

San Jose could lose thousands of trees to invasive beetle
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Steinway Society celebrates 30 years of premier classical piano performances
SEE PAGE 7



SEPTEMBER 2024 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 9

Willow Glen *Times*

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Willow Glen High School bomb threat call

An “unverified” bomb threat was called into Willow Glen High School on Thursday, August 29 at approximately 2:45 p.m. resulting in a school-wide evacuation. The San Jose Police Department cleared the campus at 5:35 p.m. and reported that “no suspicious devices were located.”



The proposed Luke's Rooftop Beer Garden and Restaurant at 1093 Minnesota Ave. in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood. Rendering courtesy of E2 Architecture. The building would be adjacent to well-known chains such as Starbucks and Pizza My Heart.

Rooftop bar and restaurant envisioned for Willow Glen

By Vicente Vera
San José Spotlight

Willow Glen residents are one step closer to getting a new two-story restaurant and rooftop bar in their neighborhood.

A special use permit for the proposed Luke's Rooftop Beer Garden and Restaurant was approved at a San Jose Planning Director's hearing on Wednesday, where project representatives thanked city officials for their efforts helping move the project forward.

The proposed 4,765 square-foot project at 1093 Minnesota Ave. needed special review because the location is less than 150 feet away from residential areas — posing noise and traffic concerns from some in the area.

Russ Fukushima, co-owner of the restaurant Water Tower Kitchen in Campbell, proposed developing the rooftop bar after run-

ning Blush Raw Bar Lounge in San Jose's San Pedro Square for almost 10 years. The lounge was among the many restaurants to close during the pandemic.

The rooftop bar still needs approvals from the building and public works divisions, with city employees aiming to finish reviewing the project by Aug. 21. It's unclear when construction could start, but it will include the demolition of an existing building once home to the Minnesota Market convenience store.

“We appreciate the city staff's help to get this thing pushed through. A lot of hard work was involved,” architect Jeffrey Eaton said Wednesday.

The proposed 1,000 square feet of outdoor dining on the second floor terrace with an ambient sound system is about 100 feet away from the first nearby home — triggering the need for a special use permit. A

See **RESTAURANT**, page 4



Earlier this year, AchieveKids received an email from **Aneesha Janbandhu** (right), a Leigh High School student from San Jose, working to make a difference in her community by helping “underprivileged special needs kids by providing them with essential things they need to live a happy life or even just a smile.” She raised funds by working various jobs during her summer break and chose to use those funds to purchase new PE equipment for both of the Palo Alto and San Jose AchieveKids campuses.

Cambrian Park teen helps underserved and special needs community through local initiatives

Aneesha Janbandhu imagined “Science Academy” initiative, currently hosted at Bascom and Willow Glen libraries

By William Bellou
Publisher

Aneesha Janbandhu, a rising junior at Leigh High School, is the Founder and President of the non-profit organization, Sunshine and Hope Foundation, which focuses on helping underserved and special needs kids in the community.

Founded in 2022, the overarching goal of her organization is to bring happiness to the kids by providing much-needed supplies and participating in hands-on activities. In her personal life, Aneesha is drawn to science, specifically biology.

Aneesha's desire to work with special needs and underserved children in her community started from a volunteering experience with Animal Assisted Happiness (AAH). She witnessed first-hand the pure joy and happiness that simple animal interaction brought to her and those around her.

Aneesha has worked as a Youth Ambassa-

dor for Animal Assisted Happiness since 2021. The organization, a non-profit located in Sunnyvale, allowed Aneesha to see the gleeful expressions on the faces of the kids as they were holding the guinea pigs and the chickens in their laps.

“I think that was my aha moment,” said Aneesha. “It was magical! I will never forget it.”

Aneesha continues to help the special needs community by donating much-needed
See **FOUNDATION**, page 5



A Science Academy classroom

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 11

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Times **Community Notebook**



A two-story restaurant and rooftop bar could replace this shuttered convenience store in Willow Glen. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

Restaurant

Continued from page 1

vacant site zoned for residential use is just 44 feet away.

Laura Gahrahmat, owner of bookstore Hickleebee's right next to the proposed rooftop bar, spoke at Wednesday's hearing and said she was concerned only six parking spaces would be added for a potentially busy restaurant.

"The prior use for that building was a convenience store with people coming in and out," she said. "There isn't even adequate parking for full use of all the shops available on Lincoln Avenue."

