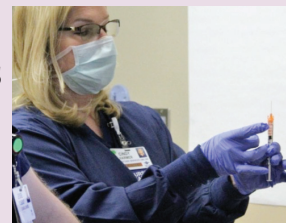


San Jose sees rising property values despite economic woes  
— **SEE PAGE 4**



**Every day is special**  
Finding the challenge and opportunity in each day can be challenging  
— **SEE PAGE 4**

Silicon Valley water agency faces backlash over vaccine policy  
— **SEE PAGE 7**



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# Almaden Times

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AUGUST 5 – AUGUST 18, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 16

## REMEMBERING KITTY MONAHAN



Kitty Monahan at her New Almaden home in 2020. *Courtesy Kris Peretti*

## 'Mayor of New Almaden' Kitty Monahan, champion for Santa Clara County's parks, passes away at 89

*Monahan worked to protect Almaden Quicksilver County Park*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**A**lmaden Valley resident Kitty Monahan, a beloved preservationist, educator and historian passed away at her New Almaden home on July 25. She was 89.

Monahan is described by community members as having a "very positive outlook on things," "tough," "always smiling" and "tireless" in her quest to safeguard the area's history.

Spending more than 14,000 hours volunteering for the county's parks, Monahan was recognized in 2014 through a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. This past May, Monahan was given a lifetime achievement  
*See MONAHAN, page 14*

## San Jose residents react to record-breaking inflation

By Jack Delaney  
*San José Spotlight*

**S**an Jose residents are grappling with the highest level of inflation in 41 years, forcing many to make hard choices about food, travel and housing—furthering the disparity between the haves and have-nots.

On Wednesday, the Labor Department reported consumer prices have risen 9.1% since June of last year. Rising costs have affected nearly every sector.

The price of gas is up 50.1% in the Bay Area year over year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Utilities like natural gas and electricity are up 33.6% and 19%,

respectively. Food prices are up 10.8%, with cereals and bakery products up 13.6%. Household furnishings and supplies have jumped 9.5%.

For some Silicon Valley residents, high food and gas prices mean lifestyle changes.

Claudia Daw, 95, and her 65-year-old daughter of the same name, from Santa Clara County, said inflation is preventing them from pursuing their favorite pastime: rock collecting, also known as rockhounding. Driving is too expensive, her daughter said, which prevents them from visiting family over the summer.

"It's painful," the younger Daw told San José Spotlight. "We have to



Claudia Daw and her daughter of the same name said the cost of gas has prevented them from driving to see cousins this summer. *Photo by Jack Delaney.*

work long trips into our budget. Our food bills have also tripled in cost."

Inflation is hitting the region at a time when property values are soaring and thousands of homeless people are sleeping on Santa Clara County streets. According to a recent report, the top quarter of Silicon Valley earners hold 92% of the region's wealth, with the top 10% holding 75% of all the wealth. The average annual income in Sili-

con Valley was \$170,000 last year, and the median income was \$138,000—more than double the national median. But the average income for regional service workers was \$31,000.

Yige Kebede, 25, a rideshare driver who moved to San Jose in 2016, isn't able to visit his home of Gondar, Ethiopia because flights are too expensive. To make ends  
*See INFLATION, page 10*



## 14TH ANNUAL HOT SAN JOSE NIGHTS – A FREE FAMILY EVENT

### Airport Day returns September 3 at Reid-Hillview Airport

Family friendly classic car show, static airplane show, and more! Event goers encouraged to bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**F**or 14 years, Hot San Jose nights – Airport Day has been a huge family fun classic car show and airplane show for the entire family Saturday, September 3 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The event including parking is free.

"Bring your chairs and coolers and enjoy the day with us," said event

founder, Michael Hennessy. "We will have great live music and fun food all day. School robotics teams and ROTC will also be participating. And don't miss the Civil Air Patrol presenting the Color Guard during the National Anthem in the Opening Ceremony at noon. This is a great day for children to participate in a learning environment and have fun too!"  
*See AIRPORT DAY, page 5*



The high cost of plane tickets is preventing Yige Kebede, 25, from visiting his home of Gondar, Ethiopia. *Photo by Jack Delaney.*

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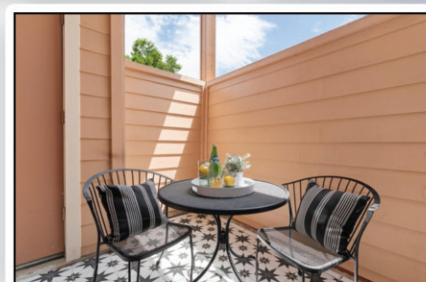
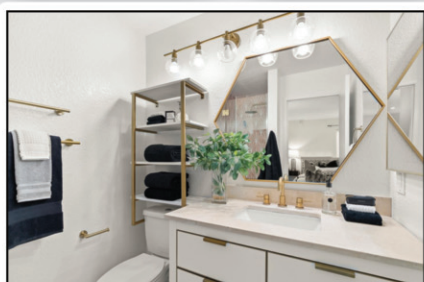
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## NOTEBOOK

## Jeffrey Wu of Almaden named to Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic

Jeffrey Wu of Almaden Valley has been named to the spring 2022 Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's West campus in San Jose, California.

Wu graduated from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo California Bachelor of Science - Biology, General Bachelor of Science - 2014 – 2018. He graduated from Leland High School in 2014.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.



## San Jose sees rising property values despite economic woes

By Tran Nguyen  
*San José Spotlight*

The value of taxable properties in San Jose skyrocketed last year thanks to demand for luxury homes and new construction. However, experts and county officials say the growth won't last.

At the heart of wealthy Silicon Valley, the assessed value of all

property grew by \$15 billion over the last 12 months—a jump from \$215.9 billion to \$231 billion. In Santa Clara County, the value has reached a record-breaking \$619.9 billion, according to county data. That's a \$43 billion increase over the prior year, demonstrating the COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact has limited reach.

See *PROPERTY*, page 13

## Valley Currents

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

## OP-ED

## Every day is special

By Bryan Golden

Every day you wake up is a special day. It is filled with potential and opportunity.

Too many people start their days in a foul mood. They drag themselves out of bed to prepare to endure another day. Starting on Monday, their objective is to make it to Friday. Then, on the weekend, Sunday becomes stressful as the clock clicks down to Monday.

It's a shame to allow a bad attitude to cause you to lose sight of how special each day is. As you become jaded, each day looms as a challenge to get through rather than something to savor. Although we all face problems, it is our outlook that determines how successful we are in dealing with them.

Here are some tips for getting back on track so that you begin recognizing every day as special. Start with appreciating all of the things in your life you can be thankful for. Look past the fog and negativity. Regardless of what you are dealing with, there are many things which you can be appreciative of.

Developing this attitude of gratitude grounds you in the positive. Review your list of good things on a daily basis. This habit gets your day started on the right foot. The foundation you build makes it easier to recognize each day as special.

The things you are thankful for are your bright spots. They will energize you when you appreciate them. One bright spot alone can outshine all of your problems. Even if yesterday was a low point, every new day is a special opportunity to turn things around.

An appreciation of all the miracles in your life will boost your attitude of gratitude. Start with the miracle that is you. This wonder dwarfs the challenges you are facing. Pay attention to details. All miracles, regardless of how small, should be fully appreciated.

Adjust your perspective. Instead of looking at what's wrong, identify what is right with each day. Everyone has problems, and each problem has a solution. Rather than being saddled with another day of problems, you have a new opportunity to find



solutions. Taking this approach lets you focus on what is right instead of fixating on what is wrong.

Determine what needs to be fixed. This means separating problems from symptoms. Problems are a cause while symptoms are the result. When ignored, symptoms will create secondary problems. Every day is another special opportunity to identify and fix problems. You will become more frustrated and problems will worsen when you fail to take corrective action.

