significant proposed develop-



ments (e.g. 244 units on Gallup Drive & 80 units at Glider Elementary) have been informed they do not qualify and must proceed via the standard development application process.

Based on the information I have been provided by our Planning Department, similar to the proposed developments on Gallup and at Glider, the majority of applications filed under the “Builders Remedy” will still be required to comply with:

1. The City's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance;
2. CEQA and requirements for a Site Development Permit (along with other permits/approvals as appropriate, e.g., Demolition Permit, Tree Removal Permit, Grading Permit, and Building Permits);
3. The Citywide Design Standards and Guidelines; and
4. On-site posting requirements on the proposed project frontage.

This doesn't stop developments; it just means they have to follow the usual rules and regulations.

Moving Forward

The bottom line is that the city's development standards are not altogether null and void under the “Builders Remedy,” particularly if the city's plan to build housing is in “substantial compliance” with state law. At this time the city is processing these applications under the presumption that it has been in “substantial compliance” since June 20th. However, because this law is untested, circumstances can change; so, it will be important for my office to remain vigilant and monitor the situation.

For now, though, it is safe to say the city may have lost some of its power to regulate development, but it is not powerless. San José will still have meaningful oversight of its housing development under city regulations.

El Nino

Continued from page 1

Carpenter said. The conditions are anticipated to last through spring, with a 62% chance conditions will last through April to June 2024.

As it stands now, the probability of a strong El Niño in California is 75 to 85%, she said, with an over 35% probability of a “historically strong” El Niño that rivals 1997-1998 and 2015-2016.

A strong El Niño records surface water temperatures warmer than normal, the weather service said. The further the sea surface temperatures are away from normal, the stronger the El Niño event is said to be.

“We talk a lot about these extreme events occurring, but we've never really seen ocean temperatures this warm,” Carpenter said. “How that affects our storm pattern here locally remains to be seen.”

All of these factors mean meteorologists are going to be less reliant on past El Niño years to tell them what's going to happen this winter, she said.

“Any single storm can produce impacts — as we know — from strong winds, heavy snow and flooding either at the local scale or across the state.”

Times **Local News**

Choir of Foxworthy Baptist Church celebrates 40 years of sharing *The Christmas Gift* musical show Dec. 8

Starting December 8, the Choir of Foxworthy Baptist Church will celebrate 40 years of sharing *The Christmas Gift* San Jose musical production with the local community at their church located at 1774 Foxworthy Avenue in San Jose.

In 1984, Pastor Don Fugate, and his wife, Diann had a dream of sharing a musical Christmas gift with the community. That year, *The Christmas Gift*, The San Jose musical production, was presented multiple times at The Montgomery Theater in downtown San Jose. By the third year, the production had moved to The Civic Auditorium.

Since the church didn't charge

admission, they could only reserve one night in 1987 and instead, made the decision to transform the church auditorium into a theater, complete with proscenium and curtain, where they presented the musical 8 times over two weekends. That plan has remained in place every year since then.

Major milestone

This 40th anniversary production marks a major milestone for the church and its singers. There are still five singers who have participated in all previous productions.

In the first half of the musical, the choir sings many favorite Christmas songs including *White Christmas*,



Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland and *Snow*. There is always a "Children's Medley" that features favorite Christmas characters like Frosty, Rudolph and the Grinch. There are also comedic videos included in the production; even

falling snow!

During the intermission, the audience is treated to homemade cookies, coffee, tea and punch.

The second half of the musical centers on the manger and the birth of Jesus. Through songs and Scrip-

ture, the Christmas story is vividly portrayed. Pastor Don Fugate shares a brief Gospel presentation and sends the audience home with a smile on their faces and joy in their hearts.

Even during the COVID shutdown in 2020, *The Christmas Gift* to San Jose was still presented to the community. The choir videotaped their production and showed it daily in December on the church's website, on Facebook, YouTube and on CRE-ATV. There were over 8,000 views of the musical that year!

Over the past 39 years, more than 80,000 people have attended the musical production and it has been enjoyed by multiple generations. Children who attended those early productions are coming back with their children. Multiplied thousands have prayed the "Sinner's Prayer" with Pastor Don and have committed their lives to Jesus Christ.

356 singers and cast members have been part of *The Christmas Gift* to San Jose through the years. In honor of the 40th anniversary, they will have a special Alumni Banquet at Orchard City Banquet Hall on Thursday, December 7th. The church is inviting all former cast members to join them for the banquet and to sing with them on Opening Night.

This year's free performances will be shared 6 times over the weekend of December 8-10; Friday, December 8th @ 7pm; Saturday, December 9th @ 2pm & 7pm; Sunday, December 10th @ 11am; 2pm & 7pm.

Along with sharing the musical at the church, *The Christmas Gift Choir* will be singing at Christmas in the Park, at Santana Row and will be featured in the Los Gatos Holiday Parade.

