

Silicon Valley docs decry plan to pay bonuses for seeing more patients
— SEE PAGE 4



Pain at the pump
High gas prices have San Jose commuters seeing red
— SEE PAGE 14

A \$9,000 monthly mortgage in San Jose? 'Reasonable,' Realtors say
— SEE PAGE 7



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Almaden Times

JULY 8 – JULY 21, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 14

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Antique autos in History Park Sept. 27

The largest annual antique auto show in the West: 'A living History Day'

Why not mark your calendar for a truly fun-filled opportunity for you, your family and friends to take a walk back in history!

The 22nd annual Antique Autos in History Park presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San José will take place on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This event fills History Park (Kelley Park, 693 Phelan Ave, San José, CA) with 200 period-correct pre-1946 vehicles, fire equipment, bicycles, and motorcycles of all makes.

Entering your antique vehicle

There is no registration required to enter a vehicle. Just bring your antique vehicle to the gate at History Park.

All vehicles permitted on the grounds of History Park, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. were manufactured between the late 1800s and 1945 and are period-correct.

No vehicle will be allowed on the grounds of History Park during the show that is newer than 1945.

The featured vehicles this
See *AUTO SHOW*, page 5

Latest effort to help homeless Silicon Valley students: Guaranteed income

By Lorraine Gabbert
Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

Homeless high school students in Santa Clara County may soon receive an income lifeline.

State Sen. Dave Cortese is working to bring guaranteed income to local homeless high school seniors through a pilot program, after a similar bill, SB 1341, failed in the state Legislature. He's asked Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg to help steer the local proposal.

"I am looking forward to introducing this proposal to my colleagues after the July board recess to show the state that providing unhoused high school students with guaranteed income sets them up for future success," Ellenberg said.

Cortese introduced the now-failed state bill in Feb. 2022 to provide guaranteed income for five months to help high school seniors until they begin college, vocational training or enter the workforce. His aim was to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and provide access to high-



Lincoln High School in San Jose is a part of the San Jose Unified School District. File photo.

er education. The bill died in an Assembly committee last week when it failed to garner enough votes.

Now, Cortese is hoping to bring a similar policy to Santa Clara County. The local proposal, introduced by the progressive lawmaker a day after his bill died, would provide \$1,000 a month to local homeless high school seniors from April to August 2023. It's unclear how much

the program will cost, but funding would come from the state.

Professor: 11% of students homeless

San Jose State University Sociology Professor Scott Myers-Lipton said the state committee's lack of support is unconscionable when 11% of both California State University and SJSU students are homeless.

For high school students on the

cus of moving onto secondary education, Ellenberg said these extra dollars can make the difference between seeking higher education — or not. According to census data, about 15,000 high school seniors experienced homelessness statewide in the last school year.

Critical injection point to avert to poverty

"We need to be attacking poverty
See *INCOME*, page 8

ECONOMY

When will California's 'inflation relief' payments be sent out?

California is sending out a new round of direct payments to an estimated 23 million state residents,

Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders announced the direct payments will begin to be mailed out just before the election in October.

The direct payments, as large as \$1,050, are part of an "inflation relief package" in California's budget agreement. The budget was final-

ized and signed by the governor Monday, but don't expect money to hit your bank account just yet.

Most Californians will be receiving the money via direct deposit; the rest will receive the direct payments on their debit card.

According to the California Department of Finance, people who received a tax refund by direct deposit after filing state taxes in the 2020 tax year can also expect to receive their inflation relief payment via direct deposit.

If that bank account information is no longer valid for any reason, the finance department said you should expect to receive a debit card.

Some law makers believe the payments will actually make inflation worse. They believe a gas tax moratorium makes more sense for the foreseeable future.

Great America Amusement Park in Santa Clara to shutter its doors

By William Bellou
Publisher

After 50 years of bringing joy to Bay Area families, Great America Amusement Park will close its doors in Santa Clara in 2033.

The seller of the property Cedar Fair L.P. states it is selling the 112-acre amusement park's land to bring down the amusement park's debt.

Cedar Fair L.P. sold Great America for \$310 million to San Francisco based real estate developer Prologis Inc.

Cedar Fair said it first began looking into maximizing the value of its existing properties back in 2021.

Cedar Fair purchased the land beneath Great America from the city



of Santa Clara in 2019 for \$150 million. Previously, the land was leased.

Cedar Fair owns and operates 13 amusement park properties, including another California-based amusement park: Knott's Berry Farm.

Cedar Fair's stock (NYSE: FUN) is down nearly 40% in the past five years.

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



20601 Via Santa Teresa

\$4,990,000 | 4 Bed | 4+ Bath | 7158 Sq Ft | 2.62 Acre Lot

Enter the private driveway up to this stunning Almaden Valley executive-style home and you are immediately awestruck by some of the most magnificent panoramic views in Santa Clara County. This architectural masterpiece brings the outside in as it incorporates the sweeping views into almost every room in the home. Gourmet kitchen, office/library, media room, large game room, enormous bonus room that could be an "in-law" suite. Tesla charging station. Solar. 4-car garage with workshop and storage. Numerous balconies as well as the side yard with outdoor kitchen, two sitting areas, fire pit, pergola, hot tub, lawn, and pavers. Top Schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.



790 Finchwood Way

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This stunning home in Almaden Valley's quiet Woodside neighborhood is just steps away from the Alamos Creek where you can stroll or bike to Lake Almaden. One of the five bedrooms is on ground floor, and is adjacent to a full bath. Expansive great room with view of Mt Umunhum. Primary suite includes a large walk-in closet, oversized jetted tub, & large granite shower. One upstairs bedroom is extremely large and would make an ideal bonus room. Fully owned 3.9kw solar panels. A seating area with built in benches and sunken hot tub allow enjoyment of the backyard. Top schools: Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High.



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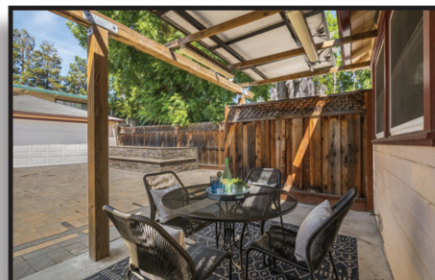
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NOTEBOOK



San Jose repeals cruising, low riding ban

The low riding cars are a symbol against discrimination to preserve culture

The ban on low riding also known as cruising, which has been prohibited on San Jose City streets for 30 years, has been repealed by the San Jose City Council.

In the 1960s and 70s, the slow driving and display of cars was made famous by the Chicano Civil Rights movement, but became a crime in the early 1990s, when cities, including San Jose, crafted local ordinances.

The low riding cars became a display of resistance and a symbol against discrimination to preserve values and the history of the Mexican American culture in San Jose.

Councilmember Raul Peralez was the only city official to call on other city leaders to do away with the ordinances.

"I remember being stopped several times by police who assumed low riding meant you're involved with gangs," Peralez said. "Prohibiting cruising has served as a tool for racial discrimination, so that's why I fought hard to change this."

Peralez said he would celebrate by cruising with his granddaughter and mom in the back of his car.

Gallagher issues statement after Democrats refuse to stop July 1st gas tax increase

California Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher issued a statement on Thursday, June 30 after Assembly Republicans tried to stop the gas tax increase of three cents to 53.9 cents per gallon.