Cut free from the shackles of the past. Don't lament what you could have, would have, or should have done. When you hold onto your past it pollutes your future. The value of the past is to teach us what didn't work and what did. Each day is a special opportunity for a new start.

Every day is another chance to accomplish what you put off yesterday. Taking action is the only way to accomplish anything. Stop procrastinating today and get into gear. Each day you delay, is a day lost you will never get back.

Cultivate positive thoughts. Purge negative words and concepts from your self-talk. Your mind believes whatever you tell it without discrimination. If you tell yourself you can do something, you are right. If you tell yourself you can't do something, you are also right. Your thoughts are as special as each day because they determine the direction of your life.

As you can see, every day is indeed special. Take advantage of the new opportunities that constantly present themselves. Use the time you are given rather than wasting it. Believe in yourself and your ability to have the life you want.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at [Bryan@columlist.com](mailto:Bryan@columlist.com) or visit [www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com](http://www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com). Copyright 2022 Bryan Golden

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LETTER  
TO THE  
EDITOR



## Volunteers can protect the vote

Dear Editor,

I've been very frustrated with the thought that I am powerless to do anything to thwart the real and present danger to our country.

Our democracy is in crisis. The best way we can fight back is to protect the vote in November.

We need to generate as many non-partisan volunteers as we can to ensure that each eligible voter does not lose his or her right to vote.

Volunteer for election protection to make sure we protect the results of the 2022 election.

Jack Albright  
Almaden Valley

## OP-ED

## Can I get Monkeypox by shaking your hand?

Well, our world has all kinds of scary things right now.

We just came out of a pandemic and now we see we have another secret variant virus upon us.

Throw Monkeypox into the equation and it becomes unclear if we should even be shaking hands anymore.

The thing is, this Monkeypox thing is being mostly spread by men with men encounters. I am not sure what started it and to be equitable, women can get it

too.

Well, I think it may be best not to shake anyone's hand anymore. Why do it. So, perhaps it is best we change our greeting in America.

Why not just kindly bow or put our hands together to represent or acknowledge the meeting of another person (stranger) we are introduced to.

Why touch anyone, because it just means that you must wash your hands or use sanitizer.

I hope this new Monkeypox thing does not freak out the youth, because I enjoy seeing them on occasion holding hands while courting.

What kind of world are we living in?

Kevin Larsen  
San Jose



Times **Cover Story**

More than 40 static airplanes will be on display at the event.

## Airport Day

Continued from page 1

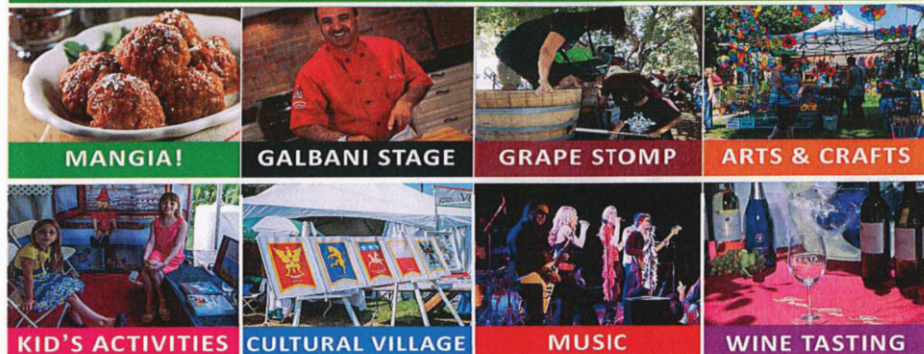
### Aircraft

More than 40 static airplanes will be on display. San Jose State University aviation program, one of the nation's oldest and the only public

institution in California, is welcoming event goes to sit in their aircraft and talk with students and faculty. This gives everyone a chance to learn more about the educational opportunities we provide. The program offers a BS in Aviation with an emphasis in professional flight, operations, aviation management, and Maintenance Management.

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## Silicon Valley water agency faces backlash over vaccine policy

By **Natalie Hanson**  
*San José Spotlight*

Officials at Santa Clara County's largest water supplier are on the defense after a whistleblower publicly accused the agency of retaliating against employees unvaccinated for COVID-19.

An anonymous whistleblower calling himself "John Public" commented at a Valley Water meeting on June 28 and released a video on YouTube, which is no longer available, claiming the district's vaccination policy is discriminatory. Valley Water requires all workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an approved medical or religious exemption.

As of July, 98.82% of Valley Water's 851 employees are vaccinated, spokesperson Matt Keller told San José Spotlight. CEO Rick Callender said in a statement last week that with COVID infections still high, the public health emergency necessitates upholding the vaccination policy. As of July 21, the seven-day rolling average of new reported infections in the county is 939, down from last month's average of 1,099 on June 28.

"Our critical infrastructure provides water to residents and businesses," Callender said. "While we understand there may be a few people who disagree with the policy, it is necessary during this time to follow the science and our public health leaders, not just for us, but for the people we serve."

The whistleblower disagreed. "The district has forced many of us out of their livelihoods already and the process is to put you through great duress/coercion. To be treated in this discipline process is nothing short of a beat down to submit or lose it all and denounce your faith!" he wrote in a letter.

His video, which contained copyrighted logos and clips, was hit with a claim from Valley Water's attorney Juan Carlos-Orellana and removed from public access. Carlos-Orellana was not available to comment, a Valley Water spokesperson said.

The whistleblower said via email he thinks his video was removed because Valley Water did not like his claims that the company mishandled a vaccination mandate. He claims Valley Water used COVID-19 data to justify the vaccine mandate even though some people who were vaccinated still got sick.

He also said he and other employees had exemptions denied for nonspecific reasons.

"Those who got their religious exemptions denied were put on a discipline process that leads up to termination," he claimed.

Callender said he doesn't know who the anonymous source is, but is familiar with the video. He said the video used confidential staff information.

"We follow the county Public Health advice, we follow the CDC advice and as an agency that is what we followed," he said. "It sounds like the anonymous source is not following the CDC or public health advice or explanation."

Valley Water decided to pursue a 100% employee vaccination rate, Keller said, after the county suggested businesses and government agencies implement mandatory

vaccination requirements. Last fall, the water district required unvaccinated staff to test weekly.

In January, the district told workers to submit proof of full vaccination by March 1. Unvaccinated employees had to request an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Failure to provide proof of full vaccination would result in disciplinary action including termination, according to the policy.

"We also implemented a mandatory vacci-



**Cindy Harmer**, health care services line director, flicks any air out of the syringe containing the COVID-19 vaccine at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose in this file photo.

nation policy for all new hires, requiring they provide proof of full vaccination absent an approved medical or religious exemption prior to their start date," Keller said. He said of 36 employees who asked for exemptions, three have received them to date. The district declined to say how many employees have been fired or quit because of the policy.

### **Not applicable to board members**

Although workers have mostly adhered to the mandate, the requirement does not apply to Valley Water board members, Keller said.

Callender said the board, as elected officials, does not have a vaccine requirement and don't need to provide vaccination records as they are not employees. He said board members are

*See VACCINES, next page*



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## Symphony San Jose presents Season-Opening 'Let The Trumpet Sound' Oct 1 & 2

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Symphony San Jose presents "Let The Trumpet Sound" at its 20th Anniversary Season-Opening Program Saturday, October 1 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, downtown San Jose.

Renowned on six continents, Norwegian soloist Tine Thing Helseth will perform Tomasi's formidable Trumpet Concerto performed with her signature lyricism and warmth. This will mark the first appearance at Symphony San Jose for the talented soloist and the first appearance for conductor Andrés Cárdenas.

Tine Thing Helseth will perform Tomasi's formidable Trumpet Concerto performed with her signature lyricism and warmth with the San Jose Symphony October 1-2.

