

Painful cuts are predicted to balance Santa Clara County's fiscal \$12.4 billion budget  
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# Times

JUNE 7 - JUNE 20, 2024 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 12

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**Selina Ge** of Leland High School is presented her first place award in the annual Congressional Art Competition for local high school from U.S. Representative **Jimmy Panetta**.

## U.S. Senator Panetta announces student winners of the 2024 Congressional Art Competition

*Selina Ge of Leland High School wins first place award*

By **William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

United States Representative **Jimmy Panetta** (CA-19) announced the winners of the annual Congressional Art Competition held for local high school students.

Selina Ge of Leland High School in Almaden has been named first place winner for her piece titled, "Say Cheese." Selina's artwork will be displayed in the United States Cap-

itol alongside winners from throughout the country.

This year, 39 students from across California's 19th Congressional District submitted original pieces of artwork to the Congressional Art Competition. Pieces covered an array of artistic mediums, styles, and subject matter. Of the submissions, Representative Panetta recognized eight outstanding pieces by local students during a reception in Santa Cruz.

"The arts provide students an outlet to tell stories about who they are, where they come from, and what

*See ART CONTEST, page 7*



## NORTHERN LIGHTS

This incredible night shot was taken by **Gabriela Florido** on Bailey Ave. on May 11. The Bay Area night skies illuminated purple with the glow of aurora borealis due to a massive and rare geomagnetic storm that made the dazzling natural phenomena visible farther south than normal.

## Lillian Fasano of Almaden Valley wins 2024 Calaveras County World Championship Frog Jumping Contest

*Fasano nearly breaks previous record when her frog "The Frog Father" jumps 20 ft. 5.5 inches*

By **William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

**Lillian Fasano** from Almaden Valley has won the 2024 Calaveras County World Championship Frog Jumping contest.

Fasano nearly broke the world record when her frog "The Frog Father" jumped 20 feet 5.5 inches. The current world record is held by "Rosie the Ribiter," a frog owned by Lee Giudici, that jumped 21 feet, 5.75 inches in 1986.

As one of the founding members of the Gustine Frog Team, Lillian has participated in the frog jumping contest along with her family for more than 60 years. She has done well in the past, coming in 2nd place and 3rd place, but she has never taken 1st place before.

"I finally got it, first place" said Lillian Fasano, "I told my son Frank, make sure not to give me one of those little frogs, he pulled out a bigger frog for me, and it looked ready, I immediately thought this could be the winner!"

*See FROG JUMPING, page 4*



**Lillian Fasano** of Almaden Valley won the International Frog Jump finals at the Calaveras County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee with her frog "The Frog Father." Photo credit: Smal-lz + Raskind

## Love of dogs turns into dog-walking business which provides donations for a good cause

By **William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

What began as pure love for one dog has turned into a successful dog-walking business in San Jose.

"My initial exposure to dogs was minimal, and my approach towards them was always trepid. But it all changed when my best friend got a puppy," said Advait Chugh, a junior at Archbishop Mitty High School.

While spending some time with his friend, Advait observed the puppy in close quarters and gradually began to cherish his time with the new puppy. The puppy grew into a friendly, healthy dog, and they experienced mutual love.

"Last summer, my friend's mom casually asked me to walk their dog while they went on a vacation, and that is when I started to walk dogs. I got paid for this and immediately knew I needed to put the money



towards a good cause," Advait said. "Seeing the homeless people in many parts of our city made me think of ways to help. After visiting California Governor's Office website link for volunteers, I decided to donate for the providing of hygiene amenity kits and socks. So, I drew up a personal goal to raise money and donate to this cause."

To reach his goal, Advait advertised by word of mouth in Evergreen and

on public forums. He also read various articles on dog behaviors specific to breeds and their ages. Younger dogs, for example, typically are friskier in their first and second year and need more attention than older dogs.

"I began walking two more dogs, and they took me as much as I took them! They get excited when they know I'm there to pick them up," Advait explained. "I had to balance my schedule and weather vagaries as well. I usually walk the dogs 1:1 around the neighborhood they are familiar with. A regular three-to-four-mile walk is vitally essential for a dog's health."

