

Students get a behind the scenes look at Silicon Valley Public Transit — **PAGE 8**



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

'Inflation-busting' stimulus payments to be received in October
SEE PAGE 17



AUGUST 12 – AUGUST 25, 2022 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 17

EvergreenTimes

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Coyote Creek Habitat Day August 20

Community is invited with free admission for the entire family

The community is invited to Coyote Creek Habitat Day on Saturday, August 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a free family-friendly day of activities, games, and to joyfully learn how all forms of wildlife are importantly connected with Coyote Creek.

Coyote Creek Habitat Day is a learning experience about the people and animals who have made their homes along the waterway, both long ago and today.

See the animals that wander at night

The day will include an opportunity to meet wild nocturnal

See HABITAT, page 6

Thompson Creek Neighborhood Assoc. holds nurturing National Night Out event

Neighbors reconnect to strengthen the streets

By Kevin Larsen
Special to the Times

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

On Tuesday, August 2nd many healthy things happened at many Evergreen National Night Out neighborhood group events.

The Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association had its birth in the Evergreen library more than five years ago. It was there Sylvia Arenas and TEAM helped the people to join together to create an association. Any group can also get that support by working with her city council office.

Neighborhood groups apply for the annual city grant to hold this event. To make it happen there must be lots of volunteer help. Mayor Liccardo and his Team created the annual National Night Out in the City of San Jose and the city awards grants to those who do the footwork in planning the get-together wholesome block party event. There is a joy in being a part

STRENGTHENING THE STREETS



The Thompson Creek event helped nurture the neighborhood. You too can also start your neighborhood association by contacting the office of **Sylvia Arenas** Councilwoman for District 8.

of joining together with fellow neighbors in an outside event.

Pulitzer Prize winner poet Robert Frost wrote, "Good fences make good neighbors." While this is true, there also must be a blossoming of neighbors knowing who the persons are, living in homes across the street. This event creates this annual push for all to meet and in addition to making new acquaintances, to also build on friendships from years back.

Treasurer of the Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association (T.C.N.A), Craig Ferguson

stated, "This is our 4th event where we have families come out and meet each other and where children play in the neighborhood the way it used to be. With the help of Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas and her staff, this event is able to continue safely without hesitation. Some of the other things that our neighborhood group does is to do creek clean up, trash pick-up every 2nd week of the month, coordinate dumpster days and most importantly, we pride ourselves in connecting with the

See NIGHT OUT, page 2

San Jose residents making progress in saving water

Californians are starting to make progress addressing the need for everyone to conserve water, especially Santa Clara County water customers.

San Jose Water Company users reduced their water usage by 17.5%, followed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (15%).

Northern California continued to close in on Newsom's 15% water savings goal, with the Bay Area saving 12.6% in June compared with June 2020 — the biggest savings of any region in California.

With the state's three-year



drought worsening and water customers facing penalties for wasting water, new numbers from last week showed that statewide, California's residents cut water use 7.6% in June compared with June 2020. The savings rate is more than a double from the 3.1% savings in May compared with May 2020.

Approximately 97% of the state is in a severe drought and 59% in an extreme drought, the third and fourth most severe of five drought categories, according to a weekly report published by U.S. Drought Monitor.

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Times **Community News**

Night Out

Continued from page 1

neighborhood which we do with implementing Neighborhood Watch and events like this one."

The kids came out and one grandfather stated, "I won't let them play around the corner where I can't see them but at an event like this, I feel very safe and give them freedom to roam." This is because the street is carefully closed off and just walk in traffic is allowed.

The shindig, through support of the city allowed for a jumper to be used and ice cream to be given out. Games were played by the children and there were exciting raffle prizes awarded through out the 5p.m. to 8p.m. three-hour event. Mostly neighbors had the chance to relax and talk to other neighbors. There was something reassuring in being around people, something therapeutic, good and healthy about the evening.

"National Night Out was a huge success in District 8 this year!" Councilmember Sylvia Arenas said. "Following the pandemic hiatus, I had a blast seeing our East San Jose & Evergreen families come together to build community once again. Community leaders and neighborhood groups organized a total of ten National Night Out events in our district this year – including Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association. My office and I were honored to support and attend each event to meet and reconnect with neighbors," Arenas said. "National Night Out is all about building community and strengthen-



Above: Santa Clara County Supervisor candidate **Johnny Khamis** attends one of many National Night Out events - this one at Creekside Cabana Club August 2. Below: **Craig Ferguson**, Treasurer of Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association, fellow member **Sherri** and many others, volunteer in setting up the event.



ing our neighborhood vigilance against crime and I could not have been happier seeing neighbors, families, and children come together to celebrate."