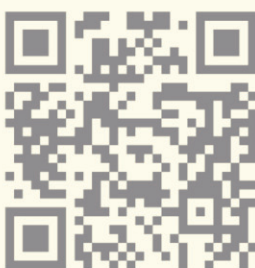
Pastor Don Fugate shares, "It has been an honor to share the joy of the season and the Good News of the Gospel with our community all of these years."

Editor's note: For further information, check out the church website at www.foxworthy.org or call Pastor Don Fugate at (408) 455-2948.

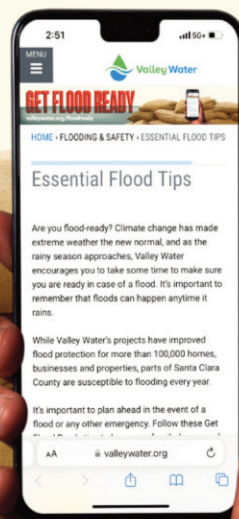
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Times Local News



The Gucci Store in WestField Valley Fair was robbed by an organized retail theft ring on Oct. 5.
Photo by Jason Torres Iraheta

San Jose targets retail theft with new police unit

Thieves hoping to snatch items off the shelves of San Jose retailers may have a tougher time this holiday season.

City policymakers this week launched a new police team to stop retail theft after the city saw a 25% spike in the crime from 2021 to 2022.

The San Jose City Council unanimously approved creating the Organized Retail Theft Detail, an investigative team within the San Jose Police Department to gather intelligence and track crime statistics and patterns to identify hotspots, catch criminals and reduce the rate of retail crimes. The team will include one full time and four part-time investigators.

Some shop owners say the timing is perfect with holiday shopping already underway. Jack Meir, manager of Yeti in Santana Row, said the store has lost almost \$1,000 worth of merchandise after being open only two months.

"All we have talked about in our holiday meeting so far was trying to hire more seasonal workers in order to have more personnel on the floor and have more lookouts," Meir told San José Spotlight. "Safety is the most important thing that we value."

In San Jose, 5,756 retail theft crimes were reported last year. And it's a national trend.

Retail theft across the country has cost \$125.7 billion in economic

losses and \$39.2 billion in lost wages, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In California, \$19 billion in economic losses were reported. The state created the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program in 2022 through Senate Bill 154 to prevent and respond to organized retail theft.

San Jose's police department received nearly \$8.5 million from the state to launch a three-year program. It was one of 38 law enforcement agencies in California to receive the funding. More than half the funds will pay for analyst salaries and overtime for sworn officers to proactively patrol shopping centers to deter crime.

Officers will partner with the district attorney to support prosecutions and work with retailers to arrest criminals.

"One of the big aspects is sharing knowledge and best practices," SJPD Lt. Brent McKim said during Tuesday's council meeting. "So if somebody hits Walmart, and we know that, then we can and we will alert the Target down the street that they might be hit as well."

Nearly \$3.5 million will fund technology including fingerprint scanners, forensic software and additional cars and radios. SJPD is also purchasing 300 license plate readers to help catch thieves at hotspots. San Jose uses

72 license plate readers currently that councilmembers approved in 2021 in response to the spike in retail crimes.

"It's a two prong approach: prevention and then investigation," McKim said. "I think the money in this grant will help us attack from both sides."

Councilmember Peter Ortiz urged police to focus on smaller, family-owned businesses in East San Jose – and not just major retailers like Westfield's Oakridge and Valley Fair malls. He said theft at mom-and-pop shops often goes unreported and forces business owners to lock their stores during the day or move to other parts of the city.

"They're starting to lock their doors to protect them from potential robberies or shoplifting, which gives the impression to the public that the business is not open," Ortiz said. "But it also creates an unwelcoming shopping experience."

McKim said the police department will scope out hotspots at smaller businesses.

Mayor Matt Mahan and Councilmember Bien Doan applauded efforts to work with prosecutors to ensure thieves are held accountable.

"We want to let people know that the city of San Jose is a safe place to visit, to shop, to live," Doan said. "And to let the criminals know we are going to prosecute."

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

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

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DECEMBER 16

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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Times **Local News**

Santa Clara County education office earns an 'F', unions say

By **Jana Kadah**
San José Spotlight

When it comes to the Santa Clara County Office of Education's performance, parents, teachers and residents are giving it a failing grade.

County education officials received all Fs on a report card drafted by the Association of County Educators and SEIU Local 521 earlier this month—and it's meant to sound the alarm. This move stems from concerns over whether the county is properly utilizing an excess \$85 million to address education issues and invest in students. The county's education board focuses on providing education and services to those who are moderately to severely disabled.

