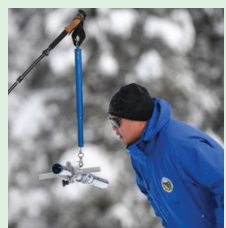


California snowpack at decade high, and state reservoirs at 84% of historical average  
**SEE PAGE 4**



**Branding flies too high**  
San Jose airport name rebrand ticks off commissioners  
**SEE PAGE 21**

VTa renews public education and training to fight human trafficking on transit  
**SEE PAGE 7**



JAN. 13 – JAN. 26, 2023 ■ VOL. 40, NO. 2

# EvergreenTimes

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## Quimby Oak wrestlers complete record-breaking fall season

By Sam Spengler  
Special to the Times

**F**all 2022 wrestling season was a quick turnaround for the Quimby Oak Lobo wrestlers. Due to the pandemic, last season was spring 2022.

Now back to their traditional fall season, it was definitely one to remember.

After winning each dual and all three tournaments, the Quimby Oak Lobo wrestlers went to the League Finals and won the six-team tournament by a landslide for the 21st consecutive year!

After winning the League Finals, the team continued with all 19 varsity wrestlers qualifying for the Section tournament at Solorzano Middle School in Gilroy.

See WRESTLING, page 8

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## Residents apply last minute for two open seats on SJ City Council

*Councilmembers make controversial decision to appoint successors to two open seats for 2-year term*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**M**ore than two dozen people have applied for two open seats on the San Jose City Council, some waited just minutes before the Monday, January 2 mid-night deadline.

The open seats are for District 10 (Almaden Area), vacant after former Councilmember Matt Mahan won his race for San Jose mayor, and District 8 spot (Evergreen and surrounding area), after voters elected former Councilmember Sylvia Arenas as District 1 Santa Clara County supervisor.

Applicants who receive support from at least four councilmembers will be interviewed on January 24 and January 26. To win a seat, the



Residents packed into the San Jose City Council chambers to speak for or against holding a special election to fill two vacancies on Dec. 5, 2022. Photo by Jana Kadah, San José Spotlight

appointees must receive a two-thirds vote, which is scheduled to take place at the end of January.

The appointment process comes after San Jose policymakers made one of the most controversial decisions in recent city history—to appoint successors to the two open seats. This came after hundreds of outspoken residents demanded a

special election, which could have cost the city millions.

The following is a list of candidates for District 8 representing Evergreen Valley.

- Patricia Andrade
- Salvador Alvarez
- Sukhdev Bainiwal
- Carmen Brammer
- Domingo Candelas

- Kent Campbell
- Matthew Giordano
- Calvin Gill
- Rose Herrera
- Aarshdeep Kahlon
- Nick Pham
- Tam Truong
- Jason Xu

The new councilmembers could  
See OPEN SEATS, page 8

## A welcome sight

## Rainstorm brings joy

By Frank Shortt  
Times staff writer

2023 was welcomed in by a wonderful rainstorm that soaked the hills and valleys of Evergreen. Most of us rejoiced!

Some residents, new to our area, exclaimed, "We have never seen so much rain falling at one time!" We who have lived here for quite a few years had to admit that, during the past years, we have not seen so much rainfall in one storm.

Birds of all kinds can be seen flitting around joyfully! Squirrels can be seen scampering all over looking for acorns that were released from the ground by the heavy downpour. Thompson Creek, having been dry for several years, is running again, not at full speed as in

past years, but running, nonetheless!

Thompson Creek is an oasis for all the wild denizens that share with human-kind our beautiful Evergreen Valley. Deer, turkey, mountain lions, bobcats, o'possums, all kinds of snakes, foxes, coyotes, rats, mice, gophers, wild pigs, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, and even Tule Elk have been spotted recently with their huge racks of antlers on the surrounding hillsides.

The Thompson Creek watershed is in bad need of a good cleaning, both of thick underbrush and trash that unthinking residents, or visitors as the case may be, have taken the liberty to toss into the creek-bed. This narrow waterway would make an excellent walkway for hiking with a minimal amount of work. Also, the surrounding Eucalyptus trees have shed an exceptional amount of bark and dead limbs that need to be cleaned up for safety's sake.

Overall, we are thankful for the welcome rain and to be able once again to see Old Thompson Creek running once again!

Pictured, right: Yerba Buena Road Bridge water gushes.



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**The deadline for submitting audition applications is:**  
Thursday, March 15, 2023

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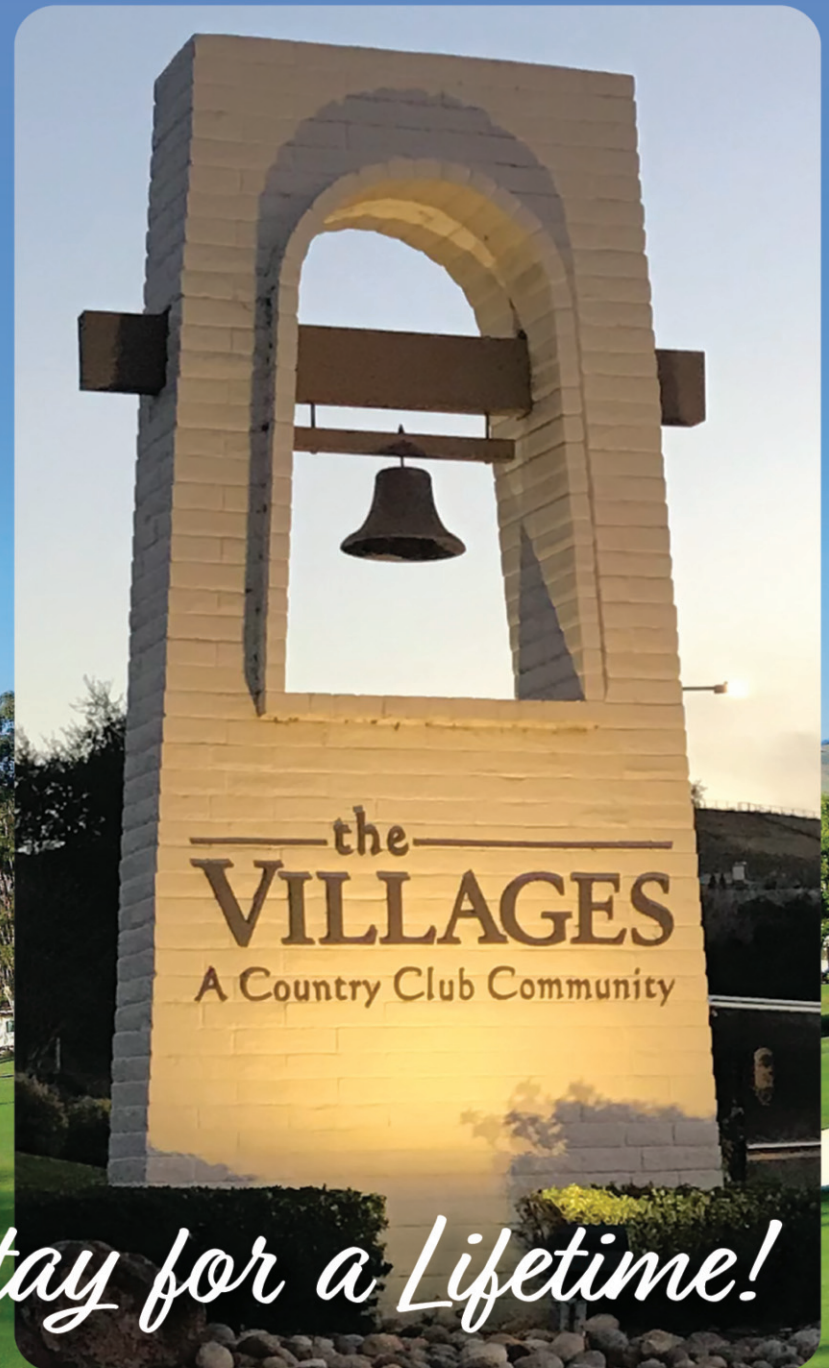
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NOTEBOOK