Councilwoman **Sylvia Arenas** visits with the **Pitt family** at Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association National Night Out.

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Reader lauds
thought-provoking
article about Hanoi

Dear Editor,

I read the inspiring article “Three Miracles” by Kevin Larsen and the detailed story of the homeless elderly lady Hanoi, who is in desperate need of shelter to get off the streets.

It should not be just one man’s or one organization’s effort but a mutual community effort. This Story of Hanoi is unique as she is a hard-working, ambitious, strong willed, elderly lady who is a victim of circumstances.

Her articles were stolen by people first, in her early life and then by officials in her later life, how further traumatizing it can be to her mental health, it’s like taking away a teddy bear (security object) from a child. She certainly needs a social worker immediately to get her further help, so that she can reach out and utilize available resources.

This case has been brought to light by Kevin with all his hard-work and selfless service. This real life example is an eye-opener, as many more out there, need such help. How can we really call ourselves successful citizens or a successful nation, when our fellow human beings are still on the streets?

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In the emergency rooms of hospitals thousands of dollars are spent with simply an overnight stay of such individuals when the situation becomes life-threatening, so why not by taking preventative measures help these individuals in the beginning by spending a lesser amount of money by providing them social workers in the first place.

It’s not about building houses or shelters of bricks and stones only to help homelessness, but also understanding that we need more social workers to reach out to these individuals to build a bridge to communicate with them, to understand them, so that these homeless individuals can understand how available resources work and can help them personally.

When Good Citizens provide Selfless Service and give, it helps them too. Let it not be our City Officials responsibility only.

Giving and providing selfless service is the biggest form of a therapy and an antidote for an anxiety. Giving One’s time giving attention giving understanding and love are also different types of giving. Every day we wake up, we can breathe, we can talk and walk is a miracle itself. Let us bring a smile to others, especially those who are neglected by the society with the thought of fellow brotherhood, leaving no one behind to make this earth a better place. Thank you, Times Media, for publishing such thought-provoking articles and inspire all!

Yesterday, I came across another homeless young tall boy, when I had just walked out of a local Togo, with sandwich bag in my hand. He just looked at me, and my motherly instinct acknowledged instantly from within, he is hungry. I quickly turned back and asked ladies to make two large sandwiches. I asked the boy what he will like to have for a drink and he said Sprite. He grabbed an outdoor chair and started eating sandwich right-away without lifting his head up even for a minute. He must be very hungry. He didn’t ask for money, neither did he look like a victim of drug addiction. His eyes reflected loneliness, from ages. Such a youth on the streets with dirty clothes and a thin body! What had gone wrong? What’s his story? So many questions started to line up.

Neerja Sharma
Evergreen Valley

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 out shine 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@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com

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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

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Campaign relaunch draws more than 200

More than 200 people attended former council member and candidate for Santa Clara County Supervisor **Johnny Khamis'** campaign relaunch on Sunday, August 7th. The event held at Morgan's Cove included many south county and San Jose community leaders and elected officials. Speaking in support of Khamis was current District 1 Supervisor **Mike Wasserman**, Gilroy Mayor **Marie Blankley**, Former Morgan Hill Mayor **Steve Tate**, Morgan Hill Council member **Gino Borgioli**, Former San Jose Vice Mayor **Rose Herrera** and San Jose Council member **Matt Mahan** who is running for mayor of San Jose.

2022 Earth Day Youth Art contest winners announced

Santa Clara County Parks received over 100 entries for the second annual Youth Art Contest in honor of Earth Day. The winning pieces of art will be featured in posters to be displayed throughout County Parks this summer.

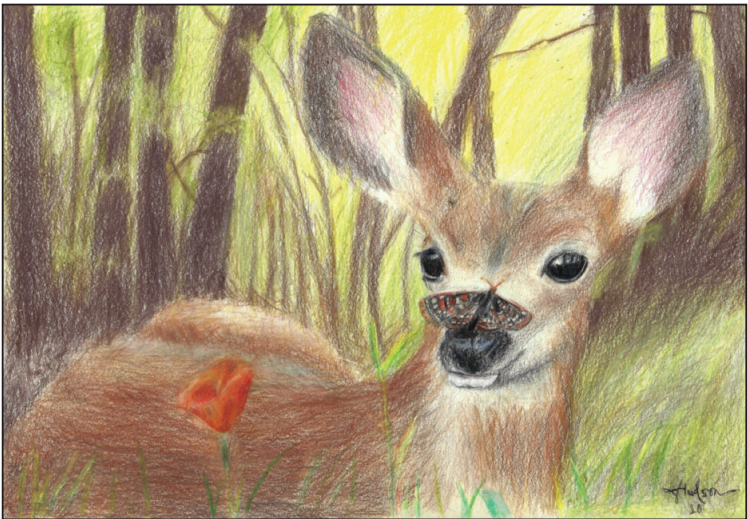
Students entering grades Pre-K to 12 were asked to let their imagination run wild as they draw their favorite park, wildlife, or activity to celebrate Earth Day by showing the awesomeness of the outdoors. The grand prize winner received a collection of parks gear including a backpack, binoculars, first aid kit, and more. A participation gift was given to every child who submitted