Advait has reached 90% of his monetary goal and plans to surpass it to gather more funds for the cause he cares about. He has donated more than 200 amenity kits since the fall of 2023. As much as he's excited about walking dogs, Advait feels content

*See DOG WALKING, page 7*

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



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Lillian on stage getting ready to jump her frog The Frog Father at the 2024 Calaveras County World Championship Frog Jumping contest. Photo credit: Smallz + Raskind



Lillian with her grandchildren following her win, (left to right) Joseph Fasano, Justin Fasano, Lillian Fasano, Lucy Fasano, Amanda Fasano, and Gabby Fasano. Photo credit: Smallz + Raskind



Lillian Fasano holding her frog The Frog Father with her sons Bob Fasano (left, winner 1998 & 2004), and Frank Fasano (winner 1979). Photo credit: Smallz + Raskind

**Frog jumping**

*Continued from page 1*

The Fasano family is the most decorated family in frog jumping history. The Gustine Frog Team, started in 1958, has a long line of champions, including Lillian's son Frank Fasano (1979), her husband Gene Fasano (1988), her son Bob Fasano (1998 and 2004), her grandson Justin Fasano (2017) and her great grand-nephew Nolan Moncref (2022). Lillian's sons Bob and Frank are Leland

High School graduates.

"The Frog Jump is a family legacy that has become a big tradition for all of us every year" Lillian said, "I'm so happy to see my children and grandchildren competing every year, I just hope they're not scared that I might break the world record and win the \$20,000 cash prize next year!"

More than 3,000 contestants entered to jump frogs at the 2024 annual contest. The famous Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee contest takes place the third weekend in May annually at Angels Camp, CA.

Editor's note: There are two wonderful stories written in the late 1800s which highlight humor on a frog jumping contest in a gold mining town in Calaveras County. "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" was written by Mark Twain in 1865 and Bret Harte authored, "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" in 1869. Today's annual event was inspired by the Twain story, and has been held in Angels Camp Calaveras County California since 1928. Other like events are held in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Washington, Maine, Missouri, Louisiana, New York, Wisconsin, and Manitoba, Canada.



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There will be fun games, popcorn and a photo booth to take photos to remember the day. Panextasy, a 2 piece steel drum band will entertain you with island sounds and familiar beach tunes. Wear beach attire: bright shirts, shorts, sandals, sun hats (no bikinis or speedos please).

Tickets go on sale June 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 to 10am in the ACC lobby then MWF from 8am-10am. \$22 members \$25 non-members. Call Jeanne @408-425-5723 for more information.

Social Media: For up to date information go to...

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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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**Le Jazz Hot Quartet opens JAZZ ON THE PLAZZ June 26 at Los Gatos Town Plaza**

Concerts run every Wednesday evening through August 21

By Sean Eastwood  
Times staff writer

Los Gatos Music and Arts presents JAZZ ON THE PLAZZ and Le Jazz Hot Quartet Wednesday, June 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Los Gatos Town Plaza, Main Street and Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Los Gatos.

This outdoor summer concert series presents World-Renowned Musicians in a friendly picnic atmosphere, so bring a picnic basket and a lawn chair and enjoy free seating. Reserved seating with specialty food and wine can be purchased.

Admission: General admission is free. Food vendors, craft beer, wine tasting, and even a few children's activities are part of the fun.

For paid Reserved Seating visit online: [jazzontheplazz.com](http://jazzontheplazz.com)

Le Jazz Hot Quartet, part of the Hot Club of San Francisco, is a talented ensemble celebrating Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli's Hot Club de France legacy. With

violin, bass, and guitars, they revive 1930s jazz clubs' vibe through innovative arrangements and original compositions by lead guitarist Paul Mehling. Their music, often dubbed gypsy jazz, has enchanted global audiences for 30+ years, praised by critics for its intricate brilliance.