"This is not just a critique but a call to action," Riju Krishna, teacher at Opportunity Youth Academy, told San José Spotlight. "The fundamental problem is money is not going where it should. There's a lack of accountability and transparency, and there's a fundamental denial of the existence of issues."

Kelly Wylie, an office of education spokesperson, said there is \$50.6 million in restricted funding earmarked for specific purposes and \$49.2 million earmarked for des-

ignated purposes for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

"All funds are allocated for specified or designated purposes with no reserves available that are unused," she told San José Spotlight.

This is the first time a report card like this has been issued. It is split into three "subjects" that represent each of the county's education goals: improving access to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education; providing quality support to districts, schools, students and communities; and being a premier service organization. Each section has between three to four examples of where the county is doing well, and more than double the number of suggestions to improve conditions.

As the county office of education and its school districts continue to deal with low teacher recruitment, substitute teacher shortages and upticks in student behavioral issues, special education employees, known as paraeducators, are working alongside students with moderate to severe disabilities. These students often need more support as paraeducators simultaneously teach and help students take care of basic needs like eating. But the worker pool has yet to recover from COVID-19 pandemic layoffs. In addition, infrastructure is crumbling and there aren't enough special education programs to meet the demand, educators said.

Krishna said she has been trying to get the county to address infrastructure and staffing problems for nearly two years. Each time she has brought up issues, leaders have told her "we are doing everything we can and should."

"That essentially means they are doing nothing," Krishna said.

She said it took the county more than a year



Andrea Hightower's daughter playing in a dirt field at Martin Murphy Middle School. Photo courtesy of Andrea Hightower.

to make a bathroom compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which had significant impacts on students in wheelchairs. Krishna shared pictures from Martin Murphy Middle School where there was garbage and glass on the floor. Other sites, Krishna said, are also not up to standard, with the county's most vulnerable students playing in dirt fields surrounded by a metal fence.

Andrea Hightower, a parent who has a severely autistic, nonverbal child in the middle school, shared a photo of her 13-year-old daughter in a fenced off dirt corner of the cam-

pus, given only two mats to entertain herself.

"This picture confirms what I wish wasn't true. (The county) forced the most severely disabled kids onto the districts' campuses, then segregated them behind cage like fences in unsafe settings and called this inclusion," Hightower told San José Spotlight. "(Office of education) administration has given up on our most vulnerable kids."

Sarah Gianocar, SEIU 521 chapter president and occupational therapist with the office of education, said the majority of problems could be solved if the county just used the excess dollars in reserve. One example she gave is to use \$6 million to give paraeducators raises to retain employees.

Gianocar said dollars could be used to open more special education locations around the county, offering more full day programs where parents could leave their preschool-aged children for more than six hours.

"My husband and I are cooking meals for students in another program because they don't have hot food at school," Gianocar told San José Spotlight. "We've been trying to fix it for a year and (the county) keeps telling us that it's going to happen, but in the meantime, kids are going hungry."

Gianocar said the county is going to have to give back millions of dollars in grants because it didn't meet the requirement in the number of students being served.

The county office of education did not address this issue but is asking the federal government if it can rollover \$18.6 million in grant funding to the 2023-24 fiscal year for program improvements, Wiley said.

History San José to host History Park's Heritage Holiday Celebration!

The holiday season is upon us, and History San José is getting ready for the festivities!

For two weekends in December (December 9, 15, and 16), join San Jose History Park for some holiday fun! Whether you're looking for something to do with the family or a fun date night activity, they have something for everyone!

On Saturday, December 9 & 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., the park will once again host its Children's Heritage Holiday program. Enjoy festive activities, crafts, and seasonal treats that celebrate San José's diverse traditions.

Meet with Santa

Meet Santa and witness the enchanting display from Christmas in the Park Drive-Thru. Children's Heritage Holiday visitors will receive an exclusive 30% discount for the mesmerizing drive-thru experience at night. Celebrate the holidays with history, heritage, and joy!

And for its second year, History Park is bringing back the popular after-hours, adults-only event: Gin-

gerbread House Decorating Workshop: Decorate & Celebrate on Friday, December 15 from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. in the heart of downtown San José's San Pedro Square Market; a new location. Join this fun night out with friends, decorating gingerbread houses, sipping on cocktails, wine, & beer! Admission includes the gingerbread house itself and everything you need for decorating your dream gingerbread house! Tickets can be purchased with or without vouchers for two drinks at participating San Pedro Square Market bars.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: historysanjose.org/programs-events.



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.

Save the Date, Annual Soup Party: January 13, 2024, 12pm

Our members will make 4 soups for you to sample. Homemade soups are Corn Chowder, Taco Bean which are both vegetarian and gluten free, Split Pea and Greek Lemon Chicken. Sample them all and come back for more until it's gone. Served with fresh bread.