artwork.

The Parks Department continues to be amazed by the creativity and talent from local youth. The collection of winning art is available at <https://parks.sccgov.org/county-parks-youth-art-contest-2022>.

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational opportunities, beautiful parks and precious natural resources for Santa Clara County residents for more than 60 years. This golden legacy has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in the State of California.

Pictured below: art by Hudson, Age 10 - Grand Prize Winner



Notice of Public Meeting & Hearing
San José Municipal Water System
Public Health Goals Report on Water Quality

The City of San José Municipal Water System has prepared a Public Health Goals Report on Water Quality pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 116470 (b). The report includes water quality information for the **Evergreen, Edenvale, and Coyote Valley** areas of San José. If you are interested in sharing your comments on the report, please join us:

Public Meeting
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.
San José Municipal Water System
3025 Tuers Road
San José, CA 95121

Public Hearing/Report Adoption
Tuesday, August 30, 2022
1:30 P.M.
City of San José - City Hall Council Chambers
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

This report is on file and available for public review at the office of San José Municipal Water System, and available online at www.sjmuniwater.com. If you have any questions, please call us at (408) 277-3671.

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Habitat

Continued from page 1

and animals from the Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center, and participants can become wildlife detectives through hands-on activities like dissecting owl pellets and more.

- Kids discover history as little archeologists by digging up pieces of the past
- Make the nature connection by taking a hike
- Bike along the Coyote Creek Parkway (personal bikes are welcome)
- Participate in a self-guided scavenger hunt and other nature activities
- Meet Morticia (California King Snake) up close and personal

The event will take place at Coyote Creek Visitor Center at Anderson Lake County Park located at: 19245 Malaguerra Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037.

Admission to the Coyote Creek Habitat Day is free. Please consider walking, biking, carpooling, or taking public transit. A free shuttle is available from the parking lot at the nearby Live Oak Picnic Area.

Event partners include Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center (WERC) and the Santa Clara County Library District.

For more information, email Michelle.Armijo@prk.sccgov.org or visit www.parkhere.org to learn more about other summer programs.

Editor's note: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational opportunities, beautiful parks and precious natural resources for Santa Clara County residents for more than 60 years. This golden legacy has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in the State of California.

Times **Community News**

SJ Library hosts summer coding showcase with support from Apple

This summer, San José Public Library (SJPL) received support for its Coding 5K Summer Camps from Apple's Community Education Initiative, which provides coding, creativity, and workforce opportunities for underrepresented communities.

Through the Camps, nearly 200 students (ages 8-12) had the opportunity to attend a series of free week-long coding classes at the library.

SJPL's Coding 5K Summer Camps are taught by experienced and certified instructors who are trained by library staff

using coding curriculum and apps provided by Apple. Apple has also provided professional learning and support for program leaders and facilitators, employee volunteers, and Apple technology, including iPad devices for campers to ensure that all participating students have access to an up-to-date device that allows them to successfully complete their projects. iPads can also be checked out with a library card.

Coding 5K Summer Camp offered a total of eight week-long camps at eight SJPL locations. The camps were offered in conjunction with the Coding 5K Challenge, a program designed to further enhance access to free quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) learning programs for underserved elementary and middle school students.

More information can be found at: bit.ly/CodingCamp2022

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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

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Times **Feature**



A group of 32 high school students from throughout Santa Clara County got a special behind-the-scenes tour of VTA's largest bus yard.

Potential future transportation leaders get a behind the scenes look at Silicon Valley Public Transit

A group of 32 high school students from throughout Santa Clara County got a special behind-the-scenes tour of VTA's largest bus yard, and cutting-edge electric bus charging system August 5.

The students participated in the Mineta Summer Transportation Institute, designed to educate and encourage their interest in careers in the transportation industry.