Since the beginning of her career, Helseth has championed the trumpet repertoire amongst audiences on all six continents, meriting the highest critical praise for her soulful, lyrical sound and collaborative approach to music-making. An artist who challenges the boundaries of genre with an intensely creative, open-minded philosophy, Tine's ever-expanding repertoire ranges from the classical period to contemporary works and new commissions.

Tine has worked with some of the world's leading orchestras, including the Bamberger Symphoniker, NDR Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Gürzenich-Orchester Cologne, Tonkünstler-Orchester Vienna, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Scottish Orchestra at the BBC Proms, Warsaw, Rot-



Above: Norwegian soloist **Tine Thing Helseth** will perform Tomasi's formidable Trumpet Concerto; below: Conductor **Andrés Cárdenas**.



terdam, Oslo, Bergen and Helsinki Philharmonic orchestras.

Conductor Andrés Cárdenas has been concertmaster at notable orchestras, including the San Diego Symphony, Utah Symphony, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. As a conductor and concertmaster, Cárdenas led the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for more than 20 years. Cárdenas is known for premiering rarely heard pieces by notable composers.

### The Program

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: Russian Easter Overture

Maurice Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin

Henri Tomasi: Trumpet Concerto

Robert Schumann: Symphony No. 3 Rhenish

Soloist: Tine Thing Helseth. Conductor:

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### Tickets

Tickets are available by phone: 408.286.2600 ext. 1; website: [www.symphonysanjose.org](http://www.symphonysanjose.org); email: [jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org](mailto:jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org); or, or simply use the Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113, which is located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Symphony San Jose subscriptions for the season are also available for packages of 4 and 8 programs. The full season runs from October 2022 through June 2023.

### Sample Video

Soloist Tine Thing Helseth performs J.S. Bach: Trumpet Concerto in D after Vivaldi, 2nd movement is available on Youtube.com <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXc2JRyPcJU>

## Vaccines

*Continued from page 7*  
all concerned about not getting infected with COVID, all being over the age of 50 with some concerned about health conditions.

"They don't want to get sick from members of the public or staff," Callender said. "People are still dying from this."

George Rutherford, a professor of epidemiology at UC San Francisco, said he thinks policies like Valley Water's are vital to preventing the transmission and spread of viral diseases like COVID-19.

"You always have to have vaccinations as the bedrock on which all other guidelines are built," Rutherford told San José Spotlight. He said three variants are circulating and only 71.5% of Californians are fully vaccinated. Even people who received a booster last winter do not have full protection against infection, even though they have protection against hospitalization and death.

"No vaccine is 100% perfect because the amount of virus when (a person) gets infected varies," he said.

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# Inflation

Continued from page 1  
meet, he's cut down on meat and is traveling less.

Kelly Hensley, 38, a barber from downtown San Jose, said he goes grocery shopping less frequently and buys less meat. Rising costs are forcing him to increase his prices at the barber shop, he said, noting many of his regular customers are showing up less frequently.

"I just go for the cheap stuff," Hensley said. "On my days off, I used to hop in the car and drive around. Now I don't."

For some residents, however, inflation is raising larger concerns.

Veronica Galvez, 50, a small business owner who lives in San Jose's West San Carlos neighborhood, said she is cutting down on "all the extras." She recently purchased a more cost-efficient vehicle, and said she isn't going out to eat. She's constantly on the lookout for sales, and visits multiple supermarkets to compare prices for specific items. Galvez said inflation is exacerbating the inequality already present in Silicon Valley.

"In this valley, there is such a big gap between the haves and have-nots," Galvez said.

Faizah Keval, a mother of two from San Jose, is thinking about her children's futures.

They were planning on visiting family in Texas, but decided not to because of gas prices. A parkour class—a sport that



Above left: **Kelly Hensley**, 25, a barber from downtown San Jose, is making lifestyle changes because of inflation. Above right: **Veronica Galvez**, 50, a small business owner from San Jose, has stopped eating out and is spending more frugally on groceries. *Photos by Jack Delaney.*

involves acrobatics and jumping over obstacles—which her son wants to enroll in—is also off the table. Even getting basic goods like milk, Keval said, is starting to take a toll as prices go up.

"At this point, we have to make a choice about whether we can even live here, or raise a family here," Keval told San José Spotlight. "We're thinking of moving out of the state to be able to make a living and ensure that our children will be able to live comfortably."



**Faizah Keval**, from San Jose, is contemplating moving out of state because of record-breaking inflation. *Photo by Jack Delaney.*

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## CAREER COLUMN

### Uncertainty in the Market

By Angela Copeland

Lately, quite a lot of focus in the news has been on topics that evoke fear.

The stock market is down. Hiring may be slowing. Prices are skyrocketing. The labor shortage still exists, and supply chain issues have not been fully resolved. We're living inside of a system with uncertainty. And, the uncertainty creates fear. But, it could be argued that uncertainty was there all along.

Uncertainty and fear are often the products of the unknown and of change. These feelings can lead us to try to find, or to stay in a stable spot. We may remain with our current employer for the job security. We may try to minimize the change we introduce into our lives. This makes sense. At times, it can be a matter of survival.

But, in the way business works today,



uncertainty may become a normal part of working. Let's back up a little. Just a few generations ago, a stable corporate job would last for your entire career. If you were pragmatic, you'd get one job and slowly climb the ladder at your company one step at a time.

This has evolved. For many career paths, the way to the top now comes through a series of job changes. Whether you're switching companies or career fields, the road is no longer a linear one.

The more that your career is non-linear, the more you're introducing both change and risk. After all, you may join a new company that is not a fit. You may try a new type of role and find that it doesn't work for you. But, many successful careers now demand this type of change to continue to grow.

As you can imagine, your current company is less likely to invest resources into you if your path will lead you outside of their doors. This forces you to be in the driver's seat. You must make your own connections, be in charge of your own education, and make your own way. You must be the CEO

*See CAREEERS, next page*



# 2022 Ford Lightning true to its name accelerating 0-60 MPH in 4 seconds

*The Ford Lightning can be ordered with an extended-range battery providing 563 horsepower and a 320-mile range and can accelerate from 0-to 60 miles per hour in about four seconds.*

**By Sean Eastwood**

*Times Media staff writer*

**T**he 2022 Ford Lightning electric pickup arrived a year after it was announced, and now there's an estimated three year backlog for delivery.

First announced at the 2019 Detroit Auto Show, Ford beat all the others — Tesla to GMC, Chevrolet to Rivian — to the competitive truck market to further add to the manufacturer's truck legacy with its success of the F-150 for that past 15 years. In fact, the new Lightning is quieter than other F-150s and more than 300 pounds lighter than a Rivian R1T.

The Lightning is a luxury oriented, full-



**2022 Ford Lightning**

size electric pickup truck with top-level performance and sports a 300-plus mile range. The truck can be ordered in Pro, XLT, Lar-

iat and Platinum trims.

What's unique about the F-150 Lightning is Ford's decision to offer the Pro trim with

a smaller-capacity battery; the Platinum is offered only with a higher-capacity battery. The XLT and Lariat are equipped with the smaller-capacity battery standard, but buyers can order the higher-capacity battery as an option.

## Here's how the batteries stand up

The truck's standard-range battery produces 452 horsepower and a 230-mile range. The extended-range battery provides 563 horsepower and a 320-mile range. The 563 horsepower Lightning can accelerate from 0-to 60 miles per hour in about four seconds.

The standard all-wheel-drive system has selectable Normal, Sport, Off-Road and Tow/Haul modes. Metal skid plates provide underbody protection. As an electric vehicle and with robust power, the Lightning is unique, a superior effort for any vehicle and particularly for a truck.

The top-line Platinum trim adds features from lower trims and the luxury-loaded Lariat trim.