"This was our last opportunity to prevent a \$500 million gas tax increase on Californians who currently pay the highest prices in the nation. The increase will add even more costs to California's nearly \$7-per-gallon-gasoline.

"This past 4th of July weekend, we were supposed to be celebrating the founding of our great nation, spending time with family and friends. It is clear that Democrats are focused on making us pay at the pump while everyone is already stretched thin, rather than helping families."



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supreme Court expansion may be needed

Dear Editor:

To protect our reproductive freedoms, we need to expand the Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Act of 2021 would add four new seats to the Supreme Court, bringing the number of justices to 13. It would help restore balance to a Court that Mitch McConnell has packed with right-wing extremists who just dismantled abortion care in America.

Recent polling showed that not only do a majority of Americans believe that the Supreme Court should uphold the right to abortion care, they also agree that we need to restore balance to the court and support adding additional judges to the Supreme Court.

I'm urging Congress to pass the Judiciary Act so we can create an institution that moves away from partisan politics and represents the good of all Americans.

Courtney Gartin
Almaden Valley

Valley Currents

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

Silicon Valley doctors decry plan to pay bonuses for seeing more patients

Physicians say the model will hurt patients and quality of treatment

By Tran Nguyen
San José Spotlight

Local doctors are outraged over a proposal from Santa Clara County to tie some of their pay to the number of patients they see.

The physicians from three county-owned hospitals say the model will hurt patients and quality of treatment. Nine doctors from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center gathered in front of the county offices Tuesday to sound the alarm on the new pay program.

The new compensation plan, which is still short on details, is the county's response to the physicians' demands for higher pay to help recruit and retain doctors. Roughly 80% of physicians in Silicon Valley earn more than those working at the county hospitals, according to an analysis by the doctors' union. This has resulted in retention issues, longer workdays, and more clerical responsibilities for doctors, union members said.

The group on Tuesday delivered 10 boxes of 3,500 signed petitions from doctors and supporters to county lawmakers to oppose the plan.

The county's plan, which would tie doctors' bonus pay to the number of patients they see per hour, will exacerbate growing concerns about working conditions, the doctors said. If the plan is approved, patients of the county health sys-



Santa Clara Valley Medical Center doctors want to see the county raise the base pay for county physicians and address the pay inequities in the system. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

tem—many of whom are low-income, people of color or those without insurance—will have less time with their doctors and are likely to see a decline in care. "This has been a huge hit to our morale," Dr. Eon Rios, a dermatologist at the VMC, told San José Spotlight. "During COVID we dropped everything and put ourselves at risk, and then now it feels like we're being forgotten." Rios said under the proposal a doctor can see a patient for six to seven minutes in the dermatology department.

"When a patient doesn't speak your language, you can't deliver care that way," Rios said, adding 30% to 40% of his patients don't speak English. "You can't push us to do a productivity-based system."

The doctors, who are county workers, have worked without a contract for a year. The Valley Physicians Group (VMG), a union representing nearly 500 county doctors at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, O'Connor Hospital and St. Louise Regional Hospital, has rallied against the new initiative for 18

months.

Heavy workload, low pay

Once hailed the "frontline heroes" during the COVID-19 pandemic, local doctors said they're now being treated with disrespect, as they face long working hours, heavy workload and low pay. Dr. Brandon Ginieczki, who has worked at the VMC since 2008, said many county physicians take extra work to make ends meet because of the low base pay.

"It's always been an issue," Ginieczki told San José Spotlight. "If you want to try to pay for mortgages then you have to pick up more work." County officials said Tuesday they'll continue to negotiate the contract with VPG but did not address questions about the new pay program.

"The county is committed to reaching an agreement with Valley Physicians Group that will enable the county to maintain a fiscally sustainable, top-notch health care system for the hundreds of thousands of patients we serve every year," officials said in a statement to San José Spotlight.

Dr. Susan Zhao, a cardiologist at the VMC since 2011, stressed the county shouldn't prioritize quantity over quality.

"This is very misguided," Zhao told San José Spotlight, noting similar volume-driven models have been tested—and abandoned—at private hospitals. "It pains me to see the quality of care at our hospital is slowly going down. Our wonderful community should be very confident when they walk through the door at our hospitals."

Pay inequities

Santa Clara County, one of the wealthiest areas in the country, vowed to invest in safety nets such as health care. The county spent

See DOCTORS, page 21



Santa Clara Valley Medical Center doctors delivered thousands of petitions in support of the Valley Physicians Group's demand Tuesday to the Board of Supervisors' offices. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

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Times **Cover Story**



Auto show

Continued from page 1

year are Horseless Carriages, (Up to 1915).

Also located on the grounds will be the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. There will be antique crafts demonstrated and antique collectibles displayed.

A Dixieland Jazz Band will provide music, songs will be sung by The Fabulous Jewel-Tones, and dancing by the San Francisco Bay Area Vintage Dancers. Food will be available from food trucks and ice cream from O'Brien's Cafe. Activities are provided for kids.

Please note there is NO alcohol, NO pets (except service dogs), and NO BBQs allowed inside the park. These are Park rules and must be followed.

Plan your day around the following:

11:15 Dance Performance

- 12:00 The Fabulous JewelTones
- 12:30 Music by Toot Sweet Jazz Band
- 12:30 Video: Horseless Carriage Brass Tour
- 2:00 Model T Put Together
- 2:30 Barbershop Quartet
- 3:00 Magician
- 3:30 Drawing for Door Prizes

Admission

Adults: \$ 10; History San Jose members and Children (6 to 12) \$5. Participants & Children under 6: Free (Adjacent City Parking: \$10).



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Times **Community**

A \$9,000 monthly mortgage in San Jose? That's 'reasonable,' Realtors say

By Eric He

San José Spotlight

For 15 years, Matthew Quevedo and his wife, A'Dreana, moved from apartment-to-apartment in San Jose.

They started with a \$900 a month one-bedroom in the Seven Trees neighborhood when they were both 18 years old, making \$12 an hour at Home Depot. But in October 2020, after years of saving up, they got a piece of the American Dream — the couple bought their first home: A two-bedroom, one-bathroom between Northside and Japantown. It's walking distance from San Jose City Hall, where Quevedo works as the chief of staff to San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan. It cost \$775,000, and their mortgage is \$4,000 a month.

But they are on the lucky side. A new report from real estate giant Zillow shows the average mortgage in San Jose is now \$9,136 a month, including homeowners insurance and taxes.

That's a 51% increase from this time last year, and an increase from \$8,664 in May.

Quevedo (right), who has a 6-year-old son, said he's fortunate. The couple moved in with his parents when the pandemic began and had a series of breaks when searching for a home. They found a bank willing to give them a loan with a 5% down payment. Right before they moved in, the previous homeowner footed the bill for a \$5,000 plumbing job after a pipe burst in the 101-year-old house.



"So I think the main word attached to our story is just pure luck, which doesn't speak well for Silicon Valley housing," he said.

What's driving the soaring increase in mortgage payments in America's 10th largest city? The easy answer is supply and demand, but that's not all.