Since its inception in 2002, Jazz On The Plazz has grown to attract thousands of people every year with professional line-ups that have included Diane Schuur, Mose Allison, Pete Escovedo, The Drifters and Rita Coolidge, and has made a name for Los Gatos as a destination for world-class jazz performers.

Editor's note: The festival features a new concert every Wednesday evening through August 21. All performances are free to the public. For list of all performances, visit: [jazzontheplazz.com](http://jazzontheplazz.com) More Information: call 520.360.1206.



Photo courtesy of Le Jazz Hot Quartet and Jazz On The Plazz. They perform worldwide, keeping this historic music alive and vibrant. [www.lejazzhot.biz](http://www.lejazzhot.biz)

**Painful cuts are predicted to balance Santa Clara County's fiscal \$12.4 billion budget**

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Painful cuts are predicted to balance Santa Clara County's \$12.4 billion budget.

County officials are trying to bridge a massive deficit through an infusion of new revenue and realigned costs to balance its fiscal year's budget.

Proposed changes could close about half of its \$250 million gap by shifting more patients over to Medi-Cal to reduce costs associated with the county's own primary care access program. A few other solutions include an increase in building permit fees, selling unused vehicles and other equipment and the use of restricted monies instead of taxpayer dollars.

County officials are expected to close the other half of the \$250 million deficit by reducing expenditures across all departments by about \$118 million. Most of the cuts may be achieved by eliminating vacant jobs.

County resources may be cut for the county's participation in a statewide child serv-

ices program known as First 5, which could result in reduced home visitation services to high-risk children, including those in foster care and children who are pregnant or parenting a child. Other departments seeing decreases include the District Attorney's Office.



Times **Local News**



First Place Winner, Selina Ge's piece titled "Say Cheese."

**Art contest**

*Continued from page 1*

they believe in," said Rep. Panetta. "Each year, I'm amazed by what these young artists create, and I'm thrilled to be able to share Selina's talents with visitors from around the country at the United States Capitol. Through their original artwork, these students reflected the beauty, bounty, and diversity of our home in California's 19th Congressional District and should be immensely proud of their artistic accomplishments."

The Congressional Art Competition is an annual tradition that began in 1982. More than 650,000 high school students have been involved in the nationwide competition with each congressional district submitting their winner's piece to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol.

First-place winners and a family member are invited to attend a special ceremony with other young artists from around the country in Washington, D.C. in June. This year's first-place winner will also receive a \$250 scholarship. The annual competition is open to all local high school students in California's 19th Congressional District.

The full list of winners and honorees for the 2024 Congressional Art Competition are:

- First Place: Selina Ge, Leland High School, "Say Cheese"
- Second Place: Ky Dahle, Carmel High School, "Nostalgia"
- Third Place: Christiana Kvitek, Carmel High School, "Human Matrix"
- Honorable Mention for Technical Skill: Zhuolin (Lynn) Fu, Stevenson School, "The Silent Wait"
- Honorable Mention for Drawing: Ivanna Kirsebom Del-sol, Monterey High School, "Sonder"
- Honorable Mention for Landscape: Jasmine Choi, Santa Catalina School, "The Day in the Hacienda"
- Honorable Mention for Composition: Lydia Vaz, Leland High School, "Content"
- Honorable Mention for Concept: Sophia Kemmerly, Carmel High School "Paranormal Party"

**Dog walking**

*Continued from page 1*

about contributing to the community.

"Advait has been walking our dog Zeus since last summer and he gets very excited at the mention of Advait's name as he enjoys his walks," said Suresh Sasidaran. "Advait is always on time to pick up Zeus and rest assured we can trust our dog with him."

*Editor's note: Here's the California Governor's Office website volunteer link: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/homelessness> To reach Advait, email: [rishichugh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rishichugh@sbcglobal.net).*

**TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK**

**Privacy Policy**

By **Shubhi Asthana**



**H**ave 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:

**Privacy Policy**

If you've ever signed up for a social media platform, created an email address, downloaded an app, or ordered something online— you've encountered a privacy policy. Let's study what is a privacy policy, that incorporates aspects of personally identifiable information (PII) which we learnt a few weeks ago.