VTA's General Manager Carolyn Gonot welcomed the students at VTA's headquarters, then the students boarded a sleek, new electric bus and headed to VTA's Cerone Bus Division, located at 3990 Zanker Road in San Jose where they toured bus operations. There the students learned about VTA's cutting-edge Electric Bus Charging Microgrid project, hailed as one of the nation's models of best practices for "deploying charging infrastructure for electric transit buses."

During the three-week San Jose State University program, the students learned about sustainability in public transportation, participated in hands-on STEM activities, learned about environmental science and how transit impacts climate change, and even how to fly drones to practice aerial mapping.

After the VTA tour, lunch was served followed by a graduation ceremony. The students' parents then greeted the graduates.



Times **Career Corner**

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 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.



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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

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. "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 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 presenta-



"Saturday Night Street Dance"
with Livewire

tions on local Italian history, the lace makers are back demonstrating the lost art of Italian lace, and the Italian Renaissance Swordsman-ship 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, 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. For a schedule of activities, visit www.italianfamilyfestasj.org/schedule. Follow the Festa on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ItalianFestaSJ>; and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/italianfamilyfesta>

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Times Feature



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

Airport Day returns Sept. 3 at Reid-Hillview Airport

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

By William Bellou
Publisher

For 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 pm. 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!”

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 goers 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.



Fun for all

For 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 pm. The event including parking is free.

Times **Notebook**

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

By Sean Eastwood

Times Media staff writer

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

ANNUAL REPORT NOTICE

2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee Annual Report on Fiscal Year 2021

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure B, a 30-year, half-cent county-wide sales tax devoted to enhancing transit, highways, expressways, and active transportation (bicycles, pedestrian, and complete streets) within Santa Clara County. In 2019, VTA's 2016 Measure B Program began the process to deliver the projects and programs contained in the ballot, having been delayed by an unsuccessful court challenge to the measure.

The ballot entrusted the 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee (MBCOC), comprised of fellow community members, with oversight to ensure that 2016 Measure B funds are being spent consistent with the ballot and for informing voters on Program compliance.

The MBCOC has conducted its annual hearing to gather input from the public, evaluated the results of the independent audit for the subject period, and completed review of the revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21). After thorough and careful consideration:

FINDING

It is the conclusion of the 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee, that for the period of FY 2021, 2016 Measure B tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

This finding and additional information on the 2016 Measure B Program are contained in the MBCOC Annual Report on FY 2021 at: www.vta.org/2016-measure-b-citizens-oversight-committee. Further information on the MBCOC is available at that same site. Additional information on the 2016 Measure B Program and projects is available at: www.vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b

Printed copies of select 2016 Measure B documents are available at libraries and other public buildings throughout the county, and at the VTA offices at 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA, in the Building B lobby.



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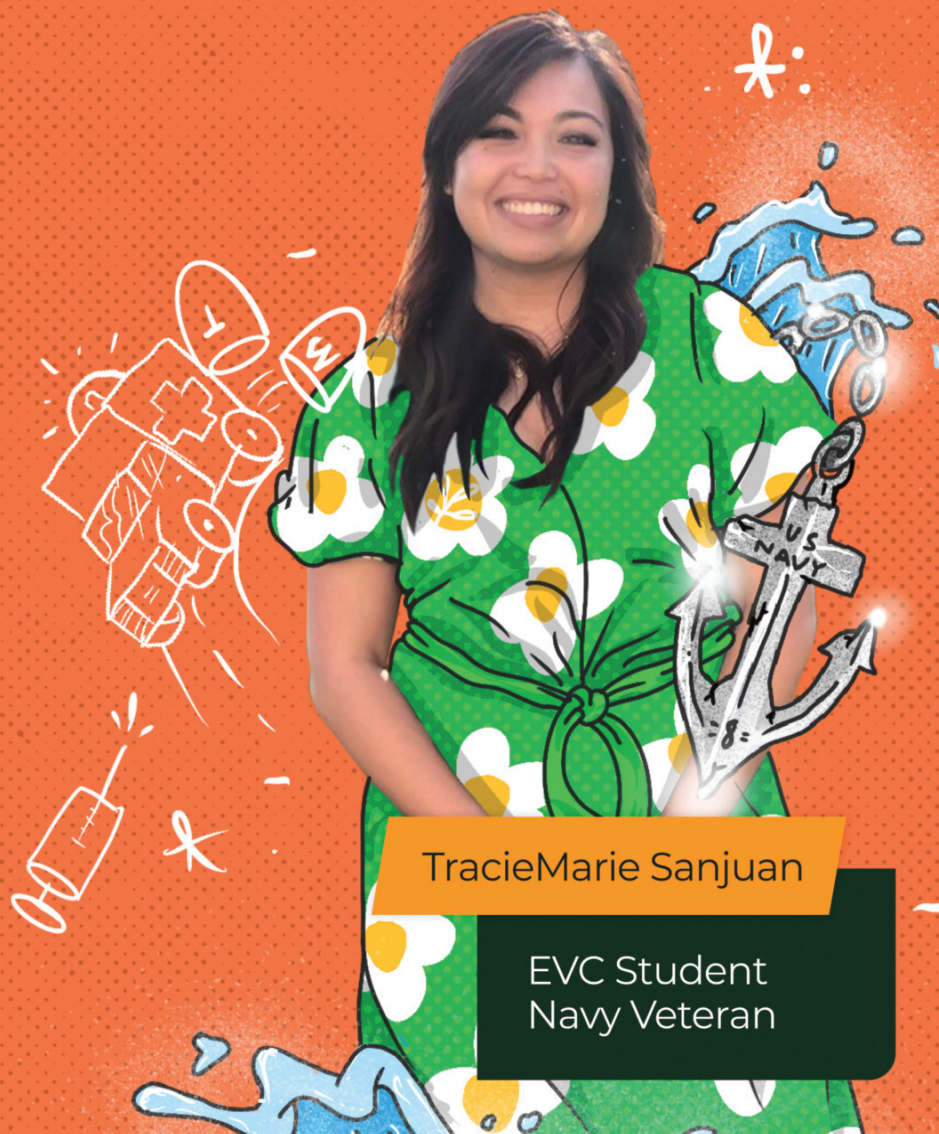