If you find yourself at a point in your career where you're ready for a change, don't wait.

## Careers

*Continued from previous page of your own career.*

You must also show up as a ready-made package, as if you were a consultant. It is similar to running a small business. But, it doesn't come without risks. You may not always have the same income. Competition is higher. You must prove your value to stay relevant. In other words, the current market is full of uncertainty and change. But, this kind of uncertainty already exists in today's working world.

If you find yourself at a point in your career where you're ready for a change, don't wait. Things may or may not feel more stable soon. Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting you quit your job with no plan. It means that you should start taking small steps today that will lead to bigger changes later. Begin networking and interviewing for jobs. Walk yourself through the uncertainty and change one step at a time.

*Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at [copelandcoaching.com](mailto:copelandcoaching.com).*

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Times **Feature**

**TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK**  
**Contactless Payments**

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:

**Contactless Payments**

Have you simply tapped your credit card to a terminal to buy a coffee, doughnut, or slice of pizza? Merchants like Visa, Mastercard have rolled out the technology to make contactless cards a reality. The successful rollout of EMV chip cards has proven

that consumers are willing to adapt to new ways to use credit cards.

**How do they work?**

They come embedded with chips and a near-field communication – or NFC – antenna. When consumers are ready to check out, they tap their contactless cards to a point-of-sale terminal. The card communicates with the chip terminal through radio waves. Contactless cards come with enhanced security, too. The cards generate a unique cryptogram with every transaction, making it more difficult for thieves to steal data.

Today’s EMV cards, in which consumers must dip their cards into a reader, can take up to 30 seconds to close a transaction. Contactless cards can complete the same transaction in 13 to 15 seconds, thus making them a viable option.

Contactless payments are not just in the form of

contactless credit cards! They can be in the form of key fobs, smart cards or mobile wallets using devices like smartphones that use RFID (radio-frequency identification) or NFC (near-field communication). So how do mobile wallets work?

The NFC technology enables mobile wallet apps to link the secure credit card information which is stored in your mobile device to the connected payment terminal. Therefore, all you must do is open the app that contains your credit card information and move it in front of the terminal.

In addition, this app can be used for managing your finances by tracking your spending and signing up for digitized receipts and purchase notifications. Finally, it can help you store data on your phone, improve mobile shopping experience and make better spending decisions. Examples include Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, and Google Pay etc.

Apparently, there are numerous technology discoveries around contactless payments that can not only improve security, but also make the entire payment process more convenient and faster. Some of these methods are simple and straightforward, while others are ambiguous and more difficult to grasp.

As the technology gains acceptance, nontraditional banking institutions and third-party payment providers such as PayPal have begun to experiment with ways to improve frictionless checkout. For example, some payment providers are exploring ways that GPS technology can be added to help mobile customers locate financial services, such as ATMs, or opt into loyalty promotions conducted through targeted geofenced campaigns.

*Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at [shub.saxen@gmail.com](mailto:shub.saxen@gmail.com).*

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Times **Feature**The entire family will enjoy the *Italian Family Festa* (pictured: the 2019 event).

## ***Italian Family Festa* returns celebrating its 40th year at History Park San Jose Aug. 20-21**

### *Free admission for the entire family*

The 2022 *Italian Family Festa* is back and better than ever August 20-21 celebrating its 40th anniversary at History Park San Jose. Admission is free.

The Italian American Heritage Foundation announced the return of *Italian Family Festa* after two years as it gears up to share their Italian culture hospitality with the Bay Area community. The festivities begin on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 21, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Community support**

"We are thrilled to be back after two years and grateful for the community support, volunteers, plus grants from the City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara that make this festival possible," said Nancy Morreale, Festa Director. "With everything going on make sure to make time for our daily grape stomp and a marionette show each day, and don't forget our Festa Wine Tasting Garden, presented by The Sobrato Philanthropies, which will feature local Italian wineries and is always a popular activity."

#### **Family emphasized**

This year will be a Festa to remember.



**"Saturday Night Street Dance" with Livewire**

"The Foundation announced it is emphasizing the family at *Italian Family Festa* with the addition of a new children's area, Ragazzi Zona, sponsored by Harker School. The new additions are set in a large grass area where families can relax and children can hear Italian story tellers, enjoy crafts, and learn some Italian along with all the fun," Morreale said. Navy Week will also be celebrated at this year's event.

#### **Musical performances**

"This year, the Roma Stage will feature musical acts with performances from Mike Annuzzi, Blue House, Bella Ciao, John  
*See FESTA, page 18*

## **Property**

*Continued from page 4*

Changes of home ownership and new commercial construction continue to be the greatest drivers of growth in the region, Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone told San José Spotlight. New construction in the county contributed \$5.9 billion to the total increase last year. Changes in home ownership contributed \$24.5 billion—nearly half of the total increase—in the region. In San Jose, residential assessments accounted for \$9.9 billion of the total increase, while commercial properties contributed \$5.1 billion.

The county's assessment roll, which contains nearly 500,000 properties ranging from boats and airplanes to commercial buildings, is revalued every year.

"In Silicon Valley, the luxury home market has been on fire particularly," Stone



The county's assessment roll, which contains nearly 500,000 properties ranging from boats and airplanes to commercial buildings, is revalued every year.

said. "On the commercial side, it was primarily new construction and major (tech) companies building and leasing spaces."



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

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

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll  
[one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net) 408-778-3567





**Kitty Monahan**, middle right, at the ribbon cutting of the San Cristobal tunnel, October 12, 1985. *Photo courtesy of Tere Johnson*

## Monahan

*Continued from page 1*

award by the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance.

### Saying goodbye to the community

In the days before her passing, Monahan had dozens of visitors coming to her New Almaden home to thank her for her long-time service to the community which she considered her family, before saying their goodbyes. Monahan did not marry and did not have any children.

Monahan left behind many accomplishments, including her dedication in helping lead the Santa Clara County's purchase and preservation of the 4,000-acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

Monahan, born in San Jose Dec. 4, 1932, attended Notre Dame High School. She then served as a nun for the next two decades and spent time teaching in various California locations, she broke with the church after disagreements with Pope John XXIII's leadership. She started her public teaching in the early 1970's, when she became a math teacher at William C. Overfelt.

During the start of her public teaching career, Monahan began to embark on her preservation efforts. Working alongside other community members, Monahan was instrumental in persuading Santa Clara County to purchase the 4,000-acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park for approximately \$4 million. The area had once been the largest mercury mine on

the North American continent, with the element being utilized to separate gold from its ore. The mining operations lasted for more than a century ending in the mid 1940's.

By the mid-1970s, she was known as the unofficial "Mayor of New Almaden" because of her advocacy for the region, said Michael Cox, who spent decades working with Monahan.

In 1983, Monahan, along with Cox, helped found the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association, or NAQC-PA, which to this day serves as an educational resource for the historical site and has 400 members.

The association began bolstering the park's amenities and helped direct the county purchase of a private collection of the park's historical artifacts and a 1850s revival-style mansion known as the Casa Grande, which became the Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum. Monahan worked with editors of the *Almaden Times* to promote an appreciation of the museum and various community events in the newspaper.

In the intervening years, Monahan would continue in her preservation efforts, founding various groups like the Friends of Santa Teresa Park. She also served on the Citizens Advisory Committee of Santa Clara County's Open Space Authority and was a member of the Horsemen's Association.

*Editor's note: A service for Monahan is planned for Sept. 4 at the county Horsemen's Association.*

*Monahan left behind many accomplishments, including her dedication in helping lead the Santa Clara County's purchase and preservation of the 4,000-acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park and the Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum. Monahan worked with editors of the Almaden Times to promote an appreciation of the museum and various community events in the newspaper.*



## WATER WISE

# The solace of citrus

By Matthew Frazier

In the fifteen years I worked in retail and wholesale garden centers and nurseries, I enjoyed the spoils of my efforts to care for and promote plants which were both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally conscientious.