As a nearby resident called into the meeting to express concerns over noise levels, architects said they made sure their sound system plan stays below the maximum allowed noise of 55 decibels at the residential property line.

"All the speakers are going to be oriented towards the interior of the patio area, and are going to be only used for low volume background music," Patrick Kelly, supervising planner, said at the meeting. "It's not intended for loud music, loud entertainment."

Alex Shoor, executive director of community and developer engagement group Catalyze SV, said nearby residents could be hesitant about multi-story projects like the proposed restaurant and rooftop bar because they are used to the area being a suburb.

"People are realizing that 'baby San Jose,' with its preponderance of solely single-family homes, is not the same as 'teenager San Jose' – which has to be a bit more smart and sophisticated in how it develops," he told San José Spotlight. "It's just a tough change for a place that was built really in the last 70 years."



IN MEMORY

David M. Long

July 22, 1946 – Aug. 2, 2024
Resident of Willow Glen

After experiencing declining health for several years, Dave passed away peacefully at age 78. A proud veteran who served in Vietnam, Dave was awarded the prestigious Bronze Star Medal.

Unfortunately, Dave's exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam contributed to the health issues that he fought for so long.

Dave grew up in Santa Clara with his sister Betsy and brothers Dick and Mike.

He attended Saint Francis High School prior to joining the Army. Upon his return, he graduated from SJSU and had a long career working at FMC, while he and his wife Vickie (Bertoldo) raised two sons, Matthew and Ryan in Willow Glen.

In recent years, Dave truly enjoyed connecting with other veterans at a weekly program provided by the Saratoga Day Care Center and the VA. Dave will be remembered as a quiet, kind man who was always willing to

help others.

A Funeral Mass was held August 28, 2024 at St. Christopher Church, 2278 Booksin Avenue, San Jose. Interment was held August 29, 2024 at California Central Coast Veteran Cemetery, 2900 Parker Flats Cut Off Road, Seaside, with full military honors.

Pauline "Polly" Vitkovich

September 24, 1929 - August 6, 2024
Resident of Willow Glen

Pauline "Polly" Vitkovich, passed away peacefully at the age of 94. Polly was born in Cleveland, Ohio on September 24, 1929 to Caroline and Tony Agnello.

She met the love of her life, Henry, they married, and honeymooned in California. The Willow Glen area became their forever home for 71 years.

Polly was a devoted mother who gave unconditional love to her family. She adored having dogs in her home and often reminisced about them. She joyfully played the piano, and her love of singing prompted her to join the local Zingers singers group. For over 25 years she served as a volunteer at O'Connor Hospital. She had a great sense of humor and a beautiful smile.

She and her late husband Henry spent many hours traveling together. They generously opened their home to family and friends. They were blessed with 53 years of marriage. She faced widowhood and declining health with grace and dignity.

Polly is survived by her son Henry (Mary Jane) and daughter Karen Strain (Steve). She leaves two grandsons, Michael and Jason Vitkovich, and niece Chris Tompa and nephew



Steve Agnello.

Her family is grateful for the loving care she received from her caregivers: Nia, Mary, Kanisha, Angela and Tui.

She considered them her extended family.

A private burial service has been held.



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**Willow Glen
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Foundation

Continued from page 1

supplies. In 2023, by working multiple jobs throughout the school year and beyond, she made a \$206 in-kind donation of items such as pop-it fidget toys (28), chew necklaces (30), and sensory stretch strings (30) to the Morgan Autism Center in San Jose.

Aneesha donated more than \$165 in-kind for sports equipment to AchieveKids in San Jose which was highlighted in their newsletter to the donors in December 2023. That same year, she donated \$367 in farm supplies such as chew toys, muck tubs, feed pans, waterers, and bird feed to Animal Assisted Happiness.

"I think it's the right thing to do. I work to disconnect from my school routine, and I know most of these organizations personally. My paychecks are used for the causes that I deeply care about, and I feel good doing it."

When asked how she feels about donating all her paychecks to the non-profits, Aneesha responded, "I think it's the right thing to do. I work to disconnect from my school routine, and I know most of these organizations personally. My paychecks are used for the causes that I deeply care about, and I feel good doing it."

Knowing how crucial opportunities for exploration ignite curiosity for science, in 2022 Aneesha visited her local libraries and discussed with librarians what kind of programs they were missing.