A privacy policy is a legal document that explains how an organization handles any customer, client or employee information gathered in its operations. It will include how data is collected, stored, used, shared and protected and the user's rights in connection to the data. It is required by law in the European Union, the State of California and other jurisdictions.

A privacy policy should specify any personally identifiable information (PII) that is gathered, such as name, address and credit card number, as well as other information like order history, browsing habits, uploads and downloads. The policy should also explain if data can be left on a user's computer, such as cookies. The policy should disclose if data can be shared with or sold to third parties and if so, what the purpose is.

**When do I need a privacy policy?**

Basically, if you or your company collects any type of personal information, you need a privacy policy. Email addresses, names, birthdays, social security numbers and credit card numbers are all examples of personal information. Your method of collecting this information might vary. You may use a website, a mobile app, an eCommerce

site or emails to get the info. No matter how you get users' personal data, you will need a policy that explains what you're using it for.

**So how do you sign up the privacy policy?**

With the help of clickwrap (or click-accept) agreement, users sign an online agreement by clicking a button or checking a box. Privacy policies and Terms and Conditions are two of the most common types of clickwrap agreements that companies can add to sign-up pages, checkout flows, and login pages.

Clickwrap agreements have become a common, legally binding way to enter a contract with another party online. The transaction is comprised of a collection of trackable data points confirming that a user "actively assented" to an agreement through an action — in this case, clicking a button.

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

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Times **Local News**

**OpEd**

# Experts say New York court case is whacky!

What can I say as a person who has voted in the elections in our area for over 45 years, and whose family has had many generations of serving in U.S. military to help humanity, is that the current administration has harmed our judicial system so badly that I will now vote for Trump.

Let us look at the New York Trump trial. The case is so bad that nearly every legal scholar believes that the trial is whacky. Put another way, purely political. And no one has yet to explain what exact charge the jury found illegal. The judge told the jury they did not have to come to a majority conclusion on the illegal act, just pick one of four possible scenarios and he will count it toward a majority rule.

This is whacky!

New York has certainly messed up our legal system for everyone living in our country. Most everyone I spoke with is sad about this gut blow to our courts and that includes Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. They realize that a lawfare Pandora's box has been open to allow politically motivated court proceedings not only for our past and future presidents, but any American someone does not agree with. I believe the U.S. Supreme Court will need to step in and help out to ensure our courts and judges adhere to fair legal filings and rulings.

I'm now in favor of Trump because of the way he is being treated. I notice that even celebrities are speaking out saying this trial was unfair charging felony counts for an improper book-keeping error!

I believe this case is backfiring, as hundreds of millions of dollars are pouring into the Trump campaign at the astonishing rate of \$2M per hour. No one predicted that happening! Even Silicon Valley tech investor, Shaun Maguire, who in the past said he hated Trump and supported Hillary Clinton, posted on social media site X shortly after the verdict that "I just donated \$300,000 to support Trump."

Even though some of my family have lived there, I do not wish to visit New York or have any business dealings there due to the improper nature of trials there. You might say, I'm boycotting New York.

Whether you agree or not, why not write an OpEd for a local newspaper and voice your opinion?

Time for us readers to speak out on all things on how our country is being run. It's time to express our viewpoints much more so we can make a positive difference in what America stands for.

**Kevin Larsen**  
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**IN MEMORY**

## Lee Elias Esquibel

5/21/1934 - 3/25/2024

Founded Almaden Trout Farm

Resident of San Jose Lee was born in Denver, Colorado to Joseph & Pauline Esquibel, the 3rd of 11 siblings. Mom and Dad moved to California and settled in San Jose.



Upon graduating from San Jose High School, Lee attended San Jose State majoring in Biological Science.

After college Lee attended the Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, where he received his Ensign commission, he was eventually promoted to Lieutenant JG. After his service in the Navy, Lee continued active duty in the Navy Reserve for several years.