The very first nursery I worked in had eight consultants/salespersons of which I was one, where I was assigned to care for the owner's and manager's citrus, ornamental trees, and vines.

### The collector's corner

I enjoyed the experience of caring for each and all of the plants, even the ones in The Collectors' Corner. There was something alluring about the citrus which set them apart from all other live goods on the property.

As the sun would set, the plethora of colors would glow in the waning light and accentuate the nuances of each and every item in the spaces. The citrus were both shrubs and trees. Their spectrum of oranges and yellows from the fruits and the greens from the foliage were something to witness.

### Fragrance

The citrus have different flowering and fruiting periods, depending on the variety. One thing they had in common ... The aroma of the blossoms eclipsed all other features. The fragrance drew native pollinators including our very own native bees. Standing immediately outside of the gravel beds where they resided, I took in the smell while reminiscing about the day's events.

There are many varieties of citrus, as one will come to learn with some reading and studying. There are dwarf, semi-dwarf, and standard versions of most varieties. The dwarf limes were among our favorites. The sharp contrast of tart flavor against the sweet smell of the blossoms was one very noted feature.

In the two years and one month I worked at this nursery, I introduced hundreds of customers to the gallery of citrus which were my personal pride for which to care. Staging the black plastic pots symmetrically on a grid which was equidistant from all angles and sides caught the attention of passersby.

### Citrus can ward off nuisance insects

One little-known advantage of citrus rinds

is that they contain an enzyme which will ward off nuisance insects when grated with a culinary or a wood rasp. I have concocted home-made repellents using citrus rinds, dating back to when I worked at this nursery and beyond.

One challenge with caring for frost-tender varieties is that they must be covered with burlap as the sun goes down, to protect it from the cold air which settles by night. When the sun rises and the dew begins to vaporize, the image is at once cinematic and mesmerizing.

Regardless of whether you visit a garden center/nursery, a hardware store, or a home improvement center to purchase your plants ... You will be well-advised to visit the citrus section. The scene and the scent invoke solace among other positive emotions.

Citrus like well-draining soils. I have seen them in a wide variety of soil mediums including nitrified redwood dust and sand. The composition and texture of the soil medium has much to do with the drainage efficiency of the citrus. I have found that the best is an aggregate of small-particle sand and nitrified redwood dust.

**Citrus love sunshine**  
If your landscape or yard has full sun most of the day ... Citrus is a strong candidate. They can even handle brutal mid-day summer sun if irrigated correctly and efficiently. Irrigating at night is best in late spring and summer, I have found. The irrigation contractor I have mentioned in past articles says 9pm, 12am, and 3am, two nights per week in summer.

With the raging mega drought in Santa Clara Valley and throughout California, there is no better time to introduce this gem to your property. For areas of the landscape or yard which are battered by brutal mid-day sunlight ... Few better options exist.

**Seek out citrus**  
To conclude: I strongly encourage you each and all to visit your local retail garden center or nursery and seek out the citrus. I am confident you will find one or more varieties which speak to your desires. Thank you for your time in reading this article.

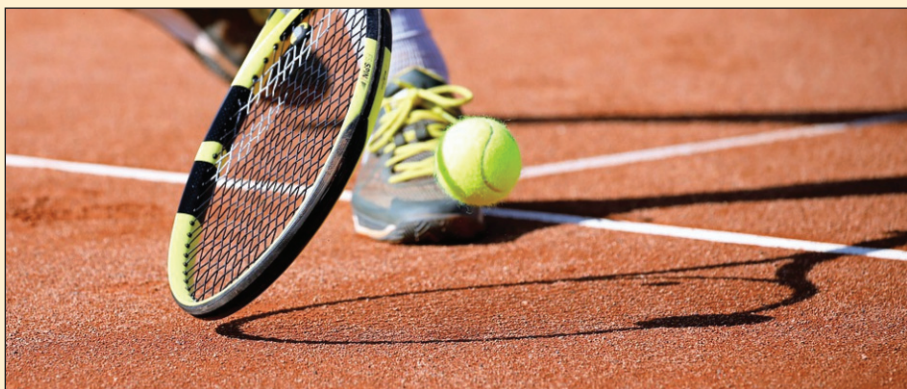
I am available to answer questions via email for any and all who wish to inquire. Best wishes in your gardening and landscaping endeavors. Be well.

*Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper, and Qualified Stormwater Manager. You may contact him at: (408) 656-5622 – Mobile/Text; or by email: [kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com)*



**Water Wise**  
Matthew Frazier,  
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Manager





## TENNIS TIPS

### Poor tennis racquet strings can cause wrist injuries

By Ken DeHart

Tennis racquet strings break, lose their tension and can affect the spin, speed and control of your shots. Poor strings can also cause tennis elbow and wrist injuries.

Here are some tips that help you decide when you should restring your tennis racquet.

#### WHAT FACTORS SHOULD I CONSIDER FOR RE-STRINGING?

From the environment to how you play the game, there are so many variables that impact how often you should restring your racket.

#### TENSION LOSS

- Strings begin losing tension the moment your racket is taken off the stringing machine.

- As tension drops, you lose control and the ability to generate as much topspin - especially if you play with a poly.

- In general, poly strings lose tension quicker than multifilament strings. They would require more frequent re-stringing.

#### ARM AND ELBOW COMFORT LEVEL

- Strings lose their resilience over time, creating a stiff or dead feeling that can be harsh on your arm.

- A freshly strung racquet will absorb the shock better upon contact, providing more comfort.

- This is especially important if you have elbow or arm issues, in which case you should consider re-stringing more often

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Natural gut absorbs moisture quicker in humid environments.

- Poly strings wear out even quicker when exposed to excessive heat or sun.

- On top of re-stringing, a tennis bag with Thermoguard lining will better protect the racquet and strings by better controlling the environment.

#### STYLE OF PLAY

- Strings will wear out faster if you play more aggressively, use more spin, and/or primarily hit from the baseline.

How do I know when it's time to restring my tennis racket?

#### VISUAL INDICATORS CAN SHOW YOU'RE OVERDUE TO RE-STRING:

##### NOTCHING

- Strings rub together as you hit the ball, creating friction.

- This leads to grooves at the intersec-

tion of the strings in the middle of the racquet.

##### FRAYING

- Natural gut and multifilament strings are comprised of tiny fibers that eventually break down.

- Poly strings are a single filament, so they will not fray.

I'm breaking tennis racket strings too often. What should I do?

##### GAUGE OPTIONS

- The thicker the gauge, the more durable it will be.

##### SWITCH TO A HYBRID STRING

- If you're playing with a multifilament string, consider switching to a poly string in the mains or crosses for more durability.

##### SWITCH TO POLYESTER (MONOFILAMENT) STRING

- Poly strings provide excellent durability since they are made of a single filament.

- However, they also lose tension quicker. This can require more frequent re-stringing for consistent performance.

- If you have arm/elbow issues, this may not be the best option due to its stiffer feeling.

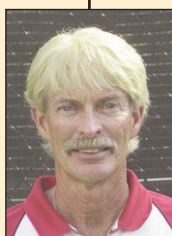
Tip: As the performance of the string changes, you continually adjust your technique - whether you notice it or not. It can become frustrating to constantly overcompensate when the strings are no longer performing as they should. If you're an avid player or competing in tournaments and looking for more consistent performance, you will want to consider re-stringing on a more regular basis.

I have multiple rackets. I primarily use one and have the other as a back-up so it doesn't get played with as much. Do I need to re-string both every time?

Tip: If you carry multiple racquets, you ideally should re-string both every time. Even though you are primarily only playing with one racket, the strings in the other racquet are still losing their tension and resilience (just at a slightly slower pace). If you break the strings in your primary racket in the middle of the match and switch to your other racket, it will play very differently if it hasn't been re-strung in a while.