The librarians explained that they needed robotics, coding, engineering, and arts-related activities. Also, the libraries need programs focused on human biology and chemistry.

"I wanted to make my library program unique, fun, and hands-on for the elementary and middle school kids," Aneesha explained. "By researching online and through trial and error, I was able to combine human biology and engineering and that's how my first library lesson plan 'Human Body System' was born."

Wanting to fill the void, she imagined the "Science Academy" initiative, currently hosted in three different libraries: Bascom, Willow Glen, and Educational Park in the San Jose Public Library system.

This is her second year of hosting Science Academy with monthly sessions at the libraries with sessions lasting one hour. The sessions begin with a short lesson and then move on to the hands-on portion of the activity. This year's topic is "Chemistry Experiments" as part of her second-year contract with the libraries.

"We made slime in the first session, and I can't wait to share other things that I have planned for

the rest of the year," Aneesha said.

Wanting to expand and take her Science Academy initiative directly to the special needs kids, this summer Aneesha hosted a science-related hands-on activity for the students at AchieveKids, San Jose. They made colorful "sensory slime" by adding soft beads and charms. She plans to continue this initiative throughout the school year.

Combining her passion for science and the hope for more inclusive access to educational opportunities, Aneesha hopes to expand Sunshine and Hope Foundation to the Bay Area and beyond.

"Starting this non-profit organization has been a humbling experience on many levels. I have learned that there is a need in the community that we need to fill," Aneesha said. "My desire is to make science more accessible to the future generation of scientists, engineers, researchers, and more. We all can make a difference."

Editor's note: If you would like



to help Sunshine and Hope Foundation or become a member of Science Academy, contact Aneesha by email: janbcommunity@gmail.com.

To read more about the positive efforts of her organization and library session dates, visit sunshineandhopefoundation.com.

Pictured above: a donation to the Animal Assisted Happiness organization.



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Times **Community Notebook**



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.

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

Events and Trips:

Cache Creek Casino: Tuesday Sept 17, 8am to 6:30pm. Come on the bus with us to Cache Creek Casino for a day of gaming and food. Leave the community center at 8am and arrive back around 6:30pm. Cost: \$50 cash or check. You get \$20 in free play. Tickets on sale MWF 8am to 10am. Contact Rich, 408-219-8641 for more information.

A September to Remember: Saturday Sept 21st, 12 to 3pm. We will entertain you at the Almaden Community Center with music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. Wear clothes from those eras if you wish. Join us for a lunch of traditional Italian food, drink and dessert. Bring a photo of yourself from back then that we can display. Ticket sales start Monday Aug 26, then MWF 8am to 10am. Members: \$22, Non-Members \$25 cash or check. Call Jeanne 408-425-5723 for more information.

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<https://almadenseniors.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/almadenseniors>



The invasive shothole borer beetle that has destroyed thousands of trees in Southern California and along the Central Coast has been found in San Jose. Photo courtesy of Santa Clara County.

San Jose could lose thousands of trees to invasive beetle

By **Brandon Pho**
San José Spotlight

An invasive beetle killing a dramatic number of Southern California trees has found its way to San Jose — and it could threaten the urban forest that shades and cools Silicon Valley, including Willow Glen.

Santa Clara County officials aren't sure when or how the species, known as the shothole borer beetle, arrived in San Jose. The non-native species was first detected in Southern California in the early 2000s. The beetle was identified locally in November last year but may have been in San Jose undetected for several years. Now San Jose officials are trapping the bugs while county officials survey the city to determine the extent of the infestation.

Officials have tracked the bug around riparian areas like Coyote Creek and the Guadalupe River. But the beetle — which has already killed tens of thousands of box elders, California sycamores, valley oaks and more across seven counties in Southern California — is also infesting older and stately landscape trees in San Jose.

"These are large sycamores that have been here for years and years — and now they're dying from this beetle," Drew Raymond, acting agricultural commissioner for Santa Clara County, told San José Spotlight.

The pest could spell trouble for the region's urban canopy, which cools surrounding neighborhoods. That's a crucial resource for underserved areas across the county, such as East San Jose, where urban heat islands and a lack of shade make hot and sunny days more unbearable. San Jose's tree coverage has dropped dramatically over the years. From 2012 to 2018, the city lost nearly three square miles of trees — a 1.5% overall drop in tree canopy.