Brett Caviness, president of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, attributes the increase to "a combination of rising prices in the real estate housing market, paired with rising interest rates." Caviness called a monthly mortgage payment north of \$9,000 "very reasonable."

The average San Jose home value in May was just over \$1.7 million, up 22.4% from last year. Interest rates, calculated in Zillow's report at 5.78%, have nearly doubled since January.

Beyond higher interest rates, mortgage prices are also being driven up by the demographic of homebuyers in the South Bay. Most first-time homebuyers are young tech workers in their 30s who earn a high salary but haven't saved enough to make a large down payment, said Julie Wyss, a South Bay realtor with Compass.

That, in turn, means a larger mortgage — driving up the overall statistics.

"Young buyers are too young to have saved a lot of money, but are making more money than they ever dreamed of," Wyss told San José Spotlight. "And then, obviously, this was all happening before interest rates went up and then all of a sudden, affordability went down."

A \$9,000 a month mortgage is doable for a family earning \$216,000 a year, Wyss said, even though it might sound ridiculous. The

average annual income in Silicon Valley last year was \$170,000, and the median income was \$138,000.

With many tech workers still telecommuting and wanting more home office space, interest in single-family homes is much higher than in townhomes or apartments, Caviness told San José Spotlight.

Despite the demand, Wyss thinks the market is at a standstill. Wyss, who has been a realtor in the area for 15 years, said her 10 active listings in the South Bay haven't drawn much interest. She said rising interest rates and lack of liquidity are starting to impact sales.

"Open houses are dead. We're doing \$100,000 reductions every two weeks. Just nothing," Wyss said.

Caviness believes that the housing market is in the midst of an adjustment period, but it hasn't yet impacted pricing.



Homebuyers who can afford a "luxury home" — which Caviness defines as a listing of \$4 million or higher — may not be impacted by higher mortgage because they can afford it. But those "entry level" homebuyers looking to buy in the \$1 to \$2 million range are hit hardest.

One silver lining is that prospective buyers with tighter budgets face less competition.

Few buyers could offer a 20% down payment on a \$2 million home, or \$400,000,

according to Caviness. But a 10% down payment, or \$200,000, may be more reasonable — especially considering wages in Silicon Valley.

"Obviously that's still a lot of money, but that certainly could open the window to a new demographic pool of buyers," Caviness said.

Quevedo said his family operates on a budget. He compares his mortgage to paying rent. The average rent in San Jose for a two-bedroom apartment is \$3,195, according to Zumper.

But Quevedo and his wife grew tired of having to move out of apartments as they progressed in their careers.

"That was probably the biggest thing for me," Quevedo said. "I was getting tired of just moving from place to place and the uncertainty of where we would live next."



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Times News



Mufasa

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Income

Continued from page 1

at every possible inflection point," Ellenberg told San José Spotlight. "This transition to post-secondary school or working is an absolutely critical inflection point."

Cortese is looking to build on the success of the Santa Clara County income program for foster youth transitioning out of the system. His new county proposal would include this group as well.

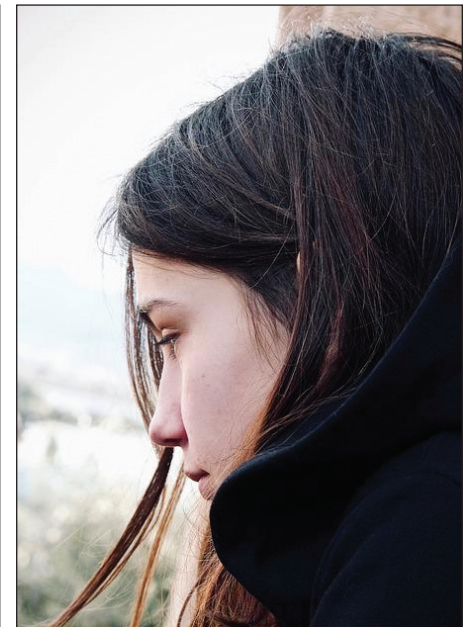
Santa Clara County in June 2020 approved \$1,000 per month in universal basic income for a year to foster youth exiting the foster care system. The first cohort included 72 participants and the second included 50 youth. The foster youth program, set to expire August 2021, was extended six months by county supervisors. They added \$500,000 to the initial \$900,000 allocation.

If approved would go into effect next summer

Ellenberg plans to bring Cortese's latest guaranteed income proposal to the Board of Supervisors in August or September. If funding is approved through the state, it could go into effect as soon as next summer.

Students could receive funds through a debit card or electronic payment, Ellenberg said. According to county reports, there were about 2,518 homeless students in the 2020-21 school year.

Anthony Majano, president of San Jose State University Student Homeless Alliance, said the situation often worsens for students already struggling with housing and food insecurity once they graduate and lose safe-



ty nets like free lunches.

"College homeless students are unable to do their best and succeed at the rate other students can, and they could have if they weren't dealing with all these issues," Majano said.

Food insecurity

He said struggling students who receive guaranteed income would worry less about where their next meal comes from or how to pay their rent — which distracts from their studies.

"The county should be trying to do more for this demographic," he told San José Spotlight. "College students and children are the future. They should be doing much more to protect these students so they can succeed."

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Times Local News



An abandoned vehicle is pictured with a missing engine in San Jose. Photo courtesy of City of San Jose.

San Jose refreshes its approach to abandoned vehicles

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The San Jose Department of Transportation has recalibrated its approach to vehicle towing.

Post-pandemic, the Parking Compliance Unit of the transportation department is working smarter in how it responds to public reports. New policy prioritizes cases based on a vehicle's condition and likelihood to be towed.

Reports of abandoned, non-working vehicles will be investigated over those simply parked on the street for a length of time. Photos are now required with reports and officers conduct proactive patrols throughout the city.

From March 2019 to February 2020, the city responded to 25,000 calls in which the vehicles were no longer there by the time the city went out to check, said transportation department spokesperson Colin Heyne. With its new program, the number of unproductive calls dropped significantly to only 2,600 from March 2021 to February 2022, said Elias Khoury, transportation parking manager, at a presentation last week.

"Previously, we worked all cases regardless of the vehicle's condition," Khoury said. "Now we are identifying and removing vehicles that meet criteria... We can do the same or better with less officers and less money spent."

San Jose has struggled with growing blight, including abandoned vehicles, over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilmembers recently allocated funds to fight blight around the city.

Based on the California Vehicle Code, inoperable vehicles are candidates for towing if they are missing an engine, windshield, steering wheel, driver's seat, two or more wheels, or have extensive damage making them immobile. These vehicles will be towed immediately.

A vehicle posing a safety hazard or contributing to extreme blight may be also towed. This includes vehicles up on jacks or blocks, having missing or shattered windows, missing both front and back license plates, unsecured doors or trunk or an unattached trailer. These vehicles will be marked and if unchanged, towed.

San Jose opposes bill to ban towing vehicles

Vanessa Sandoval, chief of staff for Coun-

cilmember Sergio Jimenez who organized the presentation, said the changes to the abatement policy were spurred on by the pandemic creating a backlog in calls. She said the new program is efficient and frees up officers to patrol "hot spot" areas with a significant amount of abandoned, stolen and blighted vehicles.