During his time in the Navy he met his future wife, Aiko. They were married in a traditional Japanese ceremony. After separation from the Navy, Lee & Aiko settled in the Almaden area of San Jose, where they had the Almaden Trout Farm. Customers could try & catch fish in their fishponds.

Aiko ran the business while Lee was at work. After a few years, they decided to close down the business.

Lee worked at the Dept of Environmental Health Services for Santa Clara County. He was very well liked by his fellow employees, which was fortunate since eventually he became their boss as Director of EHS and remained in that position until he retired. After retiring, Lee & Aiko frequently traveled to Japan and other points of interest.

In March of 2009, Aiko unexpectedly passed away.

Lee traveled to Japan for her internment. Upon his return home, he arranged a celebration of his wife's life with

See *ESQUIBEL*, page 10

*Silver Creek Academy*  
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Times **Local News**

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**REALTOR® clears up confusion about industry**

Editor,  
There has been a lot of misinformation in the news lately about pending changes coming to the real estate industry and what they mean for homebuyers and sellers. As a dedicated REALTOR® in Santa Clara County I'd like to clarify any confusion your readers may have.

Because of a recent settlement by real estate brokerages and the National Association of REALTORS®, two things are changing. First, properties listed on the multiple listing service (MLS) will no longer include an offer of compensation to buyer's agents. Second, homebuyers who want to work with an agent will need to sign a written agreement with that agent before touring a home. That means before homebuyers start their home search,

they'll need to discuss and agree with their agent what the agent will do on their behalf, and they'll need to decide how much and how to pay that agent.

Historically, nearly nine in 10 homebuyers have opted to work with a real estate agent or broker in what is possibly the most important purchase of their lives. That's because we help buyers and sellers navigate a maze of forms and complex paperwork; coordinate with lenders, inspectors, other agents, escrow companies, title companies, appraisers, and other professionals; and ensure that our clients' interests are represented in pricing, negotiation and closing.

The pending changes will not affect what makes REALTORS® valuable -- a commitment to work in their clients' best interests. REALTORS® throughout the state will continue to serve their clients every day and help make homeownership a reality for all Californians who aspire to it.

**Michelle Perry (2024 SCCAOR President)**  
Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS®



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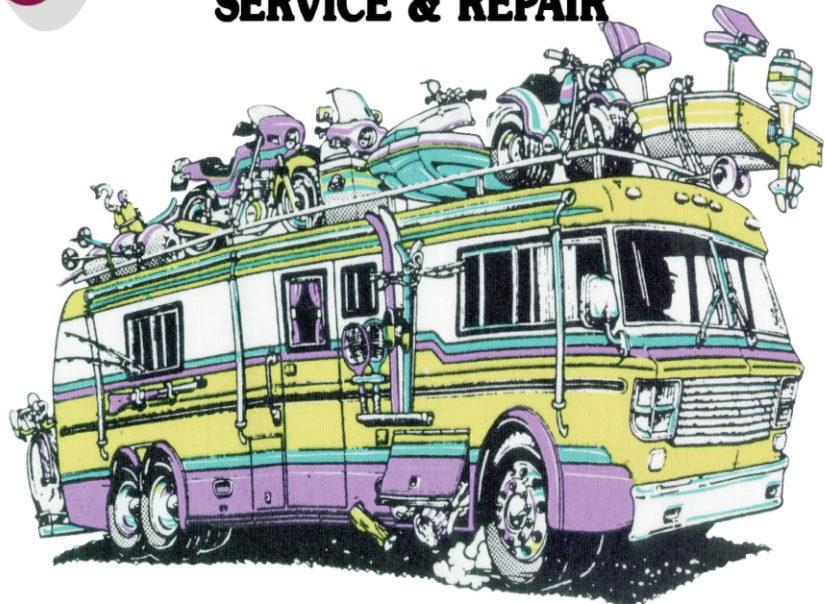
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Naz Barak, owner of Houdini's Smoke Shop for 11 years, said he thinks San Jose should focus on street drugs rather than enforcing a permit on smoke shops for illicit substances. Photo by Annalise Freimarck

## San Jose to crack down on illicit drugs in smoke shops

By Annalise Freimarck  
*San José Spotlight*

San Jose smoke shops will soon be monitored more closely by the city for unregulated drugs due to a new permitting system.