After an internal audit found the city woefully mismanaged tree loss, the San Jose City Council in January 2023 voted to change the rules around tree removal permits.

County Supervisor Sylvia Arenas said the beetle presents a danger to the region's tree shade.

"At a time when tree canopies can make such a difference in our neighborhoods, this invasive pest becomes a real pest for our community," she told San José Spotlight.

The local shothole borer beetle discovery comes after urban foresters have already been monitoring another tree-killing beetle species, the gold spotted oak borer, for a couple of years since it was first found in San Jose. But so far they've stayed there, according to Jean-Paul Renaud, executive director of Canopy, a Palo Alto-based group dedicated to planting trees in the mid-peninsula.

"I know that there are traps laid out throughout Palo Alto and they're regularly checked for it but nothing so far. We're all holding our breaths," Renaud told San José Spotlight. "This speaks to the importance of diversity in our tree species when planting in an urban setting so that one pest or disease doesn't affect an entire tree inventory."

Raymond said infested tree removal is already underway in San Jose to prevent the safety risk of a falling tree. But that will come with a heavy price tag.

"Because the shothole borer threatens larger trees, they would cost thousands of dollars to replace. It poses a threat to trees that have pretty substantial value. To replace a tree is not cheap," Raymond said.

One can spot the early symptoms of a beetle attack through wet staining and discoloration on the bark of a tree's main stem and branches. An infested tree will also show an entry or exit hole that is perfectly round and the size of a ballpoint pen tip. Other signs include gumming, insect waste, boring dust and sugary buildup around entry holes.

Researchers have confirmed the pest can kill 17 species of tree. But the beetle can live in dozens of other tree and shrub species, such as the California buckeye, coast live oak, avocado and acacia.




The beetle is tiny, with females comparable in size to a sesame seed and males being even smaller. Yet the insects have exacted enormous damage by tunneling into host trees and introducing a fungus that serves as food for the beetles and their larvae. The fungus leads to disease which prevents trees from transporting water and nutrients, damaging and killing them.


The bug can also spread through residential green waste collection. And there are certain steps to take to remove the pest so that doesn't help it spread. Infested wood needs to be chipped down to one inch or less and further sanitized by composting or drying the wood out through a process known as solarization.

"Unfortunately, there is no regulation on moving wood," Raymond said. "Our biggest weapon honestly is education."



Early signs of shothole borer beetles include wet staining and discoloration on the bark of a tree's main stem and branches. Photo courtesy of Santa Clara County.





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Times Feature

Steinway Society celebrates 30 years of premier classical piano performances

Six award-winning pianists in concert

October 2024 – May 2025

Six internationally acclaimed classical pianists will be featured in Steinway Society – The Bay Area's historic 30th Season.

Starting October 2024, each award-winning artist will perform live at either Visual Performing Arts Center at De Anza College in Cupertino or the Montgomery Theater in San Jose. A Home Concert Hall streaming option will also be available to watch live and/or on-demand for up to 48 hours afterward.

Steinway Society favorites Anna Fedorova, Vyacheslav Gryaznov, Zlata Chochieva, and Alexander Kobrin are returning to help celebrate the organization's milestone season. First-time performers include the global phenomenon Alexander Malofeev and distinguished Belgian pianist Florian Noack.

Gryaznov will perform a first-of-its-kind "Rachmaninoff Meets High-Tech" concerto, accompanied by a full digital orchestra that he programmed after teaching himself to code the software. Some artists plan

to give a short talk about their programmed pieces and their musical lives just prior to their performance.

Details on 30th Season festive programming, including a kid-friendly family night and opportunities to remember, rejoice, and engage will be announced.

"There is nothing like the joy of experiencing live classical music performances!" said Kathy You Wilson, Steinway Society President. "We are excited to celebrate 30 years of concerts and community engagement in the San Francisco Bay Area, and we can't wait for you to enjoy our upcoming season of glorious music played by some of the world's finest pianists."

Wilson continued, "That said, like many other small arts organizations in the wake of the pandemic, we also find ourselves questioning our ability to thrive in the future. The arts are central to learning, flourishing, caring, and connecting—all elements at the root of our deepest humanity. We ask that you join us, share the experience with your family and friends, and support the vital work of this organization so that it can continue contributing to the richness of our community."