Kiana-Karla Layam completes intensive research project

**K**iana-Karla Layam (above), of Evergreen Valley, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Digital Integration in Honnunarsafn Islands. Layam’s research-driven, professional-level project applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. The project-based curriculum offers stu-

dents the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people’s lives-and make a difference before they graduate. Layman graduated from Presentation High School in 2020 where she was a member of FIRST Robotics Team 2135. She also is a member of the California Scholarship Federation, Peer Ministry, and Asian Student Union. Layman served as Director of Mechanical Design where she was responsible for the overall design of robot design and assigned and designated roles to mechanical design team members and communicated with other team directors to ensure smooth robot production.

"The WPI project-based curriculum’s focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative& Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today’s global marketplace. Worcester Polytechnic Institute is a top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world.

Valley Currents

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



Left, **Anthony Burdock**, California Department of Water Resources Engineers in the Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit and **Sean de Guzman**, Chief of the California Department of Water Resources Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Section, work the measurement phase of the first media snow survey of the 2023 season at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada Mountains on January 3, 2023. (Kenneth James / California Department of Water Resources)

California snowpack at decade high, and state reservoirs at 84% of historical average

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**W**hile winter storms rage across California, more than a hundred sensors across the Sierra snowpack are at a decade high for this time of year as the state struggles through a third year of drought.. "Our snowpack is off to one of its best starts in the past 40 years," said Sean de Guzman, manager of the California Department of Water Resources’ monthly snow surveys, at news conference on Echo Summit. At Echo Summit, the snowpack measurement came in at 177% of average. But a big early snowpack does not guarantee that the drought conditions will be ending

anytime soon. A Bay Area News Group analysis of the state’s biggest reservoirs found that water storage levels are at 49.1 percent of their total available capacity. And that analysis includes 11 years of drought. Many of California’s biggest reservoirs are still below average for this time of year, despite recent storms, but closing the gap toward reaching the average historical levels. There are still water shortages at some of Northern California’s biggest reservoirs. The Shasta Reservoir is at 43% total capacity, which is only 71% of the historical average. The Oroville Reservoir is faring slightly better, at 48.4% of total capacity which is 89.4% of the historical average. "Really worst case scenario is that this pattern just keeps going... where it just becomes an unrelenting series of storms hammering, and then that’s where we really start worrying about how much water is sitting in the landscape," said Michael Anderson, state climatologist with California Department of Water Resources, at a press conference Tuesday. "Watch that weather forecast because it’s going to be key to how things play out next."

Yimeng Wang of Evergreen Valley earns Dean's Award with Distinction at Colgate University

**E**vergreen Valley resident **Yimeng Wang**, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2025, has earned the spring 2022 Dean's Award with Distinction. Wang is a History and International Relations major. Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher while completing at least three courses during the spring 2022 semester earn the Dean's

Award with Distinction. Colgate is a leading American university for students who want classes with rigor, faculty with passion, and confidence in knowing they will learn how to thrive in work and life. Colgate offers 56 majors and supports 25 Division I athletic teams on a campus of about 3,000 students in central New York.

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## CAREER COLUMN

# Prepare for your 2023 job search

By Angela Copeland

It's a new year, and a new opportunity to find the career that is meant for you. January is the perfect time to begin to set new goals, and look toward the future. So, what can you expect from 2023?



First and foremost, hiring is still happening. As seen on TV, there have been a number of layoffs in recent months. But, keep in mind that there are specific industries that are experiencing layoffs. And, only a small portion of employees are impacted. These layoffs do not mean that the entire job market is down. The United States unemployment rate in November was 3.7 percent. This shows that overall, the market is still strong.

A big focus of 2023 will be the diverse work options available. With the pandemic, many companies went fully remote. As time has gone by, some companies are asking employees to come back to the office full time. Other companies have created hybrid models that allow employees to come to the office a few days each week, and to work from home the remaining days. Employees will begin to seek out opportunities that align to their lifestyles. It is interesting to note that there are fewer work from home jobs being posted, and



they are receiving a high volume of applicants. If you're a hiring manager, you may want to keep this in mind.

Lifestyle will also continue to be a large focus in 2023. In the past two years, employees have prioritized health and quality of life more. There will continue to be an emphasis on work life balance. Employers will continue to test out new benefits, such as mental health days.

Wages will continue to rise during 2023. However, do not expect to see the large jumps we saw in the previous few years. If you are looking for a new job, do your research. Sites such as Glassdoor and LinkedIn will help you to understand what the current pay rate is for your role, in your industry.

When you are job searching in 2023, consider the industry that you are looking in. There are some sectors, such as

financial services, travel, and government contracting that are seeing growth this year. There are other sectors such as tech that are less stable.

No matter what sort of job you're pursuing, the time to get started is now. Do not sit and wait for a job to find you. Make your job search a priority. And, if you haven't looked for a job in a few years, brace yourself. Things have changed. The online application process is a long one. It can be discouraging at times. You will apply to many jobs that you won't hear back from at all. Know that this is normal now. It's not you, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Hang in there. Keep moving forward, and you'll find something in the New Year before you know it.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at [www.angeliacopeland.com](http://www.angeliacopeland.com).