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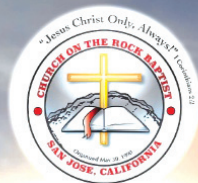
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**TENNIS TIPS****Poor tennis racquet strings can cause wrist injuries**

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 intersection 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 over-compensate 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 you racquet have new life, energy and performance. Contact me at kendeheart@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 or ken.dehart@scvcc.com



Times **Feature****Report: 2022's states with the best & worst early education systems**

With pre-K enrollment dropping by nearly 300,000 students last year, which hurt educational progress and increased inequality, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2022's States with the Best & Worst Early Education Systems.

In order to determine the best early education systems in America, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics. The data set

ranges from share of school districts that offer a state pre-K program to number of pre-K quality benchmarks met and total reported spending per child enrolled in pre-K.

Quality of Early Education in California (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

- 23rd – Share of 3- and 4-year-olds Enrolled in pre-K, pre-K Special Education and Head Start
- 18th – Income Requirement for State Pre-K Eligibility
- 18th – Total Reported Spending per Child Enrolled in Preschool
- 12th – Total State Head Start Program Spending per Child Enrolled in Preschool
- 1st – Monthly Child Care Co-Payment Fees as a Percent of Family Income

States with the Best & Worst Early Education Systems

Rank	State	Total Score	Access	Quality	Resources & Economic Support
1	Arkansas	74.66	4	1	16
2	Nebraska	70.59	5	2	24
3	Maryland	69.85	14	2	6
4	District of Columbia	68.00	1	19	26
5	Rhode Island	63.45	27	6	2
6	Alabama	63.11	12	6	11
7	Oregon	61.32	13	20	1
8	Vermont	61.07	2	44	21
9	West Virginia	60.88	8	8	35
10	New Mexico	58.45	7	37	4
11	New Jersey	55.81	15	25	3
12	Oklahoma	55.76	9	37	10
13	Delaware	53.78	22	16	14
14	Tennessee	53.37	19	11	39
15	South Carolina	53.34	16	14	32
16	Louisiana	53.33	20	12	36
17	Illinois	52.54	6	42	23
18	Washington	51.22	24	21	13
19	Kentucky	51.12	17	13	46
20	Connecticut	50.62	23	15	29
21	Iowa	50.38	11	40	31
22	Virginia	49.98	48	4	28
23	Maine	48.69	18	37	20
24	Wisconsin	48.14	10	46	30
25	Texas	48.12	43	5	40
26	Hawaii	47.34	28	43	7
27	Utah	47.18	35	35	9
28	Kansas	46.41	3	49	33
29	Alaska	46.21	33	26	15
30	Ohio	45.23	29	17	43
31	Georgia	44.36	45	9	34
32	California	43.75	42	22	12
33	Mississippi	43.72	31	26	27
34	Arizona	42.76	25	24	50
35	North Carolina	42.52	47	9	37
36	Michigan	41.52	21	48	25
37	Nevada	41.34	50	17	5
38	Massachusetts	41.23	26	47	19
39	Pennsylvania	41.03	46	36	8
40	Colorado	40.95	44	23	22
41	Florida	40.05	40	26	38
42	Wyoming	39.06	32	26	41
43	South Dakota	38.79	34	26	41
44	New York	37.88	41	44	17
45	Idaho	37.11	39	26	44
46	Montana	36.97	36	26	47
47	New Hampshire	35.49	37	26	51
48	Minnesota	33.89	49	41	18
49	Missouri	29.29	38	50	45
50	North Dakota	29.23	30	51	48
51	Indiana	20.90	51	26	49