I am also a professional tennis stringer and can provide next day service to help your racquet have new life, energy and performance. Contact me at [kendehart@aol.com](mailto:kendehart@aol.com) or call me at (408) 892-3806

*Ken Dehart is Director of Racquets, Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club. He is a PTR International Master Professional, USPTA Master Professional, and a USA High Performance Coach. You may reach Ken at: 408-892-3806; [ken.dehart@scvcc.com](mailto:ken.dehart@scvcc.com); [kendehart@aol.com](mailto:kendehart@aol.com)*



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Together, we've completed 50,000 repairs for our most vulnerable community members in the last 30 years

### We have three programs to help our neighbors in need

#### Critical Repairs

Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.

#### Rebuilding Days

Our Rebuilding Day program provides major and minor repairs and renovations resulting in life-changing improvements for the homeowners and organizations served.

#### Safe At Home

Safe at Home program addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home.

### Ways to get involved

**Volunteers** Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

**Contractors** We work with contractors that possess CA contractor specialty (Class C) in painting, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or electrical.

**Donate** Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at [www.rtsv.org](http://www.rtsv.org) today.



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**Steve Harris**, chairman of Valley Physician Group, a union that represents nearly 500 doctors at three public county hospitals. *Photo by Tran Nguyen, San José Spotlight.*

## Death of colleague prompts local doctors to demand changes

Health care workers are demanding county leaders address workplace issues following one death by suicide and another attempt by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center physicians.

"We're in a crisis," Valley Physician Group chairman Stephen Harris told San José Spotlight. The union represents nearly 500 doctors at three public hospitals in Santa Clara County. "We have suffered mismanagement for a very long time. And now we're at the point where the system collapses, and management is pretending it's business as usual."

Ongoing problems such as chronic staff shortages, heavy workload and long waits for life-saving procedures at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (VMC) are pushing doctors to their limits, health care workers say. With the number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations on the rise again, doctors worry issues will only get worse.

The pressure is taking its toll on workers, with one VMC physician dying by suicide in his office in May. Another physician is under mental health evaluation after pointing a gun and knife at law enforcement last week. The county has not acknowledged the second incident, Harris said.

On Tuesday, more than 50 doctors, nurses and other health care workers gathered outside VMC to call attention to the issues they're facing. Harris said management is telling workers to "suck it up."

"(That) stops today, because this management strategy is inflicting serious harm and posing serious risk to our health care workers," Harris said. "This crisis is not about a few doctors, it's about an entire management system that is chewing us up."

Doctors demand the county hire more workers, reconsider workload and include them in the decision making process. County physicians have been working without a contract for more than 18 months, union representatives said. Nine VMC doctors recently delivered a petition signed by 3,500 workers and residents to the Board of Supervisors demanding better pay and working conditions.

VMC hospital administrators referred inquiries to the county executive office. County Executive Jeff Smith declined to comment. Supervisors Susan Ellenberg and Joe Simitian declined to comment. Supervisors Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez and Otto Lee did not respond to requests for comment.

## New protein COVID vaccine coming to Santa Clara County

*New shots employ more traditional technology*

A new COVID-19 vaccine is heading to Santa Clara County.

Residents will soon have access to the new vaccine option from drug maker Novavax that may be more amenable to those who remain unvaccinated. The vaccine is touted to be the nation's first so-called protein vaccine.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved its use for unvaccinated adults ages 18 and older. However, those who are already vaccinated are not eligible.

Compared to the previously available vaccines, the new shots employ more traditional technology in use for more than 30 years to fight against COVID.

## San Jose ignores vacant homes issue

Amid an ongoing housing crisis, thousands of San Jose homes are sitting empty—but City Hall has no plan to address it.

The latest U.S. Census data shows 13,769 San Jose homes were not occupied in 2020. Vacant properties include those for rent, waiting to be sold and those not on the market, which may have been left empty by choice. San Jose had 4,316 off-market empty homes in 2020.

The issue is not new, but appears to be growing. San José Spotlight has previously reported nearly 12,000 homes in 2017 sat vacant in the city.

San Jose is one of the most expensive places to live—and rent—in the nation. In Santa Clara County, the median home price is about \$1.97 million as of June. Mortgages are also skyrocketing, with some realtors saying \$9,000 monthly payments are reasonable. Elected officials have a plan to build 25,000 homes by 2023, but progress is slow. Grassroots community efforts, such as the South Bay Community Land Trust, have stepped up to help residents find stable living conditions by putting housing into a land trust for 100 years.

Some local housing advocates say San Jose needs to reconsider the efforts targeting vacant homes, especially those left empty by choice.

**Too many empty homes in San Jose? There could be a penalty tax for that**

In 2019, the Housing and Community Development Commission asked City Hall to explore placing a tax on vacant properties—also known as the empty home tax. The idea was

*Continued, next page*



Times **Local News**

to incentivize homeowners to occupy their homes or rent them out. On the other hand, the empty home tax revenue could be used to build more affordable homes, advocates said.

"In Silicon Valley, whether you're building units, preserving units or talking about existing units that are sitting empty, every single home matters," housing advocate Alex Shoor told San José Spotlight. "If homes are sitting empty, they should be looked at."

If the tax could push 10% of homeowners to put their vacant homes in the market, Shoor said it would equate to more than 400 new homes available.

"To build 400 homes in San Jose would cost tens of millions of dollars, and it would take years," Shoor said. "The housing crisis requires a lot of different solutions at the same time."

San Jose City Hall shelved the empty home tax idea in 2019, citing the complexities and costs in studying the issue, a 2019 memo reads. City officials confirmed Tuesday there is no plan to revisit this in the near future.

Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, who supported the empty home tax in 2019, said he's doubtful it would be approved by voters in the current economic climate, with high gas prices and record inflation.

"Given we're dealing with inflation and the tax fatigue that exists, amongst other things, I'm not sure how palatable the idea is at the present time," Jimenez told San José Spotlight.

Shoor, who spearheaded the efforts behind the empty home tax, worked with Huy Tran as San Jose housing commissioners in 2019. He said the model has proven successful in cities like Vancouver, Canada. The city started charging vacant homes 1% of the property's assessed value in 2017, and the number of empty homes dropped by 15% the following year. The city also generated more than \$22.4 million from those who kept their properties vacant.

"Housing is such a key thing for people in this area that we've got to encourage getting homes onto the market as soon as we can," Tran told San José Spotlight.

While San Jose is abandoning the idea, two Bay Area cities—Santa Cruz and San Francisco—are putting empty home tax before voters in November. According to campaigns supporting the taxes, more than 40,000 homes in San Francisco and 1,000 in Santa Cruz are sitting empty. Oakland has already approved a similar tax in 2018.

Shoor hopes the efforts in neighboring cities will pave the way for similar efforts in San Jose.

"We would need a councilmember who really feels strongly about this and is able to build a coalition of five other councilmembers or city staff to revisit it," Shoor said.

## Santa Clara County launches mental health crisis hotline: 988

On Saturday, individuals in suicidal and mental health crisis will have a new option for help—911 flips to 988, a mental health crisis hotline.

The new number takes the police out of the picture and diverts individuals toward mental health services. When calls come in, trained mental health crisis counselors work to deescalate the situation, navigate the individual or family to resources and deploy

mobile crisis units as needed. The 988 number also replaces the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, folding all mental health crisis services into one hotline.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Stephen Manley, who founded one of the first behavioral health courts in the country, is a proponent of 988. He and County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg declared a mental health and substance use public health crisis in the county this year.

"I have found that many criminal cases for the mentally ill start with a call to 911," Manley told San José Spotlight. "988 is a new pathway to find help and assistance from mental health professionals immediately, and if that assistance is provided, we can hopefully see a decrease in arrests of mentally ill individuals."