## OpEd

## 'I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore'

Selection verses election

By Kevin Larsen

As a resident in San Jose, I'm so very disappointed that the San Jose City Council turned their backs on the will of the people and voted to fill the empty seats of Sylvia Arenas (District 8) and Matt Mahan (District 10).

I ask all to go to YouTube and type in "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." There you will see a clip from a movie and it seems to me that fiction has met with reality in San Jose.

How could more than 500 people (both by ZOOM and in person) overwhelmingly voice their wishes to hold a special election {2-year term} and many of our San Jose City Council Members just turned their backs on the will of the people.

A lot of residents are asking: What does San Jose stand for? Should we continue to vote for politicians who grab our freedom?

I believe that the actual cost of a special election which was turned down was overinflated. Maybe we could get an honest answer on the cost and in the future streamline the process.

Some say the "Labor Majority," for the San Jose City Council played a key role in breaking precedent and allowing the City Council Members to hand pick who they want in district 8 and 10. This situation is absurd and even former Mayor Sam Liccardo said the decision to thwart the special election harms trust in our city. He makes sense.

In my opinion our most precious thing, democracy, has been trampled upon and I am mad as hell and not going to take it anymore (meaning I may figure out ways to bring back to life democracy by working with others to peacefully figure out how to take back our rights). I'm not always the sharpest crayon in the box, so we need learned minds to pitch in.

The key thing here is to remember who voted for this: you can read it and weep. And too, was this memo thing a secret trick thrown in at a city council meeting? Was the Brown Act followed when city council members thrust forward their votes?

Should San Jose probe and review emails that resulted in the final vote?

Many are calling for new rules that will forever prevent such actions of a few city council mem-

bers denying a special election. Others say the decision to select instead of allowing a general election may be grounds for a recall.

A special thanks to the hundreds of San Jose residents who took time to attend the city council meeting in person and to walk up and speak to the microphone. Thank you!

### THOSE WHO VOTED FOR SPECIAL ELECTION (thumbs up!)

MAYOR LICCARDO, MATT MAHAN, PAM FOLEY, AND CHAPPY JONES

### THOSE AGAINST SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEATS (thumbs down:)

SYLVIA ARENAS, SERGIO JIMENEZ, RAUL PERALEZ, DAVID COHEN, DEV DAVIS, MAYA ESPARZA, AND MAGDALENA CARRASCO.

### The following is the copy of the document that was created from the city council meeting:

"Substitute Motion: Councilmember Dev Davis moved the Dec. 2, 2022 memorandum she cosigned. Councilmember Sergio Jimenez seconded the motion. Action: On a call for question, the Substitute Motion passed to accept the joint memorandum from Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Councilmember Dev Davis, and Councilmember Sylvia Arenas dated December 2, 2022, recommending: (1) Implement a process to make interim appointments that includes the following: (a) Shortly after the special meeting

on December 5, 2022, initiate the recruiting process for the expected Council vacancies in Districts 8 and 10, including the release of an application for interested candidates. The application should be similar to that for the Planning Commission, along with City Attorney review for potential conflicts of interest and include the following questions: (i) Why are you interested in representing this district on the City Council? (ii) Please list your past community experience and other qualifications for the role. (iii) Do you plan to run for the full term of this seat? (iv) What do you think is the biggest challenge the city faces? What is the biggest challenge specific to the council district you aspire to be appointed to represent? (b) Provide a minimum of 3 weeks for candidates to file their applications; (c) Schedule a special Council meeting before the end of January 2023 for the Council to interview qualified candidates and make the appointments; (d) The final appointments shall require a 2/3 vote of the council for approval. (2) Direct the City Manager to work with outgoing Councilmembers in assigning staff to continue constituent services in their offices during the recruitment process. 3. The appointment will stand until a candidate has been duly elected in the next regularly scheduled election and the results have been officially certified. (7-4-0)."

SANTA CLARA COUNTY IS IN A SEVERE DROUGHT.



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Times **Feature**

## VTA: 'Human Trafficking Happens Everywhere'

*VTA renews public education and training to fight human trafficking on transit*

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority announced a new effort to help rescue victims of human trafficking and punish perpetrators of this crime, at a news conference Friday, January 6.

"Human Trafficking Happens Everywhere" is the message the transit agency hopes will encourage passengers and the community at large to keep an eye out on public transit. Public transit is a common and easily accessible form of transportation for human trafficking suspects to transport their victims.

After serving as a model for AB 2034, the 2018 California law that requires transit agencies throughout the state to train front-line workers on the signs of human trafficking, VTA is going a step further with public education and an enhanced schedule of retraining for all employees. This renewed effort is made possible, in part, by a \$350-thousand grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

"This initiative will be built into our framework," said VTA General Manager/CEO Carolyn Gonot. "Our employees are trained to look for the signs, and we hope our riding public will get the message that human trafficking happens everywhere and help us to stop it."

Passengers and the public at large are encouraged to download the VTAAlerts app on mobile devices, which allows them to discretely report human trafficking in addition to other crimes or concerns.

VTA employees have been trained to recognize the signs of Human Trafficking and how to report it. Every incoming new employee receives the training, and all employees will receive renewed training periodically.

VTA appreciates the important work and support of the Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Commission chaired by County Supervisor and VTA Board member Cindy Chavez.

"Santa Clara County's Human Trafficking Commission is making great progress helping human trafficking survivors. Funding has been increased providing services to change the course of survivors' lives and to stop traffickers," said Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez. "Combating human trafficking requires a focused, coordinated effort by every government agency in Santa Clara County. Human trafficking can happen anywhere including on VTA buses and trains, which is why this new public awareness campaign by VTA is so critical."

VTA is hopeful this new campaign will assist the County District Attorney's Office as they prosecute Human Trafficking cases. The DA's Human Trafficking Task Force is one of the largest in the state of California.

### About VTA

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is an independent special district that is responsible for bus, light rail and para-transit operations, transportation planning, and serves as the county's congestion management agency.

## Minimum wage increase now in effect

The new City of San Jose minimum wage of \$17 per hour, up from \$16.20, is now in effect.

City voters in 2012 approved a minimum wage ordinance that set an hourly rate of pay that employers must pay their workers for work performed within the city. In 2016, that hourly rate was \$10.30 per hour.

Across the state, the mandatory minimum wage for all employers, regardless of the number of employees, will be \$15.50 per hour.

In the City of Santa Clara, any employer that is subject to the city business license tax or that operates a facility in Santa Clara must pay each employee who performs at least two hours of work per week at least \$17.20 per hour.