The vehicle abatement program was also revised due to decreased staffing and financial resources, and an increase in the number of people living in their cars, Heyne said. Koury noted the city doesn't tow inhabited vehicles. There are more than 6,700 homeless people in San Jose, an 11% increase since 2019, according to a recent tally.

Heyne said the department received 55,000-60,000 vehicle abatement requests annually in the years leading up to the pandemic, but only 7% to 8% resulted in vehicles being towed before the program was updated. He said the cost of towing and impounding a vehicle is costly to owners, with fines exceeding \$300 and daily storage fees about \$100 per day.

The previous complaint-based system favored residents who had time, knew who to call and weren't afraid of government, he said, which created an inequitable approach as some areas went under-reported. With officers proactively patrolling the entire city, this has helped alleviate the issue.

"Many of those calls were because a car was parked on somebody's street, often in front of their home, and it hadn't moved in three days," Heyne said, adding after the department put a notice on a vehicle requiring it to move in 72 hours, it would, and then they'd received another call about the same car. "It wasn't an effective use of taxpayer money or our time."

While the program has been improved, Heyne said it may result in frustrated residents because they can't get the department to investigate vehicles parked on their street for more than 72 hours. He said chances are if nothing is wrong with the vehicle, it won't be towed anyway.

"California law allows us to take action against those stored vehicles, but it does not require we do so," he said. "We want to focus on vehicles that are clearly not going to be able to drive away that pose health and safety hazards."

Times Local News

Prioritizing wildfire prevention and safety in Santa Clara County

By County Supervisor Joe Simitian

In California—with fire season seemingly a constant—we have to keep looking for opportunities to improve fire prevention year-round, and to give local communities the help they need to keep their homes, businesses, and families safe.

This is particularly important in places like our County's West Valley, where many folks live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone that extends from the scenic and rugged—and fire fuel rich—Santa Cruz Mountains to the cities and neighborhoods on our western flank.



County Report

Joe Simitian
County Supervisor

I'm gratified that my Board colleagues agree, unanimously supporting my proposal to expand the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District's Pre-Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience program in the West Valley.

First, the County will be adding a dedicated Fuels Crew to clear brush and vegetation along evacuation routes and roads in the Fire District, which includes the cities of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Cupertino, and a portion of Saratoga, along with unincorporated lands in western Santa Clara County. (As a "dependent" fire district, SCCCFPD is governed by the County Board of Supervisors, which acts as the District's Board of Directors.)

Second, for these same residents and communities, we've expanded a free "chipping" program that helps create and maintain defensible space, and further reduces hazardous WUI fuels.

While the program's services are for SCCCFPD residents, the work we do to prevent or thwart the spread of wildfire helps the County as a whole by ensuring:

- Healthier air quality and reduced carbon release into the atmosphere;
- Maintaining higher levels in our reservoirs and keeping fire-related sediment or carbon particles from running into our drinking water supply;
- Better protection of our open space, wildlife, and forests; and,
- Safer evacuation routes for everyone visiting, working, or living in the west side of the County.

The SCCCFPD's existing Fire Protection and Wildfire Resilience Program was established with federal, state, and local partners in 2020, following two devastating megafires – the CZU and Santa Clara Unit (SCU) lightning complexes—that affected the South Bay. The program's strong initial results are encouraging.

As Assistant Fire Chief Brian Glass put it, "The region continues to experience increased risk due to an accumulation of drought stressed fuels and overgrowth. Wild-

land megafires are becoming more frequent and deadly, and this is why it is so important that we take action, now, to explore additional ways to keep the communities we serve safe."

I commend the SCCCFPD's efforts to date to focus on prevention and wildfire mitigation. That said, it's time for us to step up and take these efforts to the next level. We can do more. And frankly put, we have to.

"The County will be adding a dedicated Fuels Crew to clear brush and vegetation along evacuation routes and roads in the Fire District, which includes the cities of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Cupertino, and a portion of Saratoga, along with unincorporated lands in western Santa Clara County."

– Joe Simitian, County Supervisor



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Times **Feature**

California launches CalAPP to spur rooftop solar growth by cutting costly red tape that slows solar installations

California has launched a first-in-the-nation initiative to spur growth in rooftop solar and reduce consumer costs by cutting red tape that impedes solar installations.

The California Energy Commission's "CalAPP" program provides incentives to cities and counties to adopt SolarAPP+, software designed by the federal Department of Energy using innovative technology that issues building permits for rooftop solar in real time. SolarAPP+ eliminates permitting delays, standardizes the permitting process

between jurisdictions, and reduces the cost of solar, leading to solar on more roofs.

Properties that install solar first need to receive a permit from the local building department, but outdated and bureaucratic permitting requirements in many areas combined with chronic staffing shortages can add months of delays and thousands of dollars to solar projects. In many cases, property owners give up on solar entirely. Even in the several cities and counties with streamlined solar permitting, different processes and requirements unique to that

jurisdiction can add significant costs to contractors who pass those on to their customers.

Environmental advocates, the solar industry, and consumer groups are hopeful that the CalAPP program will remove these roadblocks and praised the new program.

"How does California expect homes to go solar if they can't get a permit? How does California expect solar to be everywhere if every city and county has their own rules" questioned Ben Davis, policy associate with the California Solar & Storage Association.

"Thank the solar gods for CalAPP, which should open the floodgates on rooftop solar."

"CalAPP is a quadruple win," said Jeanine Cotter, President and CEO of Luminant, a solar installation company in the Bay Area. "Every day, we devote a ton of resources to obtaining permits for our clients to go solar. By encouraging cities to adopt the best practice of automating permitting, CalAPP will slash costs for building departments, installers, and customers, leading to solar on more roofs, which in turn will

See SOLAR, next page

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Times **Community News**

CAREER CORNER

The importance of leadership in the post pandemic era

By Angela Copeland



Remote work is a perk that has exploded since the pandemic began. Prior to 2020, a remote job was a uni-que find. Today, it has become the norm for many jobs. But, working from home has introduced challenges related to human connection. And, leadership has never been more important.

It's funny. Prior to the pandemic, I knew much more about my coworkers, and I bet you did too. I had seen photos of their families. I knew the kinds of cars they drove. I had a good sense if they were morning people, and whether or not they liked coffee. These are details you learn in person.

Remotely, these details are lost. And, so is the connection. Many interactions become far more transactional than before. Gone are the days of chatting over your cube wall to the person next to you. Gone are the watercooler chats.

The other area that has changed is how we interact with our leaders. In the past, it was not unusual to talk with your manager at least once a day. You'd likely have a one-on-one meeting once a week. You would also see them in other scheduled meetings. But, even more importantly, you'd have casual conversations.

The casual conversations were the most important ones. They were the ones where creative ideas would come together. They were the times you would work together to solve big problems that popped up. And, most importantly, it's where you'd build a real relationship with them. You might learn about their family, and they'd learn about yours. You'd become work friends in a way. These sort of interactions are where mutual trust and respect are formed. It's where loyalty and common purpose are developed.

Trust and respect are the foundation of any good working relationship. They're the reason why you keep getting your job done, even when the boss isn't looking over your shoulder. It's why your boss can count on you to keep the lights on while they're on vacation.