• Note: With the exception of "Total Score," all of the columns in the table above depict the relative rank of that state, where a rank of 1 represents the best conditions for that metric category.

For the full report, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-best-and-worst-early-education-systems/62668>

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Times Feature

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Federated learning

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:

Federated learning

Amongst the latest advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning, I find the federated learning to be very fascinating. Federated learning is a form of machine learning tech-

nique where the devices which collect data participates in training the central machine learning model. This technique is most popular with mobile devices, or any other types of systems deployed at scale. Federated learning is useful for cases where the participating devices don’t want to share the data with the central server or uploading the collected data back to central server is prohibitive (high cost, unreliable connection, etc.).

A simple example would be personalized keyboards on smartphones. Predictive features on those personalized keyboards learn from your typing patterns, slangs, usage of words, etc. to give you better suggestions in the future. Since you are also using your keyboard to type confidential information such as passwords on websites, it is not a very good idea to

send that kind of data back to central server. Even if it is not the case with keyboard, assume you take pictures on your smartphone and tag them as “Family”, “Hobby”, and “Friends” in a smart photo app which can automatically tag your future pictures. That smart photo app may have some sort of machine learning model trained at its central server. For machine learning model to learn your tags, it must be trained on your images with your tags. Sending those images back to the central server along with their tags can be quite expensive on your mobile data connection. Moreover, you might not want to share your precious personal pictures with this smart photo app server. This is where federated learning comes in play. Machine learning models are trained on your smartphones and then the models are the only

ones sent to the central server. Now the central server averages the models using federated learning algorithm which it receives from several smartphones and then uses them to train its global machine learning model. After it has been trained for a while, the global model is distributed back to the smartphones to be used for predictive purposes or for further training.

While federated learning is still in its early stages and faces numerous challenges with its design and deployment, it will be interesting to see how tech giants like Google will leverage this technology.

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

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Times News Briefs

'Inflation-busting' stimulus payments to Californians worth up to \$1,050 to be received in October

Stimulus checks and relief payments are being sent by several states across the country, including California, as inflation wreaks havoc on personal expenditures.

Several states have announced new initiatives to deliver payments to certain groups. States providing relief include California, Florida, and Virginia, among others.

In California, state officials are planning on giving stimulus checks of up to \$1,050 to an estimated 23 million people in October.

The payment amount will depend on whether the person is a single or joint filer for taxes, what the person's income is, and how many dependents he or she has.

Single filers will receive at least \$200 if they earn up to \$250,000 a year, and joint filers will receive \$400 if they earn up to \$500,000 a year.

The checks are part of a \$17 billion relief package that will also suspend the state's sales tax on diesel fuel and provide additional aid to help people with rent and utility bills, Governor Newsom said in a statement.

The inflation-relief checks are tax refunds that will send a total of \$9.5 billion back to state residents.