### Lawmakers say Santa Clara County is in a mental health crisis

Santa Clara County's mental health and substance use crisis has seen a record increase in suicides and drug overdoses compounded by the pandemic. Schools have seen an unprecedented number of youth and teens suffering from severe depression and anxiety. For adults, the issue is further exacerbated by an inadequate number of beds in treatment facilities and the overuse of prisons to incarcerate those in need of treatment.

#### The road to 988

There are 13 crisis centers in California certified by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to respond to 988 calls. Calls to the federally funded national hotline are redirected to the appropriate network. Santa Clara and Kern counties are the only two counties that operate crisis call centers. The other 11 are operated by nonprofits.

This gave Santa Clara County a head start soon after 988 became law in October 2020, said county Suicide and Crisis Services Manager Lan Nguyen, who has been leading the crisis center transition.

There are 15 cities in the county, but only 13 have their own 911 dispatch operations. Los Gatos-Monte Sereno and Saratoga police calls are dispatched through the Sheriff's Office, as are calls from unincorporated parts of the county. The switch from 911 to 988 requires a reworking of services that has been in the works for close to two years, Nguyen said.

District 3 Supervisor Otto Lee, who supported Assisted Outpatient Treatment, also known as Laura's Law, for those with severe mental illness, said 988 is a game changer.

"988 is now our one-stop hotline phone number for mental health emergencies, and is long overdue," he said. "(It) will help us save lives."

#### Prepping for 988

Since mid-May, Santa Clara County has been quietly testing 988 through its behavioral health center. Calls are going directly to crisis counselors, and Nguyen told San José Spotlight there have been no surprises. The focus is on making sure resources and services flow smoothly from crisis counselor to community handoff in anticipation of increased call volume, Nguyen said.

Part of that success depends on the response time of the mobile crisis teams, a new resource for the crisis center. Coordinating where and when to respond takes planning, similar to triaging patients in a hospital's emergency department.

See *HOTLINE*, next page



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## Times Feature

### Hotline

*Continued from previous page*

Three mobile response teams will operate under 988. The Mobile Crisis Response Team, which serves adults, receives \$3.5 million in annual county funding. The Mobile Response Stabilization Service Team, which contracts through Pacific Clinics—formerly known as Uplift—serves youth and young adults ages 18–21. The unit received a \$2 million grant which enables the team to expand into North and South County and the West Valley.

The third team is Trusted Response Urgent Support Team, which serves all age groups and contracts through Pacific Clinics. The team received \$7 million in funding through the Mental Health Services Act. It will launch in the fall.

Karen Meagher, clinical director of Pacific Clinics who oversees two of the mobile crisis teams, said arriving on the scene is just the beginning of the process. The key is continuity of care from a 988 handoff to the mobile crisis team to helping support the person after that initial contact, she said.

“As much as I believe in mobile units and how important they are, what’s really going to support decreasing recidivism are those follow up services,” Meagher told San José Spotlight. “Can we get the people connected to the support and services needed long-term? Some of our teams can do follow ups for 30 days and offer that support.”

#### Numbers don’t lie

Currently, one out of eight calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline originates in California, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the agency that provides federal funding for 988. The volume increased by 67% between 2016-2020 to more than 304,000 calls. The agency estimates that number will skyrocket by 300% to more than 899,000 calls once 988 is activated.

In Santa Clara County, the number of crisis center calls received last year totaled 52,429, according to county records. If that volume doubles, more than 100,000 calls could be fielded locally. Nguyen said six months from now he will have a better handle on what the future may look like.

Yet there is concern about behavioral health workforce shortages, the lack of treatment facilities and supportive services, especially with 988 going live.

Sandra Hernandez, county behavioral health division director for mobile crisis response for adults, acknowledges the workforce challenges ahead and wonders where the county will find the people.

Until those numbers rise, Hernandez said, “We need to continue being as creative as possible and looking at the options to connect people to community services.”

The county’s 988 call center has 12 full-time crisis counselors on staff and 70 volunteers who have 80 hours of extensive training in mental health crisis counseling.

The current budget for the crisis center is \$1.3 million, through a combination of funding agencies. Last year, the California Department of Health Care Services announced \$20 million in funding to support the 13 Lifeline agencies. These one-time funds must be spent on technology upgrades, training, and a shared platform by the end of December. Another \$14.4 million earmarked for staffing will be awarded to the state in January 2023 through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

After 30 years in the mental health field, eight of which have been managing the suicide and crisis center, Nguyen remains upbeat and confident crisis counselors will make a difference.

“We will be able to offer support for any mental or emotional crisis situation,” he said. “Well trained and caring counselors will be there to talk to callers.”

### Festa

*Continued from page 13*

DeMers, a tribute to Sinatra and our “Saturday Night Street Dance” with Livewire, a Bay Area favorite tribute band,” said Morreale. “A special Sunday only Festa favorite, the performance by the Anthony “Nino” Lane Band, will bring all generations of music lovers together.”

#### Culinary secrets shared

FESTA goes on unwind and enjoy a culinary demonstration on the La Cucina Galbani® Cooking Stage with Galbani’s celebrity Mark Sciortino “Chef Marco” along with a variety of local chefs all sharing their culinary secrets with you. Galbani® will also host the cheese log building contest for kids each day.

“Of course, we haven’t forgotten all the favorite things that make our Festa unique,” said Morreale. “Our Cultural Village, presented by JP Napoli Companies, will feature presentations on local Italian history, the lace makers are back demonstrating the lost art of Italian lace, and the Italian Renaissance Swordsmanship Academy, a local group, will be reenacting medieval sword fights and sharing their experience and knowledge.”

#### Navy brass band honored

This year the foundation is honored to host the United States Navy brass band, along with a few friendly Naval robots that love to share and show off for the crowd.

So, grab a glass of wine, fill up on Italian food and enjoy a day in Italy right here in Santa Clara Valley at the 2022 Italian Family Festa!

#### About Italian Family Festa

The Italian Family Festa is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). The Festa brings to the Santa Clara Valley all things Italian. Through food, music, crafts, bocce, grape stomp, cultural offerings and wine tasting garden they share their Italian culture and heritage. They welcome everyone to share a bit of Italy. All proceeds support the preservation of Italian culture and the Italian American Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program.

#### About Italian American Heritage Foundation

The Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Italian heritage and culture in the Santa Clara Valley. IAHF Cultural Center, 425 N. Fourth St, San Jose, CA, [iahfsj.org](http://iahfsj.org), [iahfsj@iahfsj.org](mailto:iahfsj@iahfsj.org), 408-293-7122

*Editor’s note: History Park San Jose is located at 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA. For more information, visit [www.ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org](http://www.ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org). For a schedule of activities, visit [www.italianfamilyfestasj.org/schedule](http://www.italianfamilyfestasj.org/schedule). Follow the Festa on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ItalianFestaSJ>; and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/italianfamilyfesta>*

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Times **Feature**



# Report: 2022's Best BBQ Cities in America

Smoked, sauced, grilled — we love our barbecue. But which are 2022's Best BBQ Cities in America?

With July a great month for mouth-watering BBQ's, LawnStarter compared 200 of the biggest U.S. cities based on 18 hallmarks of a true 'cue hub.

To separate the top sirloins from the chuck roasts of barbecue scenes, we considered the number of award-winning barbecue restaurants, barbecue festivals, experience hosting a "master-level" competition blessed by KCBS, and, of course, highly rated BBQ joints.

See the 10 barbecue scenes that smoked the competition (or came under friendly fire) listed here, followed by some highlights and lowlights from our report.