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Times **From the Cover**

60 laptops with training are included in the \$250,000 Grant for Hope Services.

## Hope Services receives \$250K grant for its transportation and mental health services

*Special needs community faces increased need for mental health services post pandemic*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Hope Services celebrated a \$250,000 grant on Dec. 8 thanks to Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian which has enabled the organization to expand its transportation and mental health services.

Founded 60 years ago, Hope Services is Silicon Valley's leading provider of services to people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs.

The grant specifically funds a small fleet of Ford Explorer vehicles as well as 60 laptop computers to enable clients to access behavioral and psychiatric services remotely.

"The vast majority of us have rebounded from the pandemic, but that journey has been much longer for those in the disabled community who were disproportionately impacted by the isolation," says Chip Huggins, President and CEO of Hope Services. "Funding for transportation and telehealth access is crucial to helping this vulnerable population rejoin the larger community."

"It is fun riding in the vehicles to visit De Anza College," client Scott McMillen said. "The staff treats the vehicles very well so that we are comfortable while out in the community."

A large chunk of the County grant will fund four Ford Explorers, a key support for Hope Serv-



Chip Huggins, President/CEO of Hope Services

ices' day programs that serve those with intellectual or developmental disabilities. "Like anyone else, our clients want to be out in the community," explains Hope Services North District Director Suanne Rinta. "Taking classes, going to

jobs, exercising, shopping – these are all outings our clients depend on."

Hope Services currently has over 300 clients taking part in its day programs. The new vehicles are large enough to enable better physical distancing and meet internal protocols for client safety in transporting a staff member and up to four clients.

Client Tony Salazar said, "I'm really happy to ride in the new Ford vehicles so I can explore new places in my community. I feel safe when going out to do different activities because I know the vehicles are in good shape."

The grant will also fund 60 new laptops along with appropriate training so that Hope Services clients can better access mental health services. As Hope Services Director of Mental Health Anna Fernandez points out, "Accessing mental health services for those with special needs can be a challenge. The laptops and training funded by this County grant will enable our clients to more easily access the psychiatric counseling they need. Over time, that means the quality of service improves, along with better care and better outcomes."

"Hope Services does important work. And with help from the County they can do even more to improve the quality of life for local folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Simitian. "It's a smart partnership. If something as simple and basic as a van or a laptop can connect the program participants at Hope Services with the larger community, that's a winner."

***As Hope Services Director of Mental Health Anna Fernandez points out, "Accessing mental health services for those with special needs can be a challenge. The laptops and training funded by this County grant will enable our clients to more easily access the psychiatric counseling they need."***

## Open seats

*Continued from page 1*

have an impact on Mayor Mahan's efforts to build a more moderate business-backed alliance on a city council where the majority opposed his candidacy.

### Rose Herrera

Former District 8 Councilmember Rose Herrera has submitted her name for consideration, and the only candidate with previous city council experience, having been elected two terms and served the last two years as Vice Mayor. Herrera said she has no intention of running for San Jose City Council in 2024.

"The residents of District 8 deserve to be represented during the next two years by someone who can hit the ground running, understands the district and our residents' concerns and who will not be distracted by running for office in 2024," Herrera said. "My only concern will be to effectively represent the residents of District 8."

Of all the applicants who applied for D8, Herrera is the only applicant with experience serving on

***Herrera is the only applicant with experience serving on the city council having been elected to two terms on the council with the last two years as Vice-Mayor.***

the city council having been elected to two terms on the City Council the last two years as Vice-Mayor.

"My experience will allow me to be ready to advocate for Evergreen's priorities in the budget process which will begin in March," Herrera said. "I believe in preserving our democratic principles by ensuring a level playing-field for the many candidates who plan to run in 2024. I am committed if appointed, to being in the position only through the end of this period of vacancy and publicly pledge that I will not run for the office in 2024."



The Lobo wrestlers capped off an amazing performance in the season's grand finale, taking 10 to the finals and winning a Lobo record seven County Champions, finishing for a the third straight season in a row.

## Wrestling

*Continued from page 1*

The win was the team's fifth straight Section title, with a record 13 qualifiers moving on to County Finals at Columbia Middle School in Sunnyvale.

The Lobo wrestlers capped off an amazing performance in the season's grand finale, taking 10 to the finals and winning a Lobo record seven County Champions, finishing for the third straight season in a row.

This season was a true team effort with tremendous support from the entire team, parents, and administrators including assistant principals Jenny Kim and Jim Grassi and Principal Ginger Gaeta.

Team managers also had a big part with the team's success due to their excellent organization skills and constant commitment.

Team captains Mateo Sanchez (two time County Champion), Joseph Najar (County Champion), Massimo Mazumder (2nd County), and Mateo Jimenez (County Champion) were true leaders for the team.

Also named County Champions were: Manuel Cacoilo, Raymond Nguyen 2X, Raulin Kooran, Maglio Sanchez.

Rounding out 2nd were Noah Fuentes and Ayush Agrawal.

Coach Sam Spengler, Ray Jimenez, and Eric Sanchez completed their second season in a row together going undefeated.





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## Green thumbs celebrate

San Jose Garden Club recently celebrated 50 years of service to the San Jose community. Shown here are Santa Clara Valley District Director **Roseann Costable**, left, with past club presidents **Sue Swackhamer**, **Natalie DiGrazia**, **Susan Mosher**, **Erna Siegel**, **Anita Calkins** and **Kathy Argabright** and current president **Laura Carroll**. Founded in 1972, the club exists to address local issues of food insecurity, promote the study of horticulture and landscape design and participate in civic beautification projects. Its annual spring plant sale has become a major community event to raise funds for donation to various causes. *Editor's Note: To learn more and join this organization go to [sanjosegardenclub.com](http://sanjosegardenclub.com).* Photo courtesy of SJGC



## Mayor Mahan ends business-labor divide with vice mayor, committee nominations

*Mayor taps returning councilmembers for key committee chairs, Rules Committee positions*

In one of his first acts as San Jose Mayor, Matt Mahan took a substantive step toward unifying the City Council and moving the city past unproductive political divisions by nominating newly-elected, labor-endorsed District 1 Councilmember Rosemary Kamei as Vice Mayor.

Mayor Mahan is also nominating all four returning Councilmembers to chair the Council's standing committees and comprise the Rules Committee, which sets the agendas for Council meetings, with Councilmember David Cohen as chair.