MONEY TIP FOR STUDENTS

Save money by earning college credit in high school

By Tim Ballard

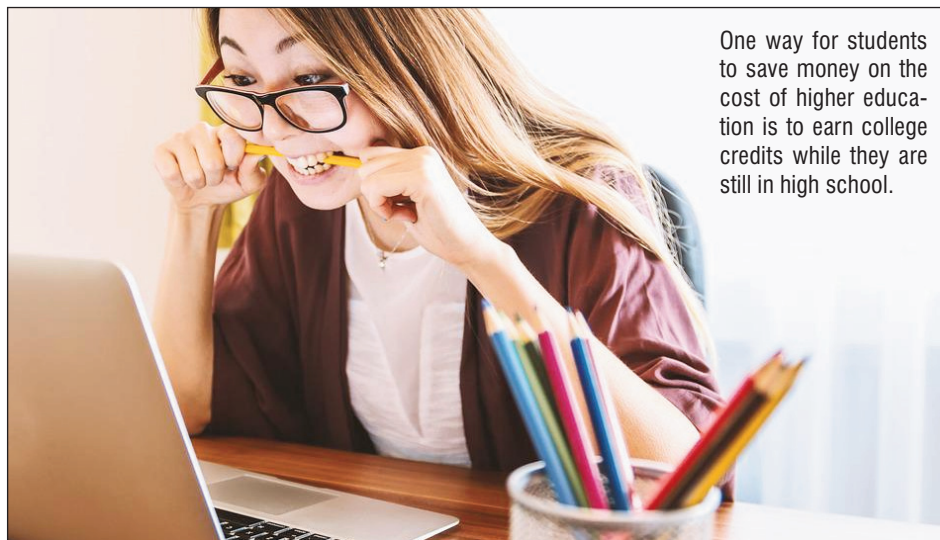
One way for students to save money on the cost of higher education is to earn college credits while they are still in high school, according to KHEAA.

High school students can take advantage of several programs that let them earn college credits. These programs include:

*** Dual credit courses.** These courses let students earn both college and high school credit. They are offered in both academic and technical areas. In some cases, students will pay less than the college tuition rate.

*** Advanced Placement (AP) courses.** AP classes count as high school credits, but many colleges will give students college credit if they earn a certain grade on AP exams. Offered by the College Board, AP classes are widely available.

*** International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) programs.** IB and CAI are for students 16 to 19 years old and are similar to AP courses. High school students may be able to receive



One way for students to save money on the cost of higher education is to earn college credits while they are still in high school.

college credit for the IB and CAI classes they take.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents.

KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency, KHESLC.

For more information, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

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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

2022's Best Cities for BBQ

Rank	City
1	St. Louis, MO
2	Kansas City, MO
3	Chicago, IL
4	Springfield, MO
5	Orlando, FL
6	Overland Park, KS
7	Kansas City, KS
8	Austin, TX
9	Chattanooga, TN
10	Houston, TX

2022's Worst Cities for BBQ

Rank	City
1	Paterson, NJ (tie)
1	Sunnyvale, CA (tie)
1	Ontario, CA (tie)
1	Paradise, NV (tie)
1	Spring Valley, NV (tie)
1	Enterprise, NV (tie)
1	Sunrise Manor, NV (tie)
8	Lancaster, CA
9	Miramar, FL
10	Aurora, IL









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Times **Feature**



2022's best cities to own a swimming pool

With summers getting hotter than ever, there's no better time to have an in-ground swimming pool in your backyard to help you cool off.

That's not ideal — or even possible — in some parts of the U.S., though.

To find the most “pool-ready” cities in America, LawnStarter ranked 2022's Best Cities to Own a Swimming Pool.

We compared nearly 200 of the biggest U.S. cities based on climate, yard size, access to pool installation and maintenance, as well as costs.

We also looked at the share of homes with pools in each real estate market to gauge how well the city embraces pool culture.

Find out which 10 cities swam to the top (and which 10 sank to the bottom) below, and some highlights and lowlights from our report.

Highlights and Lowlights

• **Making a Splash in the Sun Belt:** Sunny, sandy states — Arizona, Florida, and Texas — are thirsty for cool water. All three states dominated the top of our ranking and have experienced extreme heatwaves this summer.

Three Sunshine State cities floated to the top, with Fort Lauderdale taking home the gold. These cities have the ideal climate for swimming, as do wealthy Dallas-Fort Worth suburbs like Frisco (No. 5) and McKinney (No. 6).

• **Northern Cities Nosedive:** We expected cities in the upper latitudes to sink in our ranking, but we didn't predict Great Lakes-adjacent cities to hit the bottom of the pool. They include Cleveland in last place, followed by Buffalo (No. 193), Syracuse (No. 192), and Detroit (No. 191).

Lack of yard space, expensive installation and maintenance, and scarce sunshine anchored these cities to the bottom. Thankfully, they aren't too far from thousands of miles of water to splash around in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

• **Costly Cali Cannonballs:** Poolside escapes may seem like a Californian dream, and they are for many Oxnard (No. 189) or Oakland (No. 184) residents who don't have large yards.

Rancho Cucamonga (No. 65), Escondido (No. 88), and even Lancaster (No. 181) are pool-ready, and many homes currently for sale in these cities come with a pool already installed. Unfortunately, expensive pool cleaning and poor climate due to drought risk dragged these cities down in the ranking.