Program 1: Anna Fedorova: Passionate and Poetic Ukrainian Pianist

When: Saturday, October 5 @ 7:30pm

Where: Visual and Performing Arts Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino (located at De Anza College)

PROGRAM

Ravel, Gaspard de la nuit
Scriabin, Sonata No. 9, "Black Mass," Op. 68

Falla, El amor brujo, Suite for Piano (transcribed from the ballet)
Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition

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Seniors & Students: Gold-3 \$200 /



Anna Fedorova returns to the Steinway Society – The Bay Area stage on Saturday, October 5 at 7:30 pm at the Visual and Performing Arts Center at De Anza College in Cupertino.

Silver-3 \$170 / Bronze-3 \$145; Six-concert Streaming Subscriptions: \$140 per household (unlimited viewing for 48 hours).

Purchase Tickets Online: <https://steinwaysociety.com>; Box Office: 408.300.5635; Email: office@steinwaysociety.com

Additional subscription information is available at www.steinwaysociety.com.

Ukrainian pianist Anna Fedorova is a favorite of both global and Bay Area audiences. From an early age, she showed an innate musical maturity and amazing technical abilities. Her live recording of Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto has been viewed more than 35 million times on YouTube, making it the most watched classical concerto on the

platform. One of the world's leading young pianists, she has taken top prizes at the Rubinstein and Moscow International Frederick Chopin Competitions and has been mentored by world-renowned musicians Alfred Brendel and András Schiff. Fedorova has performed with esteemed orchestras in prestigious concert halls and music festivals of Europe, North and South America, and Asia. She is returning to the Steinway stage to help celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary.

Fedorova has released three solo piano albums, four chamber music albums, and all of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concertos with the Sinfonieorchester St. Gallen under Modestas Pitrenas. BBC Music Magazine issued a 5-star review for the first album with Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1, Preludes, and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

Fedorova graduated from the Lysenko School of Music in Kyiv and the Accademia Pianistica in Imola, Italy. She received her master's degree and artist diploma at the Royal College of Music, London, under the guidance of Norma Fisher. In 2022, Anna Fedorova and double bassist Nicholas Santangelo Schwartz founded the Davidsbündler Music Academy in The Hague to provide top quality musical education to Ukrainian refugees living in the Netherlands.

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Times **Local News**



New chapter *Unhinged: Hotel Halloween* experience starts September 13 at the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose.

Winchester Mystery House to present 'Unhinged: Hotel' Sept. 13 – Nov. 2

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

Winchester Mystery House in San Jose has announced that its record-breaking, immersive Halloween experience will return this fall with an entirely new chapter, "Unhinged: Hotel."

Starting Friday, September 13 and running through Sunday, November 2, the Bay Area's premier Halloween haunt will return on select nights with a brand-new original storyline, complete with new characters and terrifying scares.

Step into the darkened halls of the Winchester Mystery House and navigate a hauntingly immersive maze like no other. Let's just say... some doors should stay closed.

"Celebrating another incredible installment of Winchester Mystery House's Unhinged, this highly anticipated attraction continues to captivate guests from around the San Francisco Bay Area every year with its thrills and hauntingly immersive experiences. We are thrilled to work with dozens of local artists who will bring their unique talents and eerie creativity to life, transforming the historic mansion into a mesmerizing and spine-chilling spectacle," said Winchester Mystery House Executive Director Walter Magnuson.

Stranded with car troubles, a group of friends seeks help at a nearby hotel. Little do they know the seemingly empty hotel is hiding more than just vacant rooms. As they venture deeper into the halls, an unsettling feeling creeps in—they realize they are not alone. Are you brave enough to step inside and uncover the dark secrets hidden within the walls? Will you make it to check out?

Upon arrival, guests will start their evening on the estate, where they can indulge in themed food and drinks, visit a fortune teller, immerse themselves in the spooky ambiance, and capture memories at various photo spots.

From there, guests will enter the home which includes the standard twists and

turns of the Winchester Mystery House but mixed with terror and scares around every corner of the house. Following the walkthrough, guests can experience the return of The Mists, an outdoor scare zone with be haunting all nights of Unhinged: Hotel. scare zone that will be haunting all nights of Unhinged: Hotel.

Starting September 13, a Halloween Museum will also be featured on the estate that will be free night and day for guests to enjoy. The museum will include a collection of vintage Halloween decor, artifacts, and memorabilia.