"San Jose residents don't care about labels, they care about results," said San Jose Mayor Mahan. "Rosemary Kamei is collaborative, thoughtful, independent, has a ton of common sense and is a great listener. She is excited about assuming more leadership responsibilities than Vice Mayors traditionally have in San Jose and is committed, as I am, to putting unnecessary conflicts behind us, as we focus on driving results on homelessness, community safety and blight."

Rosemary Kamei, who was elected into the San José City Council with over 60% of the popular vote, represents District 1 in West San José. Prior to her election to the City Council, Rosemary has long been known for her public service and contributions to the community. Over the last two decades, she has served as a Director of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Trustee on the Santa Clara County Board of Education, and Chief Development and Innovation Officer at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Rosemary holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Political Science and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from San José State University.

"I would be honored to serve as Vice Mayor to the San José community and be able to have the opportunity to bring my expertise in governance and leadership to the San José City Council," said Councilmember Kamei.

The City Council will consider the Vice Mayoral nomination at its January 24 meeting, as prescribed by the City Charter. The Vice Mayor is charged with chairing City Council meetings and performing other duties when the Mayor is absent.



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## LOCAL NOTEBOOK

## FROM THE MAYOR

## Thank you!

As we begin a new year, my tenure as your Mayor comes to a close. Thank you. My heart is filled with gratitude.

Thank you for entrusting me with this honor to serve you, and our hometown.

Thank you for continually reminding me of our community's uniqueness and special character. Every week, I met San Joseans who would inspire me with their commitment to magnani-



**From the Mayor**  
**Sam Liccardo**

mously give, to boldly innovate, and to courageously create. We celebrated much along the way, but it was in the toughest of times that our community's virtue shone most brilliantly.

So many of you showed a deeply divided nation how a community can come together in crisis: the 1,600 volunteers who helped neighbors within the hours of the 2017 flood; the thousands more who responded to Silicon Valley Strong's call to distribute food and support vaccination centers; or the many of you who converged at City Hall to mourn with the families of community members we lost in last May's shooting. In the best and worst of times, this job has deepened my appreciation for our extraordinary community, and for San José's collective spirit.

Finally, thank you for your partnership and support. Together, we have accomplished much. I don't expect you to keep track of all of our work together, so I've listed several initiatives below. So many of you played critical roles — as volunteers, neighborhood leaders, City employees, employers, non-profits, advocates, supporters, community organizers, voters, sponsors, and philanthropists — tackling some of San José's greatest challenges.

Of course, the challenges persist—such is the nature of large and complex cities. Yet new leadership brings new perspectives on old problems— and new opportunities to solve them. With your support, I like San José's chances under Mayor Matt Mahan's leadership.

In ways we don't often appreciate, San José's narrative comprises an incredible epic. By so many objective measures among global cities, San José is a remarkably diverse, innovative, successful community, poised to become America's next great city. With your continued participation and passion, the best part of San José's story awaits.

Thank you.

## Valley Water is offering its 2023 calendar for free

Valley Water is offering a beautiful wildlife and natural environment 2023 calendar.

The calendar also includes Valley Water's fiscal year 2022 annual report, which highlights many of the projects and efforts the agency is undertaking for the residents and businesses of Santa Clara County.

The water agency is currently working on dozens of local projects to support their mission, including efforts to maintain and improve the existing water supply infrastructure; provide flood protection to communities; and protect and enhance watersheds and our natural resources.

To receive a free 2023 Valley Water calendar, please visit their website at [valleywater.org/2023calendar](http://valleywater.org/2023calendar) and fill out the request form. Note: There is a limit of one calendar per household in Santa Clara County while supplies last.

To learn about the agency's many conservation programs, visit [www.watersavings.org](http://www.watersavings.org)



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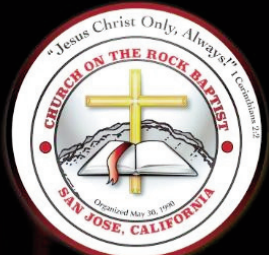
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## Times News Briefs

### Symphony San Jose presents *Nakamatsu Plays Grieg March* 18-19 at the California

San Jose's own Cliburn gold medal winner **Jon Nakamatsu** (inset) reprises the first work he ever played with Symphony San Jose: Grieg's Piano Concerto on Saturday, March 18 at 8 p.m. and Sunday March 19, at 2:30 p.m.



The program ends with Florence Price's pioneering Symphony No. 1, skillfully incorporating spirituals, folksong and syncopated African American dance rhythms into a classical structure.

#### The Program

David Amram: Jhaptal

Edvard Grieg: Piano Concerto

Florence Price: Symphony No. 1

Conductor: Aram Demirjian

Soloist: Jon Nakamatsu, piano

Tickets are available by phone: (408) 286.2600 ext. 1; or email: [jmeyers@symphonysanjos.org](mailto:jmeyers@symphonysanjos.org); Website: [www.symphonysanjos.org](http://www.symphonysanjos.org) Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm.

Editor's Note: California Theatre

is located at 345 South First Street, downtown San Jose. Convenient, inexpensive parking is located at a city-owned garage one-and-a-half blocks from the theater at San Carlos Street with entrances on Second and Third streets.

### Recent earthquakes put spotlight on seismic retrofit

By Glen Pomeroy

The New Year is almost here, and many of us are trying to figure out what our New Year's Resolution should be. Maybe you want to walk more, eat healthier, or read more books.

Bearing in mind the recent damaging magnitude 6.4 earthquake in Humboldt County, and the magnitude 3.6 quake that rattled the Bay Area a few days before that, I have a suggestion... protect your home and family from earthquakes with a seismic retrofit!

Did you know that California has more than 500 active faults and that most Californians live within 30 miles of an active fault? The greater San Francisco Bay Area is sitting on top of three major faults and scientists say there is a 72% chance of a magnitude 6.7 or greater quake in the near future.

Of course, the most famous Bay Area earthquake was in San Francisco in 1906. That magnitude 7.9

quake was caused by a rupture on the San Andreas fault, and it could happen again. The Bay Area is earthquake country, and everyone should protect their homes and their families with a seismic retrofit, secure heavy objects in their home, and have an emergency plan just in case.

In 2023, homeowners should seriously consider making their homes more earthquake resistant and less vulnerable to damage. A retrofit, sometimes called a seismic retrofit, is the best way to strengthen your home and make it more resistant to earthquakes. Retrofits mean a stronger, safer home for you and your family, and they can help protect your belongings and the home that you have worked so hard for. Learn more about the importance of retrofitting your home at [www.StrengthenMyHouse.com](http://www.StrengthenMyHouse.com).