Our full ranking and analysis are available here: www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-cities-to-own-swimming-pool/

2022's Best Cities to Own a Swimming Pool

Rank	City
1	Fort Lauderdale, FL
2	Scottsdale, AZ
3	Cape Coral, FL
4	Plano, TX
5	Frisco, TX
6	McKinney, TX
7	Austin, TX
8	Cary, NC
9	Hollywood, FL
10	Alexandria, VA

2022's Worst Cities to Own a Swimming Pool

Rank	City
1	Cleveland, OH
2	Buffalo, NY
3	Syracuse, NY
4	Detroit, MI
5	Newark, NJ
6	Oxnard, CA
7	Toledo, OH
8	Dayton, OH
9	Springfield, MA
10	Milwaukee, WI



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2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.

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Times Feature

OP-ED

Time to trade in America's broken education system for one that works

By David J. Ferreira and
Chris Sinacola

President Biden is currently weighing a massive cancellation of federal student loan debt. It's easy to see why. The nation's total student debt load now exceeds \$1.7 trillion.

The situation is even worse given that many student debt holders leave school without a degree – yet must still struggle for years to pay back their loans.

Moreover, it's far from clear whether all this spending on higher education is providing our economy with the workers it needs. Even as the number of Americans with a college degree has risen, a range of vital industries -- from construction and manufacturing to car repair -- have seen the supply of qualified workers steadily shrink.

A long-running educational experiment in Massachusetts could point the way out of both these crises. The state's extensive

network of vocational-technical schools - or "voc-tech schools," as they're known - offers high school students a path to career success that doesn't require an expensive four-year college degree.

By expanding this educational model to more states, policymakers could slash student debt while also addressing the skilled-worker shortage in some of the nation's biggest industries.

That so many Americans are struggling to pay down student loan debt is evidence of a larger higher-education crisis. Today, it's conventional wisdom that even a modest middle-class existence requires a four-year college degree. The perceived necessity of a college education has enabled institutions to charge increasingly exorbitant tuition. Student debt levels have risen in tandem.

At the same time, those who drop out of college without a degree, or never attend to begin with, are often condemned to

low-paying jobs with few reliable paths to more gainful employment. This situation describes an enormous segment of the American workforce. By one estimate, more than 44% of the nation's workers have low-wage jobs. Of those, just under half have a high school diploma or less.

Yet companies across the economy are in dire need of skilled workers. The manufacturing sector's skilled labor shortage is on track to reach more than 2.1 million workers by the end of the decade, according to one recent study. Across the economy, some 4 million skilled positions sit unfilled right now.

In short, America's current approach to higher education is failing everyone from debt-ridden college graduates to low-wage non-college graduates – and even understaffed businesses.

Massachusetts's voc-tech model may offer viable solution

Unlike in traditional high schools, students in the Bay State's 41 voc-tech schools spend half their time on academic work and half learning a technical trade such as automotive technology, carpentry, electronics, advanced manufacturing, or the culinary arts.

Far from detracting from academic performance, the hands-on component of voc-tech curricula actually complements and deepens student understanding of the liberal arts. In fact, students at voc-tech schools perform roughly on par with

their peers from traditional high schools on state tests -- even though they're spending half as much time on academic instruction.

The dropout rate for students in the state's voc-tech schools is one-third that for students in traditional high schools.

What this suggests is that students who graduate from voc-tech schools are just as prepared as their peers in purely academic schools to pursue a college degree. But voc-tech students also leave school with the technical know-how to begin a fulfilling, well-paying career in one of the many industries where skilled labor is in desperately short supply.

The result is an education model that serves the needs of students while also spurring growth and creating opportunity throughout the economy -- something the status quo education system has failed to do.

There's no reason the voc-tech model must remain exclusive to the Bay State. By following Massachusetts's example, states across the country have a chance to trade in a broken, expensive approach to education for one that actually works.

Editor's note: David J. Ferreira is a career vocational technical teacher, coordinator, principal, and superintendent and served as executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators. Chris Sinacola is a former newspaper editor and the author of five books.



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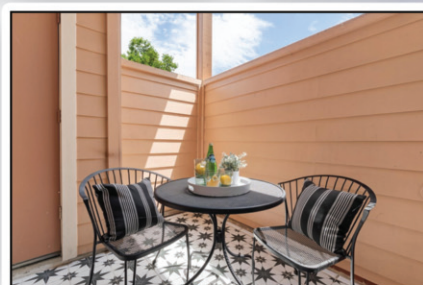
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\$4,990,000 | 5 Bed | 4 Full Bath | 3 Half-Baths | 7158 Sq Ft | 2.62 Acre Lot

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



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