Admission tickets (starting at \$69.99) for Unhinged: Hotel are available now online at winchestermysteryhouse.com/unhinged.

For the full performance schedule and ongoing updates, visit www.winchestermysteryhouse.com/unhinged

About Winchester Mystery House

For over 100 years the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California, has stood as a testament to the ingenuity, singular vision and lore that surrounds its namesake, Sarah Pardee Winchester (heiress to the Winchester Repeating Arms fortune). Originally known as Llanada Villa, today it stands as an architectural wonder, a time capsule of a bygone era and one of America's most celebrated haunted mansions. The estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a California Historic State Landmark, a San Jose City Landmark, and is one of the leading attractions in the Bay Area. Since tours began in 1923, millions of people from around the world have toured the lonely hallways, dark passages and ornate rooms of the Winchester Mystery House. It has intrigued visitors, scholars, and media from throughout the United States, and around the globe, with its combination of the beautiful and the bizarre, its story of heartbreak, tenacity and invention and its legends of the paranormal. Tours are available daily, 364 days a year. For tickets and additional information, visit www.winchestermysteryhouse.com

Times **Feature**

Free solar panels can cost you big time

If you want solar panels, be very careful when evaluating installation offers.

Con artists use misleading sales tactics and lies to trick homeowners out of money and personal information.

If you've received an offer for "free solar panels," it could be a scam. Always look for businesses you can trust - like Accredited Businesses using the BBB Seal.

How this scam works

Someone contacts you through email, phone, social media, or even in person pretending to be a solar company salesperson. The "representative" has a special offer: they can install solar panels on your home for a very low cost - or even free. This amazing deal is only available for a limited time, so you must act now!

From here, the scam can take several

turns. In some versions, the scammer is after your personal information. They ask you to fill out forms with your banking details "to see if you qualify." Other times, the "solar representative" claims you need to pay upfront costs, which they promise will be reimbursed by a (non-existent) government program. In other instances, the scammer may begin the installation of the solar panels on your home but then never return to finish the job. Or they may install the panels but do a poor job, resulting in panels that don't work. If you reach out to the scammer to finish the job or fix the panels, they will become unreachable and disappear with your money.

BBB Scam Tracker has seen numerous reports of this kind of scam. One homeowner was approached by a door-to-door salesperson "claiming he could get me a new roof plus solar equipment, with a government rebate for 26% off cost, essentially paying for the new roof." After doing their research, the homeowner found that while a government rebate program existed, the salesperson misrepresented it to make a sale.

In another case, a homeowner shared, "[Company name redacted] is a solar company promising one free year and other incentives upon signing but they never followed through on anything in their contract. After the installation of solar, they stopped answering their phones and went silent on customers. We financed a 70k solar project for our house and are still waiting on them to finish installation a year later. They promised to provide a lifetime upkeep and maintenance on the panels but are not doing so. They took the money and ran."

How to avoid similar scams

- Do your research. Genuine incentive programs and reputable solar energy contractors do exist. Before you accept an unsolicited offer, do some research on solar companies in your area. Investigate each company's reputation and business practices before signing a service contract. Ask for references from previous customers and talk with them about their experience. If you're suspecting a scam, check BBB Scam Tracker to see if others are reporting the same experience.

To find a solar panel installer near you, visit: <https://www.bbb.org/near-me/solar-installation>

Santa Clara County Supervisors want to expand mental health access for older adults

By **Sean Eastwood**
Times staff writer

Continuing to push for improved access to mental health services for older adults, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported a series of recommendations from the County's Behavioral Health Department.

The recommendations include enhancing existing safety net programs, expanding suicide prevention efforts, and improving wait times for cognitive assessments.

"Our older adult population is growing fast," said County Supervisor Joe Simitian. "That makes it even more important that we find better ways of getting folks connected to the mental health services and programs they need. I look forward to seeing a workplan before the end of the year showing how we can implement these improvements."

In November 2023, Simitian and Board

President Susan Ellenberg asked County staff to analyze existing services for older adults, identify the unique needs of older adults and the barriers they face when looking for care, and provide recommendations to close any gaps identified in this resulting report.

By 2030, adults aged 65 years and older will make up 20% of the County's population. According to a 2019 report from the County's Department of Aging and Adult Services, by 2035 older adults will outnumber children in the County for the first time, five years sooner than the nation as a whole.