#### Certain types of homes are especially at risk

Certain types of homes in the Bay Area could be more at risk of earthquake damage, such as an older home built on a raised foundation, or a home with a living space above a garage, as well as a home on a steep hillside. Different types of homes have unique weaknesses in their structure and need unique types of retrofits.

For example, raised foundation homes built before 1980 are more at risk to earthquake damage because they were built before modern build-



**Glen Pomeroy**  
Chief Executive Officer of California Earthquake Authority

ing codes were put in place. The frames of these older houses are often not bolted to their foundations, and the walls surrounding crawl spaces (cripple walls) may lack bracing. These homes can slide or topple off their foundation during an earthquake, which can be expensive to repair. This type of damage can often be prevented with a seismic retrofit.

Earthquakes can shake almost anything, even large or heavy items. What would happen if your entire home was suddenly shaken for a few minutes? Unsecured items like furniture could fall over, resulting in injury and damage to people and property. In the 1994 Northridge quake, most injuries were due to unsecured furniture or objects falling (according to a study from UCLA). A lot of damage could have been avoided if only simple safety steps had been taken ahead of time!

More than 17,000 Californians have protected their families, their homes, and their belongings with a seismic retrofit. But there are still about 1.2 million vulnerable homes in California that have not yet had a seismic retrofit...has yours? Talk to your family, your friends, and your neighbors about the importance of earthquake preparedness, and resolve to strengthen your house in the New Year.

#### What can you do right now to protect your home?

Check out the "Resources" page at

[StrengthenMyHouse.com](http://StrengthenMyHouse.com)—learn how to protect your home and your family this coming year. Know how to turn off the gas or learn if you should have an automatic gas shut-off valve installed that is triggered by strong vibrations. Place beds away from windows. Brace overhead light fixtures. Secure top-heavy furniture to studs. Brace water heaters with metal straps attached to studs.

#### Earthquakes in California are inevitable, but the damage they cause is preventable

The Bay Area is vulnerable to earthquakes, but there are steps you can take to strengthen your property. Even though a seismic retrofit does not guarantee your home won't be damaged, it can make your home stronger and more resilient to quakes.

Take a moment and consider, what is the most important thing in your life? For many of us, the answer is easy—our family. With all the craziness in the world today, people understand more than ever that a strong, safe home is the best way to protect and nurture our family. This year, resolve to retrofit your home. Protect your family, strengthen your home, and safeguard all the things you have worked so hard for.

#### About the author

Glenn Pomeroy is Chief Executive Officer, California Earthquake Authority. Since 2008, Glenn Pomeroy has led the not-for-profit CEA—the largest earthquake insurance provider in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

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Times **Feature**

# Skies darken with historic rainfall not seen since 2017

*The skies are dark blue, Azul... Azuline; they tell of what is to come!*

By **Matthew Frazier**  
Certified Water Manager  
Qualified Stormwater Manager

**A**s evening approached and the skies darkened on the first Wednesday of the New Year, there came an air of

silence and solace.

Forecasts tell of more storms to come, which our valley hasn't seen since the winter of 2017.

There was talk of floods and torrent winds, power outages and much speculation as to the grandeur and scope of it all.

**Weather event of 2017**

In February 2017, Santa Clara County creeks and other waterways filled to capacity and flooded throughout California. Here in San Jose and its valleys, the rainwaters

turned an environ of calamity and serenity into something reminiscent of a suspense genre film.

The rains and their accompanying winds conjure memories of those six weeks of consecutive heavy rains and floods from six years ago: a volume of water which gave so many the impression that we were in the clear and could return to our daily habit of using excessive water for irrigation and other common purposes and completely dismiss conservation efforts.

**Capturing rainwater**

With the option of capturing and harvesting rainwater for irrigation, this might be an ideal time to invest in cisterns and rain barrels.

The skies are dark blue, and warn of what is to come. And perhaps, what is approaching is precious rain set against a landscape of our arid terrain – ravaged by drought.

Losing myself in deep thought this evening, as I watch the rain fall and listen to the winds

*See RAINFALL, next page*

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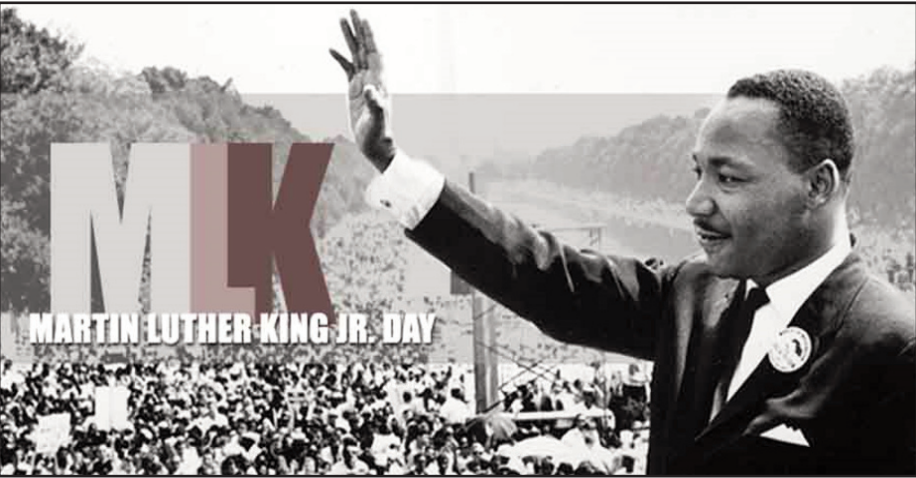


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# Report: States with the most racial progress

With Martin Luther King Jr. Day around the corner and half of adults saying a lot more needs to be done to ensure equal rights for all Americans, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on States with the Most Racial Progress, as well as accompanying videos and commentary.

To measure America’s progress in harmonizing racial groups, WalletHub measured the gaps between black people and white people across 21 key indicators of equality and integration in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The data set ranges from median annual household income to standardized-test scores to voter turnout.

This report examines the differences between only black people and white people in light of the high-profile police-brutality incidents that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement. The report was released ahead of the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who played a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement to end segregation and discrimination against black people.

**Key Stats**

- The District of Columbia has the lowest gap in homeownership rates between white people and black people, at 14.31 percent. Connecticut has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 8.97 percent.