**Highlights and Lowlights**

Show-Me Some BBQ: This year, the Mother of the West is also the mother of BBQ: Missouri cities filled out three of the top five spots in our ranking. St. Louis brings home the gold. Last year's 'Cue Capital, Kansas City (No. 2), and Springfield (No. 4) follow closely behind, with a boost from hosting acclaimed barbecue contests in recent years.

All three cities are home to award-winning barbecue, but Kansas City style smokes the competition with its impressive number of Accolades (No. 1).

A Southern Staple: Barbecue is more than food in the South — it's part of the region's identity. Some Southern cities are known for their BBQ scenes, but this year some unexpected cities topped America's traditional smokehouse meccas.

The report's full ranking and analysis can be found here: [lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-bbq-cities](http://lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-bbq-cities)

2022's Best Cities for BBQ		2022's Worst Cities for BBQ	
Rank	City	Rank	City
1	St. Louis, MO	1	Paterson, NJ (tie)
2	Kansas City, MO	1	Sunnyvale, CA (tie)
3	Chicago, IL	1	Ontario, CA (tie)
4	Springfield, MO	1	Paradise, NV (tie)
5	Orlando, FL	1	Spring Valley, NV (tie)
6	Overland Park, KS	1	Enterprise, NV (tie)
7	Kansas City, KS	1	Sunrise Manor, NV (tie)
8	Austin, TX	8	Lancaster, CA
9	Chattanooga, TN	9	Miramar, FL
10	Houston, TX	10	Aurora, IL



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# Biden administration withholding school lunch money if schools don't follow gender identity philosophy

By Kevin Larsen  
Special to the Times

In a stunning requirement, the Biden administration has recently instructed the arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to withhold federal monies for school lunch programs if the school districts do not update their policies to align with gender identity philosophies.

This means that the Federal monies for free and reduced lunches will be pulled unless school districts go along with what the Biden Administration wants.

Some are concerned this could mean that boys who are legally determined to be girls can participate in athletics as girls and vice versa. Many in the U.S.A. are opposed to this because the boys are breaking the girls' athletic records and gaining trophies that the biological girls are trying to win.

It also could mean that all schools will need to let boys use girls' bathrooms if they identify themselves as a girl and vice versa.

Below please find the actual verbiage of this new mandate (regarding school lunch monies) from the Biden Administration as posted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Non-Discrimination Statement by USDA**  
(<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>)

"In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident."

**Newsome encourages "No Go" ban of states**

Siting a disagreement with LGBTQ policies, California governor pushed for the increased ban for travel to 22 states using state monies.

The "No-Go" list started in year 2016 with then governor Jerry Brown and it expanded with Governor Newsom in office.

## AB 1887 passes

The following currently updated information can be found on the California State Attorney General website: California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced that California will restrict state-funded travel to Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana, and Utah as a result of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation recently enacted in each state. These new additions to California's state-funded travel restrictions list come amid an ongoing wave of discriminatory anti-transgender legislation sweeping across the country, including attacks on the ability of transgender youth to play sports and access critical healthcare. The restrictions announced today are prescribed by law in California pursuant to

Assembly Bill 1887 (AB 1887), which was enacted in 2016.

"Make no mistake: There is a coordinated, ongoing attack on transgender rights happening right now all across the country," said Attorney General Bonta. "Blanket legislation targeting transgender children is a 'solution' in search of a problem. It is detached from reality and directly undermines the well-being of our LGBTQ+ community. During this pride month and all year round, we're committed to standing up against discrimination

in all its forms. California is restricting state-funded travel to Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana, and Utah. As mandated under AB 1887, we're putting our money where our values are."

To better summarize what Attorney General Bonita is saying, he maintains that biological boys should get to compete against biological girls in sports to win medals and matches. The states that are banned disagree with this and other things.

The current banned states for paid state travel are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Flori-

*"Make no mistake: There is a coordinated, ongoing attack on transgender rights happening right now all across the country," said Attorney General Bonta.*

da, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and West Virginia.

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Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.  
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118  
408.265.5837  
[www.bibleroad.org](http://www.bibleroad.org)  
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM  
Worship at 10:30 AM  
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN**  
6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243  
Web: [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)  
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



**EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)**  
<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>  
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148.  
(408) 239-6668  
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".  
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?  
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakh" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

**FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN**  
Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com  
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



**GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN**  
[www.GraceChurchSJ.net](http://www.GraceChurchSJ.net)  
See you on Facebook  
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor  
Christian Worship every

Sunday at 11:00 am  
Together let us build lives toward excellence!  
Music Institute  
(408) 791-7772  
After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute  
PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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.



**thepoint.church**

**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

**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](http://www.churchstanthony.com). Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



*God is One*  
**ਰੱਬ ਇਕ 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.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135  
408-223-1562.  
[www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) or [www.stfranciscofassisi.org](http://www.stfranciscofassisi.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](http://www.almadenseniors.org)  
Contact via email: [alamadenseniors1@gmail.com](mailto:alamadenseniors1@gmail.com)**





# TimesClassifieds

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**Clock Repair**



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3218 S White Rd., SJ CA 95148  
(408) 270-6080

## Jewelry

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Jewelers & Watch Repair  
Ring sizing - Watch bands  
Watch batteries - Engraving  
Stone replacement & More!  
Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!

**(408) 270-6080**  
3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA  
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

## Shoe Repair

**ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR**  
**408-270-0850**  
**No Shoe is Ever Too Old!**

**Hours:**  
**Mon-Fri**  
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**9:30 am - 4:00 pm**

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**Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;**  
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## Employment

### Cost Estimator

Prepare cost estimates for construction projects.  
Master's in civil engineering.  
**JKL Construction Services, Inc.**  
751 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose, CA 95128

## Employment

### Lead Database Administrator

Sify Technologies North America Corporation seeks Lead Database Administrator in Santa Clara, CA and Philadelphia, PA. Partner with architects of different engineering/application teams to engineer complex technical product in order to provide business solutions to various business divisions as a part of DBA Engineering project activities. Implement and administer Oracle streams for live reporting server, database consolidation, zero downtime migration. Travel to unanticipated client sites within the US. May need to relocate. Work from home is an option. **Send resume to: katta.reddy@sifycorp.com**

## Notices

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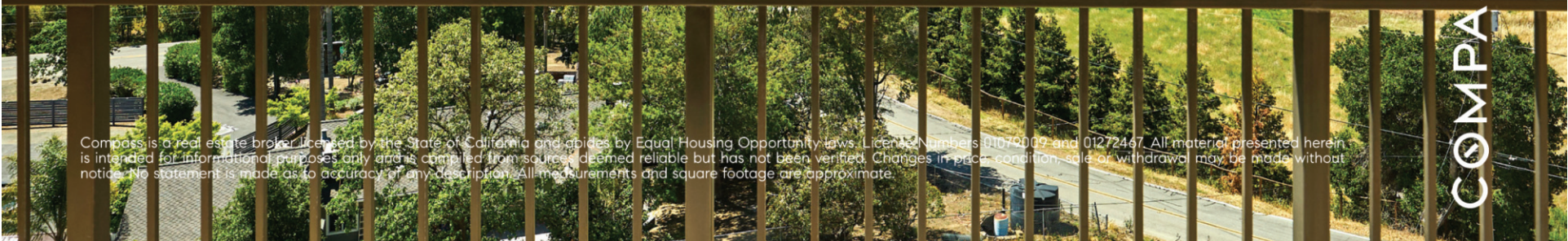
# 20601 Via Santa Teresa



**\$4,990,000 | 5 Bed | 4 Full Bath | 3 Half-Baths | 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 panoramic views in Santa Clara County. This architectural masterpiece incorporates the sweeping views into almost every room in the home. Gourmet kitchen, office/library, media room, game room, bonus room that could be an "in-law" suite. Tesla charging station. Solar. 4-car garage with workshop. 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.

[AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com](http://AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com)



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



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