Older adults experience unique challenges as they age. Life changes, such as managing serious illness or the loss of loved ones, can impact mental health. Loneliness, grief, and social isolation can affect even those with support and resilience, and lead to depression and anxiety.

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History San José hosts groups of summer camps

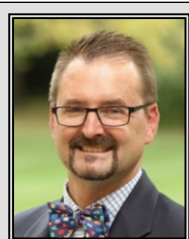
By Bill Schroh, Jr.
President & CEO

August at History San José means the stomping of grapes, the sound of big band music, and tacos and beer! As always, there is a full calendar of events and festivities taking place at History Park for everyone to enjoy. To check out upcoming events, visit: <https://historysanjose.org/programs-events>

As I have mentioned before, we had quite a few summer campers at History Park including our own Time Travelers Summer Camp. It was great to see our campers engaged and enjoying themselves all while learning about the history of San José and the Valley! Our educators, led by Education Assistant & School Programs Coordinator Frida Arias Rivera, did an amazing job!

The team is deservedly taking these next few weeks to recharge and prepare for our Fall/Spring educational programming that now includes high school curriculum! We're happy to say that reservations are quickly filling up so we encourage all educators to take a look at our full offerings and to reserve a spot on our calendar. We can't wait to see you and your students back here at History Park!

Speaking of the Education Department, I am excited to announce that **Sam Ricci** (above) has become the new Manager of Education! Sam has been with History San



History San José
Bill Schroh, Jr.
President & CEO



SAM RICCI
MANAGER OF EDUCATION

José since 2017. During her time at HSJ she has been a valuable member of the team, serving as a museum educator, lead educator, and for the last year and a half as our first Manager of Visitor Experience.

Another fun change is that we attended the 1st annual Urban Vibrancy Institute (UVI) Block Party at San Pedro Square. We opened up the Gonzales/Peralta Adobe at San Pedro Square Market, set up our bull roping activity and had plenty of promotional material on hand.

Mark Purdy and Karen Parodi gave the tours, Antwan Whattley taught visitors, both children and adults how to rope a steer and Sharon Fox and I told everyone about History San José. We had over 250 people come in to enjoy the mini tour and steer roping. Thanks Mark, Karen, Antwan and Sharon for giving up their Thursday evening. It was an exciting evening for us as many people saw the inside of the Adobe for the first time.

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Few-shot learning

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:

Few-shot learning

Training data is the foundation of machine learning. But extensive training data isn't always readily available, nor are the computational resources needed to train an ML model. To address this issue, developers can use few-shot learning, an approach that relies on a significantly smaller data set. Unlike traditional methods that require vast amounts of labeled data to achieve accuracy, few-shot learning aims to train models to generalize from just a few examples.

N-shot learning

The practical challenges of training data availability and quality have spawned a general category of ML training called n-shot learning, where n represents some small number of samples.

There are three typical variations of n-shot learning:

Few-shot learning, which uses a relatively small set of labeled data points to train an ML model.

One-shot learning, a variant of few-shot learning that uses just one labeled sample for training.

Zero-shot learning, an extreme approach that attempts to handle new data without any existing data samples.

Few-shot learning is particularly beneficial in scenarios where obtaining a large dataset is impractical, such as in rare medical conditions or specialized industrial processes. This approach is increasingly used in areas like computer vision, where models must recognize objects from a few images; robotics, where robots need to learn new tasks quickly; and audio processing, where speech recognition systems must adapt to new accents or dialects with minimal data.

However, the reduced data requirements come at a cost. Few-shot learning can limit the diversity and complexity of an ML model, potentially leading to overfitting or underperformance in highly variable real-world environments. Despite these challenges, ongoing research in few-shot learning seeks to enhance the robustness and generalization capabilities of models, making it a promising solution for a wide range of AI applications. Techniques like meta-learning and transfer learning are often used in conjunction to improve few-shot learning outcomes, allowing models to leverage prior knowledge and adapt quickly to new tasks with minimal data.

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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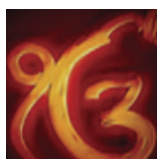
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The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or

"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 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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Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
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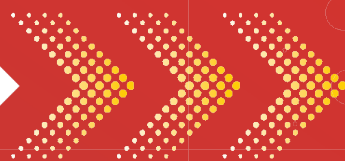


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