- Hawaii has the lowest gap in median annual household incomes between white people and black people, at 16.71 percent. Wyoming has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1979, with a change of 36.55 percent.
  - Alaska has the lowest gap in unemployment rates between white people and black people, at 0.72 percent. North Dakota has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 10.41 percent.
  - Hawaii has the lowest gap in poverty rates between white people and black people, at 0.07 percent. Mississippi has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 26.38 percent.
  - Wyoming has the lowest gap in the share of adults age 25 and over with at least a bachelor’s degree between white people and black people, at 1.54 percent. Wyoming has also made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 9.35 percent.
- To view the full report and your state or the District’s rank, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-most-and-least-racial-progress/18428>

Most Racially Integrated States	States with the Most Racial Progress
1. Arizona	1. Wyoming
2. Hawaii	2. Texas
3. Texas	3. Georgia
4. Montana	4. Mississippi
5. Maryland	5. Florida
6. New Mexico	6. Idaho
7. Wyoming	7. New Mexico
8. Alaska	8. Maryland
9. Washington	9. North Carolina
10. Georgia	10. New Jersey

# Rainfall

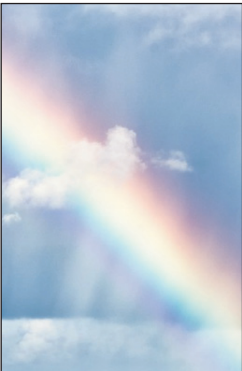
Continued from previous page

wail, I’m reminded of my resolute decision to be involved in water and its capture and harvest as a landscape water manager and as a stormwater manager.

Winter is a time of reflection and rest. A time to gather ourselves for the seasons ahead, with great plans for the new year.

The skies are dark blue... Azul, actually Azuline; they tell of what is on the way, and what is to come is precious hydration. With an ongoing effort and opportunity to ween ourselves off of imported potable waters, we have opportunities to capture and harvest rainwater that is within our grasp.

**Rebates available from Valley Water**



Many water agencies and water districts of California offer credits and rebates for conservation efforts, including the purchase and installation of capture devices such as barrels and cisterns; Valley Water is one such participant.

When you look to the skies these coming days and evenings, think not of devastation to our gardens and

landscapes. Rather, think of this as a new beginning, a new chapter.

One in which we alter the course of our own history by taking the initiative to irrigate with this precious water which will come in massive waves.

Best with your coming projects, stay safe and happy irrigating!

# T1 and counting

*My journey in earning my Treatment 1 (T1) certificate*

By **Matthew Frazier**  
Certified Water Manager  
Qualified Stormwater Manager

First, let me take this opportunity to thank each and all who take the time to read my entries in the column “Water Wise.”

Your attention and time are most appreciated. In these entries, I strive to tie together the challenges of water conservation with the concerns of our daily lives as citizens of San Jose and Santa Clara County.

Landscape Water Management and Xeriscape have been the basis for these column entries, with an occasion departure into Stormwater and Wastewater. In this entry, I would like to take a moment to thank those who work in all facets of Water, whether it be Drinking Water, Stormwater, Wastewater, or any other aspect of Water in general.

Upon completion of my term with Valley Water, here in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley, in December 2020, I ventured simultaneously into Stormwater and Wastewater as a progression from Irrigation Surveyance and Water-Waste Inspection with Valley Water. An exit interview with my manager gave me the momentum to take the next steps.

In the summer of 2021, I ventured further, exploring Drinking Water as a potential career, while continuing to study Stormwater and Wastewater. Since July 2021, I have studied Water Treatment Operations, High-Tech Operations, Utility Management, and Water Audit Validation – all pertaining to Municipal Drinking Water Management.

## The T1 Certificate

The next steps to working as a Water Treatment Operator would be to earn a T1 Certificate through The California State Resources Board, sitting for a comprehensive exam.

There are five operator grades in the state of California regarding water treatment, T1-T5. The T1 certificate is the lowest grade and the T5 is the highest. Moving through the grades requires a combination of specialized training courses and plant experience.

If I earned my T1 Certificate, I would be able to serve the public and society– working amongst those who ensure the quality and the safety of the water we drink.

Why this vast array of foci in Water? Water is an expanding universe, ever evolving as we discover new arenas of science and technology. What relevance does this have to serving the public and society?

The constituents and the contaminants in our ground waters and surface waters is of utmost concern and immediacy. I have men-



tioned the harm and the impact of chemicals in our landscapes which migrate to our storm drains and to our waterways. Chemicals such as herbicides and insecticides, to name a couple.

The water we use is captured and cleansed in wastewater treatment plants, through very accurate and comprehensive processes. This treated wastewater makes its way to the drinking water treatment plants where operators work tirelessly day and night to

ensure the right dosages are applied to make this water suitable to drink.

## Toilet to tap

The treated wastewater can actually be used for irrigation and in some cases, be treated to a degree to which it can become drinking water once more. This “Toilet to Tap” procedure has become a new reality. T1 is the first level of treatment operator certifications/licensures for Drinking Water. I have been advised by trusted sources within Drinking Water to make the commitment to study for the exam, pass, and join the ranks of those who serve our citizenry.

## Chemicals can cause damage

Landscape Water Management and Irrigation Consultation is still a part of my skillset. But, over time, I have seen so much harmful behavior in Landscape Management and The Garden Center/Nursery Industry that I have essentially parted ways with them. Knowing what I now know about the damage these chemicals and products do to our environments and waterways ... I am not willing to continue working around such substances nor endorsing or promoting the purchase and use of such.

Looking back, at age 27, I took a summer job in a family-owned private retail nursery. A beautiful place! I learned a tremendous volume! From June 2006 to October 2021, I worked in garden centers, nurseries, and garden/nursery departments in hardware stores and home-improvement centers throughout San Jose and Santa Clara Valley.

As appreciative as I am for the knowledge and wisdom which was shared with me by veterans of those businesses, I cannot bring myself to continue on such a path.

One New Year’s resolution: I have set my sights on earning my T1 certificate. “T1. T1 and counting.”

I am committed to joining the ranks of those who work tirelessly in drinking water to make our most precious resource fit for one and all. Thank you each and all!



**Water Wise**  
**Matthew Frazier,**  
**Certified Water**  
**Manager**





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Times **Feature**

# Matt Mahan sworn in as new San Jose Mayor

San Jose Mayor-Elect **Matt Mahan**, formerly the Councilmember for District 10, was sworn in during a private ceremony in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Thursday, Dec. 30.

Mahan was joined by his wife, **Silvia Mahan**, and two children, and cheered on by staff members. He released the following statement:

"I am humbled and honored to start my term as your next Mayor. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work on common-sense solutions to combat the homelessness epidemic, take on crime, and clean up our streets. May the start of the New Year bring you and your loved ones joy and success as we start this journey together, as one united City."

A public inauguration will be held for Mayor-Elect Mahan in late January, with details forthcoming. Public officials starting new terms are sworn in before New Year's Day.