But, what happens when these personal interactions begin to dwindle? What hap-

pens when the personal relationship fades away? I would argue that work becomes more transactional. Work becomes something you are simply bartering your time for in exchange for a paycheck. And, like any consumer in a store, you'll be looking for the best deal. You'll want to put in the least amount of effort for the most amount of money.

To the leaders who aren't taking the time to connect to your team, their work is suffering. It may not be clear today, but someday this pattern will catch up with you. They may be producing less work than they could. They may be producing lower quality work. Or, they may have no hesitation to leave when another job opportunity arises.

Remote work requires you to do more than to control those who work for you. It requires you to lead – more now than ever before.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.



Remote work requires you to do more than to control those who work for you. It requires you to lead – more now than ever before.

Gone are the days of chatting over your cube wall to the person next to you. Gone are the watercooler chats.

Solar

Continued from previous page

reduce global warming emissions."

The federal Department of Energy modeled SolarAPP+ after San Jose's and Los Angeles' home built solar permitting platforms. San Jose's and Los Angeles' software, similar to SolarAPP+, asks the contractor a series of questions to verify that the system is up to code and then issues the per-

mit automatically, enabling construction to begin the same day.

The CalAPP program provides grants and assistance to cities and counties to adopt SolarAPP+. While SolarAPP+ is free, the grants are designed as an incentive and to cover the staff time and other resources spent on adoption. The maximum grant sizes range between \$40,000 and \$100,000 depending on population. The grants are non-competitive and the application is simple.



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Times **Community**

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San Jose regulates police use of military equipment

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose Police Department has hundreds of military-grade items in its armory and is asking for more. City officials are scrutinizing the request.

The City Council unanimously approved a new policy on June 22, which guides how the San Jose Police Department should pay for, acquire and use certain types of gear considered military-level equipment.

The guidelines include the use of armored vehicles, various rifles and shotguns and unmanned aircraft or drones it already owns.

The policy cites Assembly Bill 481, a state law approved last September that requires governing bodies of law enforcement agencies to adopt regulations for any equipment the police department previously obtained that's considered military-level equipment.



Pictured: ROOK, a bulldozer-like armored vehicle. Photo courtesy of San Jose Police Department.

"The law requires police to annually report to the public how it used the equipment, complaints received, internal audits or violations of the policy and costs to use equipment," said San Jose Police Chief Anthony Mata.

San Jose Police Department's military equipment inventory currently includes 700 military-grade pieces of equipment totaling several million dollars.

"This equipment is used in extremely dangerous situations to protect the community, but also (to protect) the officers safely resolving the situation," Mata said.

High gas prices have San Jose commuters seeing red

By Lorraine Gabbert
Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

As gas costs continue to reach unsustainable levels, no one is immune to the pump pain. For those commuting miles to work, all are getting gouged equally.

While the state searches for solutions to the near \$7 a gallon price at the pump, people like police officers, delivery drivers and traveling nurses are dealing with this problem on a daily basis.

Ryan Goudy worked four years for the San Jose Police Department. He faced a two and a half hour commute each way from his home in Atascadero. He often stayed in the San Jose area during the week, which meant not seeing his family at the end of the day. With the lack of family time, the rising cost of fuel became the final straw. In April he left SJPD to work closer to home.

'It made it unaffordable'

"It made it unaffordable," he told San José Spotlight. "I couldn't do it anymore."

Goudy was spending \$1,000 a month on gas for his Ford F-150 truck, filling up three times a week. He now has a two-minute commute to the Atascadero Police Department, infrequent stops for gas and time to be with his family.

Gas prices shot up across the country following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. In California, added taxes and fees for environmental regulations and road and bridge repairs push gas prices to the highest in the nation. State gas prices have reached \$6.38 on average, according to AAA. That jumps up slightly to \$6.45 on average in San Jose.

Affecting morale

San Jose police officers who can't afford to



Gas prices in San Jose continue to rise. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

live locally are finding the price at the pump increasingly difficult. Tom Saggau, spokesperson for the San Jose Police Officers' Association, said the lack of affordable housing plus inflation, crippling grocery bills and the high cost of gasoline pushes first responders further away. Some officers travel several hours a day to work from the Central Valley, Fresno, Sacramento, Hollister and Salinas.

"The gas prices being what they are," Saggau said, "...for those who can only afford with what they're paid to live where they live, it just makes it incredibly worse."

Saggau told San José Spotlight the 50-hour work week plus travel time takes them away from family life, and all that comes with it. Officers miss their children's school open houses or can't coach Little League.

"It has this debilitating effect on morale that adds up," he said.

Shelby Bolduc, a current SJPD officer, understands those long commutes all too well. She has been with the department for four and a half years. When she wanted to buy a home, she had to move to the Central Valley, as living in the Bay Area close to work was unaffordable.

"With how much we make as police
See GAS PRICES, page 18



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Times Local News

Say goodbye to flavored tobacco in San Jose

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

San Jose has put the kibosh on flavored tobacco to reduce teen vaping. San Jose's 600-plus smoke shops can no longer sell flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes, including menthol flavored products.

The ban, which the San Jose City Council unanimously passed last September, will apply to any tobacco products with an artificial or natural flavor, aroma, herb or spice and went into effect last Friday.

The new policy also raises the age to purchase tobacco products in San Jose from 18 to 21, aligning with state laws.

Shisha, Hookah and premium cigars will still be available, but smoke shop owners say these new rules could put them out of business.

About 1,200 smoke shops sell tobacco products in Santa Clara County, with more than half located in San Jose, said Nicole Coxe, tobacco free communities program manager with Santa Clara County Public Health.

"San Jose's action to restrict the sale of these flavored products will have a tremendous impact on protecting kids from lifelong addiction," Coxe told San José Spotlight.

But San Jose businesses are worried about their bottom lines.

Younis Helgurbani, owner of Santa Clara Smoke Shop in downtown San Jose, is considering becoming an Uber driver because of the new restrictions. He said flavored tobacco makes up 40% of his business in two of his family's stores and almost 60% in his third store.

"A lot of businesses are going to shut down," he told San José Spotlight. "It might not be in the first month, because these things take time. But if they can't afford to pay their rent or their employees, there's no reason to stay open."

Helgurbani said he has four children to support and a mortgage to pay. The city should care more about what this will do to business owners and lost tax revenue, he said.

San Jose isn't the only place to take such measures. Santa Clara County has had a ban on flavored tobacco products in effect since 2016 in its unincorporated areas. An exemption that allowed adult-only tobacco stores to sell flavored tobacco products was removed in 2019.

Oscar Carrillo, a San Jose division manager in code enforcement, said the city worked closely with county public health

on the ban, receiving a grant of \$120,000 to reimburse staffing and resources for research and mailings to retailers.

"We did our best to have a fair ordinance that mirrors the state regulations," Carrillo told San José Spotlight. He said the city's tobacco retail ordinance was outdated.

The city's Code Enforcement Division will enforce the ban. Sellers of banned products could be fined up to \$2,500 per day and/or have their tobacco license revoked.

John Tokhi, manager of Houdini's Smoke Shop, told San José Spotlight the flavored tobacco ban would affect 30% to 40% of sales. He said the store may start selling more hemp products to make up for the loss in sales.