Ticket sales begin Friday, December 1, 2023, then every MWF 8-10am in the Almaden Community Center lobby. No sales December 18, 2023 to January 6, 2024 due to the holidays. Last tickets sales is January 8, 2024. Cost \$16, cash or check

For more information, go to <https://almadenseniors.org> or call Jeanne @408-425-5723

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

Symphony San Jose presents 'AUTOMATION' January 27 and 28 at California Theater

Automation is a cinematic concerto that explores the conflicts and connections between man and machine

Symphony San Jose presents "AUTOMATION" Saturday, January 27, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose.

Technology is part of our daily lives, but this program reminds us of the awesome power we have unleashed.

Adams' piece depicts a ride in a terrific sports car quickly regretted; Dukas' setting of the Goethe poem sees a young wizard meddling in things he doesn't understand; Schoenberg's new work includes a battle between cello soloist and hologram; and Strauss' epic tone poem was featured in the



original A.I. gone-wrong-movie, 2001: A Space Odyssey. Watch and listen as cellist Yves Dhar and his holographic Artificial Intelligence counterpart interact on stage with Symphony San Jose in a groundbreaking composition by Grammy-nominated, Emmy-winning composer Adam Schoenberg that features cello, halldorophone, electronics, orchestra, and projected visuals. Automation promises to be a visceral experience that will leave audiences talking about what it truly means to be human.

THE PROGRAM

John Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine
 Paul Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice
 Adam Schoenberg: Automation
 Richard Strauss: Also Sprach Zarathustra

ARTISTS

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor
 Internationally recognized for his energetic presence, imaginative programming, and compelling musicianship, Vinay Parameswaran is one of the most exciting and versatile young conductors on the podium today.
 Soloist: Yves Dhar, cello & halldorophone
 Yves Dhar plays the cello; he has played it in famous places (Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, NYC Fashion Week, United Nations, Rikers Island) and not-so-famous places (schools for special needs, children's hospitals, youth sports clubs,

retirement homes, designer boutiques). He has shared the stage with many celebrated artists (Itzhak Perlman, Christina Aguilera, Arijit Singh, Bert from Sesame Street). If you haven't seen him in concert halls, you might have heard him in films, TV, or ads.

TICKETS

SINGLE TICKET PRICES: \$55 - \$115

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, 10am to 5pm.

Where Have I Heard It Before:

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice was featured in Disney's 1940 film Fantasia. Mickey Mouse starred in the title role.
- The opening to Also Sprach Zarathustra was made famous in Stanley Kubrick's movie 2001: A Space Odyssey. So much so, that Elvis Presley began opening his concerts with the intro.

Concert Length: Approximately 1 hour 50 minutes, with intermission

Artwork: Courtesy of Yves Dhar and Symphony San Jose.

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Joe Simitian launches congressional campaign to succeed retiring Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

Simitian shows early momentum with over 130 local elected endorsements and over \$600,000 in federal campaign funds.

By William Bellou
Publisher

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian declared his candidacy for Congress in District 16 last week with the endorsements of over 130 local elected officials throughout the district.

Simitian said he's ready to be the strong leader we need on issues important to district voters.

"I will fight to reverse climate change, protect reproductive rights, and tackle the housing crisis," said Simitian. "On the Board of Supervisors and in the State Legislature, I took on tough problems and powerful interests and won. I'll do the same in Congress."



Simitian launched his campaign following the decision of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, who held the seat for over three decades, to not seek re-election.

"Our community has been served exceptionally well by Congresswoman Eshoo. I will follow her tradition and my own practice of prioritizing constituent service. I will advance the values and issues that are the hallmark of our Valley: innovation, inclusion and fairness," Simitian said.

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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.

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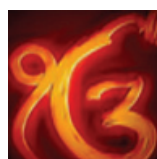


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GURDWARA**
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The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher"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

and site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

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

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

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



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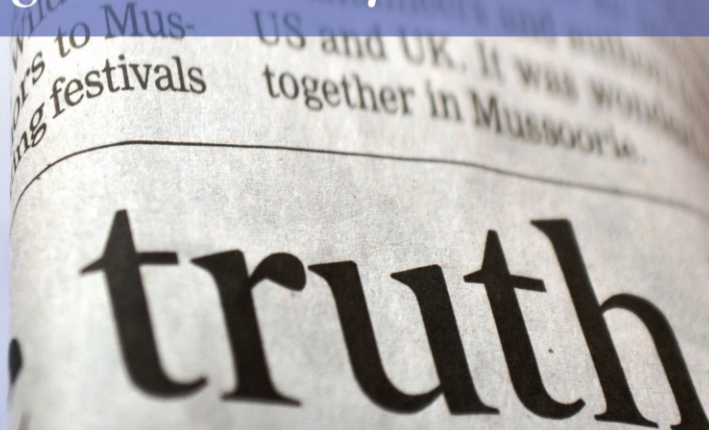
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