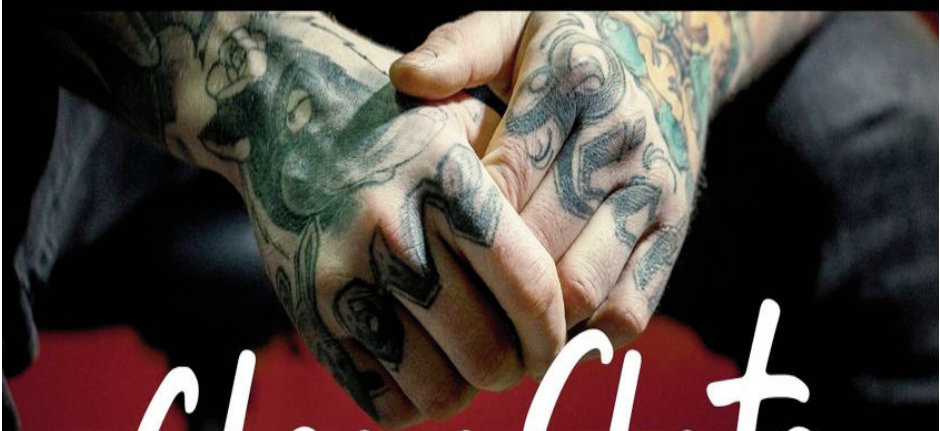
The Mayor-Elect's official term as Mayor began on January 1, 2023, at midnight.



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Times **Feature**

# San Jose airport rebrand ticks off commissioners

By **Brian Howey**  
*San José Spotlight*

The San Jose airport's decision to rebrand has exposed a rift between airport leadership and the commission that advises on changes at the South Bay's sky hub.

In a Dec. 14 informational memo to the San Jose City Council, Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport Director of Aviation John Aitken announced the airport will change its logo in January and adopt a new name: San Jose Mineta International Airport.

The new logo will feature two sets of orange plane wings bordered by the new name and the airport's abbreviation: SJC.

Members of the San Jose Airport Commission said while airport officials previously told them of plans to rebrand, this month's announcement came as a surprise. They said they should've been informed of the announcement at their last quarterly meeting in November. The commission's next meeting is in February.

The name and logo change could cost millions of dollars, Commission Chair Dan Connolly said, a decision the commission should've had a say in.

"This is a prime example of how the airport bypasses us," Connolly told San José Spotlight. "What do you have an airport commission for if you're not going to brief them on what's going to city council?"

Airport spokesperson Scott Wintner said it was too early to announce the name change at the November commission meeting.

"We weren't prepared to release the information to the council and to the public until we did," he told San José Spotlight.

San Jose Councilmember David Cohen, the council's airport liaison, was not available for comment.

Commissioner Catherine Hendrix told San José Spotlight she loves everything about the new rebrand, but said the airport commission should have had buy in.

"The airport commission was not considered a stakeholder so we weren't given an opportunity to provide input on the new name or the new logo," she said.

The rebrand is still in the planning stages, Wintner said, noting he's unsure if the airport will develop cost estimates for changing its name before moving forward. He declined to comment further on Connolly's complaints.

The airport's rebrand is the result of several studies that show some passengers struggle to find tickets online because they don't know whether to search for Mineta's name or San Jose, and Mineta's name is frequently dropped from the airport's name when discussing it.

The airport is named for former San Jose Mayor Norm Mineta, who died in May, 2022. As U.S. secretary of transportation during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Mine-

ta issued statements to airlines discouraging discrimination against Arab and Muslim passengers and helped create the Transportation Security Agency. The airport was named in his honor later that year.

The rebrand will not change the official name of the airport, Wintner said, so it doesn't require action by the city council.

Connolly said being surprised by the new name announcement is just the latest in what he calls a pattern of

airport and city officials ignoring the commission's input.

When the city considered raising building height restrictions near the airport in 2019, Connolly said, the commission voted against the decision, instead recommending a middle ground that would raise the height limits without conflicting with flight safety requirements.

The city and airport disagreed with the commission, Connolly said, raising the building heights beyond

the recommendations. The change could cost millions in revenue to airlines and the airport, Connolly said, because airlines are forced to carry fewer passengers to meet safe-

ty requirements.

"Our job is to make recommendations to city council," Connolly said. "(The) city council now uses their own wisdom to make their decisions."



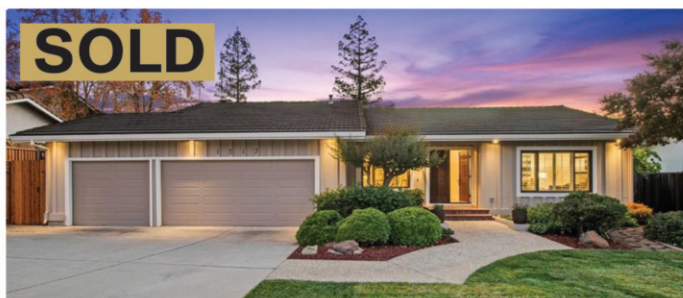
The Mineta San Jose International Airport is pictured in this file photo.

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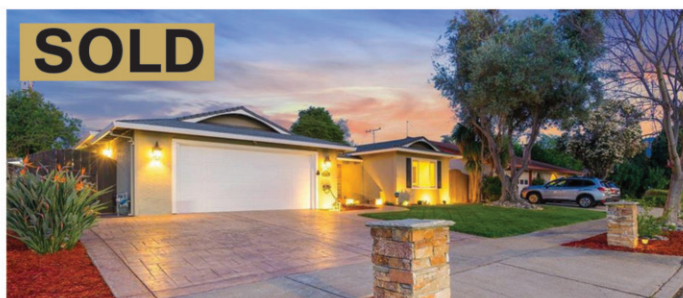
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## Employment

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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](mailto:katta.reddy@sifycorp.com)**

## Notices

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# Happy New Year

from



Almaden Valley's #1 Agent *Again* for 2022!  
That's *14 Years* in a Row! *Have a Fantastic 2023!*

The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last **14 years** as measured by Dollars per Agent per Year. In 2022, she closed a total of \$66 million in Almaden Valley alone. This is \$15 million more than any other agent or team of agents. For all geographic areas, Swan closed a total of \$73m.

In the 20 years Therese has been selling homes, she has closed a total of \$600 million in Almaden Valley which is more than any other agent or team of agents during that same time frame.

***If you are thinking of selling in 2023, please call me soon as possible.***



## THERESE SWAN

408.656.8240

tswan@tswan.com

AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com

DRE 01355719

The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 14 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.



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