John Tokhi, manager of Houdini's Smoke Shop, said the flavored tobacco ban would affect 30% to 40% of sales. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

"We have a lot of regular customers who just come for that," Tokhi said. "There have already been a lot of complaints by customers."

But Coxe said nine out of 10 people who become addicted to smoking tobacco start as adolescents. Studies show that 93% of high school students in Santa Clara County who report using tobacco used with flavored products.

Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, professor of pediatrics at Stanford, said flavors are a driving force for adolescent use of tobacco. She said teachers report half the students in high schools, middle schools and even elementary schools use vaping products.

Halpern-Felsher said the flavors have chemicals such as aldehyde or diacetyl, which gives a buttery flavor to the product. These additives are harmful and aldehydes cause lung and heart damage.

Councilmember Pam Foley, who helped lead the ban effort, said Big Tobacco has systematically targeted young people by selling addictive flavored tobacco products.

"Six months ago, we voted to ban these flavored tobacco products. We said the long-term health of our young people is important," Foley told San José Spotlight. "Our efforts tell Big Tobacco to stay away from our kids."



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State Senator Cortese secures local investments in state budget

State Senator **Dave Cortese** (D-San Jose, pictured right) has secured several local investments for Santa Clara County students and families in this year’s 2022-23 state budget agreement.

Cortese’s approved district budget requests are the following:

- \$5,000,000 for Martial Cottle Park Improvements
- \$5,000,000 toward Integrated Data for Student Mental Health Support
- \$2,200,000 for the Eastside Education Initiative
- \$2,000,000 for the Santa Clara County Youth Climate Initiative

“The local investments I’ve secured this year endeavor to educate and empower our next generation,” Cortese said. “Through an equity lens, this funding will provide students and families across our region equitable access to college and career readiness, project-based learning, environmental learning, opportunities to enjoy their local open spaces, as well as effective and integrated student mental health support systems, all with a goal of ensuring well-being and success in and outside of the classroom.”

Martial Cottle Park Improvements

The Cottle and Lester Historic Ranch (Historic Ranch) is part of Martial Cottle Park, a 287.54-acre State-County Park located in South San Jose. The Historic Ranch portion of the park is approximately 31 acres and includes a residence, outbuildings, and 25 acres of actively farmed land. The preservation of the cultural and environmental heritage of the Historic Ranch, while providing public access to a working farm and educational facility, is central to Santa Clara County Parks Department’s Cottle and Lester Historic Ranch Site Plan.

Senator Cortese has secured \$5,000,000 for the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department to accelerate the completion of this project and ensure that the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to Martial Cottle Park will have the opportunity to enjoy the Historic Ranch well before 2038.

Integrated Data for Student Mental Health Support

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) will receive \$5,000,000 to build an integrated data system that will streamline the referral process for student mental health services. This would create a much better and more efficient system for mental health providers who serve students to coordinate care and ensure that students receive the services and supports they need. It would allow SCCOE’s student wellness center mental health professionals to more efficiently share information with the county’s school coordinators, county behavioral health contractors and community-based organizations, and managed care plans. It would be built on SCCOE’s “DataZone” technology and assist with LEA billing for eligible services when the new law that allows schools to bill managed care and commercial insurance for student mental health services goes into effect on January 1, 2024 and would serve as a statewide model.



The Eastside Education Initiative

The Silicon Valley Education Foundation, in partnership with the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley and the Latino Education Advancement Foundation will receive \$2,200,000 to launch The Eastside Education Initiative (EEI). EEI’s mission is to promote a college and career readiness culture by (1) engaging Eastside students and families in a participatory process to promote parent and student voices, (2) improving core subject proficiency of Eastside students leading to an increase in Latinx graduates who pass A-G coursework, (3) providing college and career-aligned programming beginning in the 6th grade to increase enrollment and persistence in two-year colleges and four-year universities, and (4) advocating for equitable funding for East San José schools to be on par or above the highest per-pupil allocation in Santa Clara County. The EEI focuses on four key pillars of success: Student, Family, and Community Engagement, Core Subject Proficiency, College and Career Readiness, and Advocacy.

The Santa Clara County Youth Climate Initiative

The County of Santa Clara’s Office of Sustainability (OOS) will receive \$2,000,000 to fund and launch a program called “The Santa Clara County Youth Climate Initiative” (YCI) that will empower youth in Santa Clara County to play a leadership role in taking action on climate change. In partnership with the school districts, regional colleges, local community choice energy providers, city governments and youth serving organizations in Santa Clara County. This initiative will provide Santa Clara County youth with the 1) knowledge and understanding of sustainability and environmental issues, 2) skills to craft innovative solutions, and 3) drive change through youth-centered place-based project application, outreach and education around climate change. The pilot, through in school curriculum, workshops and skill training programs, leadership development, as well as fellowships, will build individual skills, and regional capacity among youth to influence public policy and lead on/support local governments and partners achieve local and state sustainability goals. Resources and place-based strategies will be integrated to support youth from underserved communities participate in the program and enhance their college and career preparedness.

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Times **Feature**

A recession might affect you less than others who don't prepare

FinanceBuzz, a reader-supported website tackled the relevant question: Is a recession coming? The response was, "It's possible!"

By preparing now for a potential major downturn in the economy later this year, a recession might affect you less than others who don't prepare.

Here are some of the ideas the website presented to cope with a possible downturn in the economy. :

1. Don't overpay when you shop online

Shopping online has its perks. It's super convenient, but it can be time consuming to find the best deals. Instead of hunting for coupon codes (that don't always work!) and opening tons of browser tabs comparing prices, you can try Capital One Shopping.

Capital One Shopping makes saving money effortless. Just add the browser extension and when you check out, it'll scour the internet for coupon codes to help you save cash. And before you check out at favorite stores like Amazon, Target, and more, Capital One Shopping will notify you with a friendly pop-up if the item you're buying is available cheaper somewhere else.

Capital One Shopping is free to use and won't show you ads. Add it today and stop overpaying!

2. Search for new car insurance

We've got bad news; you could be wasting \$500 every year on overpriced, second-rate car insurance. And you should probably cancel your existing insurance right now, because there's something much better.

This new tool from FinanceBuzz can tell you if you're overpaying for your car insurance in just a few clicks. On average, we find around \$500 a year in savings for drivers. And once you try it out, you'll never have to look for affordable insurance again because we find you the lowest rates that other companies can't match.

Oh, and it's also free. And come on — you can't tell us you don't want to save up to \$500. To find out if you're losing up to \$500 or more a year, just enter your zip code here, answer a few questions and see if you're overpaying. It takes less than 2 minutes.

3. Pay no interest until November 2023

Imagine getting 18 billing cycles with 0% interest on a balance transfer or a big purchase. You could dramatically change your financial picture with this industry-leading low-interest card - the BankAmericard® Credit Card.

If you want to kick high-interest credit card debt to the curb, this is one of the best get-out-of-debt cards available. Transfer your high interest debt to this card with a 0% intro APR for 18 billing cycles for any qualifying balance transfers made in the first 60 days on balance transfers. Your payments can go directly to paying down your balance without incurring a pile of additional charges. That could save you hundreds of dollars in interest!