The San Jose City Council unanimously voted Tuesday to require an additional permit for smoke shops in the city, in an attempt to reduce the amount of unregulated drugs — including synthetic cannabis and psychedelic mushrooms — residents and children can access. San Jose officials said the permits are needed to hold shop owners accountable and protect vulnerable populations.

The city is ironing out the details, including permit cost and whether to use a conditional use permit, and plans to bring its findings to the Public Safety and Strategic Finance Committee by the end of the year or after the new year. The city is also considering a moratorium to prevent new smoke shops from opening until the permit process is finalized. San Jose's code enforcement department implements permits.

Councilmember Peter Ortiz, who represents East San Jose, spearheaded the initiative that led to the decision. He said he's seen a rise in illicit drugs offered at smoke shops across the city. He estimated about nine out of 10 stores have these items, and said it's dangerous for disenfranchised communities where drugs could end up in children's hands.

"Working families need to know that there's going to be accountability for these shops and what they sell and that they face consequences if they don't follow the rules that are set up to keep everyone safe," he told San José Spotlight.

Synthetic drugs, including synthetic cannabinoids, remain unregulated, meaning their ingredients and concentration may vary, which Poison Control considers dangerous.

Ricky Campo, who's worked at Bulldog Smoke Shop and Gifts Store since August, said a permit is good if it prevents children from accessing controlled substances. He said if it's an annual permit, he'd like it to be less than \$1,200 to keep costs affordable.

"It would probably be doable at a reasonable price, but if it's not realistic, is it even worth being in business?" he told San José Spotlight.

Many smoke shops already have permits issued through the city, which are required because they sell tobacco products. San Jose has 583 stores that sell tobacco products according to the code enforcement department, which covers stores other than smoke shops, including gas stations.

The decision follows the city's ban of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes in 2022, which officials said would prevent children from becoming addicted. San Jose also loosened cannabis restrictions last year, reducing fines on dispensaries that violate city policy.

Naz Barak, owner of Houdini's Smoke Shop for 11 years, said he understands the regulations because he was faced with a fine for an employee not checking a customer's ID. But he said people will still find a way to access drugs on the streets, which is the larger problem.

"They have to clean the streets with the illegal stuff, not the smoke shops," he told San José Spotlight. "If they crack down on all that stuff, then all that stuff will be selling on the street. People will want it more and there will be a dealer."

Ortiz said the smoke shops have to do better. "It doesn't help that we have storefronts here in our city participating in that illicit culture," he said. "We shouldn't be pointing fingers at others who are acting on this crime. We should all be holding ourselves to that higher standard."

### Almaden Senior Association

#### PICNIC "Beach" Party at the Community Center

Saturday, July 13th, 2024

12:00PM - 3:00 PM

\$22.00 members \$25.00 non members (cash or check only).

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Ticket sales June 21st-July 8th or until sold out. Sign up every MWF from 8-10am in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center.



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## Esquibel

Continued from page 8

family & friends. Lee and Aiko were married for 47 years.

Lee kept busy traveling to Japan and other destinations, working on the home in Almaden, going to Pilates exercise class, popping up at family gatherings much to the delight of all of us; some family member always asked if Uncle Lee was coming over. He had fun on Saturday nights playing Scrabble with his sisters and was especially proud of the plaque he pur-

chased, with our father & mother's information, placed at the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

Lee served his country with pride & honor, took great care of his wife Aiko, always spoke with respect and love of our parents, enjoyed time with family & friends and savored a cold glass of beer.

Lee is survived by siblings Robert Esquibel (Penny), Ronald Esquibel, Linda Garcia (Michael), Peggy Esquibel, many nieces & nephews; many great nieces and great nephews.

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on 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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