It doesn't just stop with balance transfers though. Cardholders also get a generous intro APR of 0% for 18 billing cycles on purchases. After the intro period for purchases and balance transfers, the APR is 13.74% - 23.74% (variable).

The best part? There's no annual fee.

4. Prepare for market volatility by diversifying with gold

Stock market volatility can be financially damaging, especially as you near retirement. You could

move your investments into a savings account, but have you seen interest rates lately? Another option to consider — diversify with gold.

Gold values are inversely correlated with the stock market and the dollar. When one goes down, the other usually goes up. If you want to protect your retirement funds, having diversified investments may be able to help you weather market swings.

Gold Alliance is a reputable precious metals dealer that specializes in precious metals IRAs. They make it simple to transfer funds from your current retirement account (like a 401(k) or IRA) into a precious metal IRA — with no taxes or penalties.

Gold Alliance offers a free gold information kit to help you learn more about why gold and silver could be a smart choice for diversifying your portfolio, and how the process works.

5. Ask this company to pay off your tax debt

Tax debt is overwhelming. It weighs on your mind and causes massive anxiety. You end up emotionally and physically drained from it. And it's even worse when the IRS starts calling you and sending letters about wage garnishment and huge fines.

Even if you want to pay it off, it's scary enough to stop you from ever making progress.

Easy Tax Relief is designed specifically to help you get out of tax debt faster and could even eliminate some of the debt you owe. While most tax companies just put you on a payment plan and file your taxes for you, Easy Tax Relief communicates with the IRS for you, and can help you pay off your tax debt faster while potentially reducing what you owe.

6. Earn a \$200 cash rewards bonus with this incredible card

When it comes to rewards credit cards, sorting through the hundreds of options can be overwhelming. And if you're new to credit cards, the idea of juggling multiple cards or monitoring ever-changing spending categories can be downright stressful.

That's why the Wells Fargo Active Cash® Card Rates and Fees is such a smart choice. You can earn unlimited 2% cash rewards on eligible purchases — easy! That's one of the best cash rewards options available.

Plus, new cardholders can get a one-time cash rewards bonus — \$200 cash rewards bonus after spending \$1,000 in the first 3 months. Use your card just for essentials at the gas station or grocery stores, and you can easily meet the spending requirement.

The best part; there's no annual fee.

7. Don't let home repairs drain your bank account

Did you know if your air conditioner stops working, your homeowner's insurance won't cover it? Same with plumbing, electrical issues, appliances, and more. Not being able to make repairs could leave you in a bad situation — but a home warranty could protect you against surprise expenses.

Whether you're a brand-new homeowner or you've owned your home for years, a plan from Choice Home Warranty could pick up the slack where homeowner's insurance falls short.

If a covered system in your home breaks down, you can call their hotline 24/7 for assistance to get it repaired. They have a network of over 15,000 technicians that can assist you, making sure any issue can be taken care of swiftly — without breaking the bank.

Not sure if it's for you? Rest easy: they were named one of the "Best Home Warranty Companies" by US News 360 Reviews and were awarded Best Company's 2020 Consumer's Choice Award. For a limited time, you can get your first month free when you sign up for a Single Payment home warranty plan.

For more information, visit: www.FinanceBuzz.com



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Times Feature

Gas prices

Continued from page 14

officers, there's no way that I could even think about buying anything," she said. "Even rent out here is ridiculous. That's why I have to live in the Central Valley."

4-hour commute

Bolduc previously lived with her parents and had a 20-minute commute. Now she travels more than two hours each way. Although she said her mortgage is probably half of what rent would be in the Bay Area, she is still spending big on fuel.

With "astronomical" gas prices, she pays almost \$100 to fill the tank of her Dodge Charger every three days, about \$1,000 a month if she fills up 10 times. Even her 12-year-old Ford Fusion commuter car costs \$90 to fill up.

Gas accounts for about 10% of her monthly paycheck, Bolduc said. Although she'd like to travel to relieve job stress, she's limited in how far she can go due to fuel costs.

"It definitely limits what you are able to do for yourself," she told San José Spotlight. "It would be nice to do more, but you have to work with what you have."

A new normal?

Allan Kamara, president of the Registered Nurses Professional Association, is also concerned for his nurses who have to drive from far away, including a worker who commutes from Monterey County.

"That's two hours one way and will cost you about a tank of gas," he told San José Spotlight.



Kamara said he's worried rising gas prices may lead nurses to relocate if their pay doesn't increase, exacerbating the current health care worker shortage. Increasing gas prices are the talk of the breakroom, he said.

"I hope it doesn't become a new normal, because it's not going to be sustainable," he added.

Commuting steals rest time

For their mental health, nurses like to travel and see family when they're off work, Kamara said, but they're not able to do that due to fuel expenses.

"When they're off, they like to get out of the house," he said. "It's part of their therapy... especially with what nurses have been through in the past two years. Now people are careful where they go."

Over \$200 to fill a tank of gas

Charles Downing, a Home Depot delivery driver in San Jose, said it costs him \$230 per day to fill the truck he uses for work and \$190 weekly to fill the Chevy Suburban he drives for his large family. Although the cost of gas hasn't caused him financial hardship yet, Downing said it's only a matter of time with gas prices continuing to rise.

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Times Feature

Solar winds of summer

By Matthew Frazier

With the summer solstice fast-approaching, and being in the midst of a mega drought, here in Santa Clara Valley and throughout California, the climate is changing around us.

In past articles, I have made frequent mention of irrigation practices which came to me from credible sources such as irrigation contractors, irrigation designers, irrigation technicians, landscape contractors, landscape technicians, and other professionals who deal with water conservation and water management in their daily affairs.

June 29, 2022 marks 16 years ago I was hired by the very first retail nursery I worked in. That summer, Santa Clara Valley experienced consecutive days of heat over 100 degrees. It took some acclimation on my part to get into a routine. Watering in the morning, before the sun reaches its peak, sounds like a logical and reliable means of saving water. In an earlier article, I mentioned the conversation years ago with an irrigation contractor who told me about their three and three rule.

The summer winds

With progressively hotter days and warmer nights come the winds of summer. Caressing this valley by evening and night, they are an essential and welcome component of summer. With these sacred and treasured winds come erosion and evaporation, even in the dark hours. To protect our landscapes from losing water, we can use compost and mulch liberally where needed. Subterranean irrigation is one option. But, being mindful of the patterns of these winds can be crucial in determining the best times to irrigate.

Clay soil

Clay soil has a saturation and runoff point around five minutes, with moderate overhead irrigation. My day job is a key holder and lawn and garden sales specialist with Almaden Valley Ace Hardware near Santa Clara Valley, where I live. The high-efficiency nozzles we find in the lawn and garden departments of hardware stores and home improvement centers look promising. Yet, in order to be successful in combatting the effects of wind erosion, adequate and correct dynamic and static pressure in the irrigation lines must be monitored.

The best watering times

The best watering-times, which were recommended to me by a trusted irrigation professional, are 9:00 p.m., midnight, and 3:00

a.m., three nights per week, three 10-minute cycles, and three hours apart. Santa Clara Valley is subject to stringent restrictions, which allow us to irrigate two days per week. Southern California faces one day per week. Given that California is in the midst of this mega drought, every gallon counts.

Mulch

The solar winds of summer are alluring and majestic. And yet ... They can be lethal for tender growth and young plants still highly-dependent on supplemental irrigation. To protect our plants, I was advised to use a ½ inch layer of compost and three inches of mulch. Measure the diameter of the canopy of your shrubs and trees. Use this radius to measure out from the edge of the canopy. Use a rope or a string to scribe a circle around the stalks and trunks. Inside of this circle, use a 1/4-

inch to a half inch layer of organic compost. Create a berm along the line you drew in the soil, two inches high and two inches wide. Outside of this berm wall, use a three- or four-inch layer of mulch. If you live in fire country, use only non-woody mulches – to lessen the incidence of a fire. This is what has been offered to me by experts and professionals in The Landscape Industry over the years.

Irrigation techniques

When we irrigate with emitters and flags, best to check to ensure whole droplets are being administered to the soil and not mist or spray. Dynamic and static pressure in the lines which is too high can cause this. I urge our customers to invest in pressure gauges for their hose bibs and within their irrigation systems – to ensure correct pressure. When I conducted water-waste inspections and water-wise outdoor surveys for home owners, as an employee of a local water district, we used to tell them that anything above 45 psi warrants a pressure regulator.

Free inspections

Our local water agencies and water districts have water-waste inspectors and water-wise outdoor surveyors who will come out to your business or home and conduct free inspections and surveys. It is a worthwhile investment.

Any comments, concerns, and/or questions ... I welcome you to write me. Thank you one and all for your time in reading this article. I wish you solace with our beloved summer solar winds. This is truly a season for relaxation and reflection.

Matthew Frazier is a CLCA Expert Certified Water Manager. You may contact him by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



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Times **Feature**

Pet's bad breath may mean disease

By Dr. Jay King

In a recent poll of North American pet owners, 58 percent of respondents said their pets have terrible breath—some even compared it to smelly garbage and sweaty gym clothes.

More alarming is that by the age of three, 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease.

The problem

The reality is that bad breath is produced by harmful bacteria which forms plaque and can be an indicator of gum disease. Just as in people, gum disease in pets is painful and can lead to expensive dental treatment and tooth loss. Plus, the bad bacteria can make

its way into the bloodstream and cause chronic disease, joint damage and worse.

An answer

The good news? There's a simple affordable way to improve pets' oral health at home. In a poll of ProBioraPet customers, 88 percent reported that their pets' breath improved after taking the product.

Simply put, this unique dental-care probiotic contains ProBiora3®, a patented blend of three positive bacteria strains which solely support tooth and gum health. The beneficial bacteria colonize on tooth surfaces and along gumlines and crowd out the bad bacteria. There's no taste and no odor, so pets still enjoy their food.

Customer survey respondents also reported their pet's breath is "now sweet enough



for them to give me kisses" and "their breath is clean even in the car with the windows rolled up."

Adding this all-natural dental-care probiotic powder to pets' daily food can be an important step in improving their oral health. The result is a healthier mouth for your pets and sweeter kisses for you. After all, a healthy body starts with a healthy mouth. And a healthier pet is a happier pet. (NAPSI)

Dr. King is medical director for Center for Animal Rescue and Enrichment of St. Louis, MO. He also holds educational certificates in Biology, Endangered Species Management, Conservation/Captive Breeding Endangered Species, and Animal Behavior, and has won various awards, scholarships and grants.

Doctors

Continued from page 4

roughly 40% of its next year budget on hospitals and health programs. But county physicians said administrators are ignoring the pay inequities in the system.

According to the union, roughly 50% of its members who are specialists and non-primary care physicians are being paid far below the market rates. This disproportionately affects women and doctors who are Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), union leaders say. In 2022, nearly 20% of the union is comprised of AAPI female doctors receiving substandard market wages.

The petition came months after a group of contracted emergency physicians at the Valley Medical Center protested against the ongoing staff shortage and unsafe working conditions. The average wait time for patients in the ER ranges from eight hours to 14 hours, workers said. The doctors, employed by medical group US Acute Care Solutions (USACS), wanted the county to either hire them as county employees or find a local company to manage them. Santa Clara County decided to extend the contract with USACS despite the opposition.

Hospitals and health care systems across the country are seeing a growing workers shortage—which has put a strain on those who have spent the last two years fighting a pandemic that's killed 2,329 people locally. In Silicon Valley, health care workers at San Jose Good Samaritan Hospital, Stanford Health Care and Sutter Health have all sounded the alarm over the chronic staff shortage, despite not facing the same challenges as county-employed doctors.

"We are proud to serve some of Santa Clara County's most vulnerable community members," VPG Chairman Stephen Harris said. "Our patients should not be denied time with their doctor and the quality healthcare experience just because they are using a public hospital. Santa Clara County's Health and Hospital System should be setting the standard for quality care, not lowering the bar."

Ginieczki, who's part of the negotiation team, expects talks to continue for at least the next two months.

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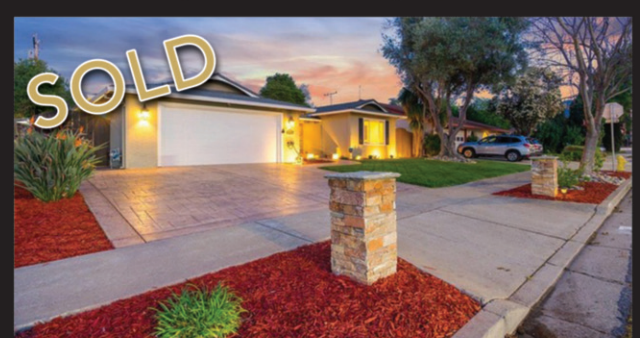
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Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

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

 thepoint.church

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ਬੰਦਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148
The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfranciscatholic.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O. - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com**



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Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;
Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

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20601 Via Santa Teresa

\$4,990,000 | 4 Bed | 4+ Bath | 7158 Sq Ft | 2.62 Acre Lot

Enter the private driveway up to this stunning Almaden Valley executive-style home and you are immediately awestruck by some of the most magnificent panoramic views in Santa Clara County. This architectural masterpiece brings the outside in as it incorporates the sweeping views into almost every room in the home. Gourmet kitchen, office/library, media room, large game room, enormous bonus room that could be an "in-law" suite. Tesla charging station. Solar. 4-car garage with workshop and storage. Numerous balconies as well as the side yard with outdoor kitchen, two sitting areas, fire pit, pergola, hot tub, lawn, and pavers. Top Schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.



790 Finchwood Way

\$2,599,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3032 Sq Ft | 8025 Sq Ft Lot

This stunning home in Almaden Valley's quiet Woodside neighborhood is just steps away from the Alamos Creek where you can stroll or bike to Lake Almaden. One of the five bedrooms is on ground floor, and is adjacent to a full bath. Expansive great room with view of Mt Umunhum. Primary suite includes a large walk-in closet, oversized jetted tub, & large granite shower. One upstairs bedroom is extremely large and would make an ideal bonus room. Fully owned 3.9kw solar panels. A seating area with built in benches and sunken hot tub allow enjoyment of the backyard. Top schools: Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High.



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.
If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

Therese Swan
408.656.8240
tswan@tswan.com
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com
DRE 01355719



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