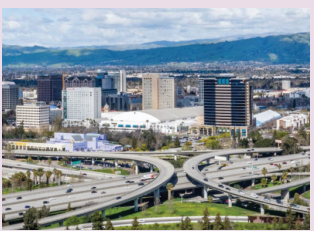


San Jose presents an uphill battle for small businesses
SEE PAGE 4



Its rewarding to be green
Bellarmine recognized nationally for its environmental initiatives
— **SEE PAGE 7**

San Jose celebrates opening of quick-build community to house homeless
SEE PAGE 13



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Almaden Times

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APRIL 28 – MAY 11, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 9



Vitae Vi Virtus Institute program allows participants to learn sword fighting at two-day event in San Jose

*Program partners with
Davenriche European
Martial Artes School*

The Sword Experience (SXP) is coming to San Jose, CA on May 20-21.

Created by the star of the international Highlander franchise, **Adrian Paul** (pictured above), the SXP has held successful events in twelve countries to date, giving people the opportunity to learn sword fighting in epic locations. Paul played Duncan MacLeod on "Highlander."

In the past, the SXP has offered Elite, Convention, Academy, Retreat, and Corporate events. Now, in partnership with Sensei Richard Ganey, the SXP is offering a new program, The Vitae Vi Virtus Institute program. (VVVI).

"We are thrilled to be returning to Northern California for not one day, but two," said Paul. "Once again we'll be partnering with Steaphen Fick from the Davenriche European Martial Artes School in San Jose and hosting the experience at their brand-new facility."

The Sword Experience (SXP) creator is Adrian Paul who played Duncan MacLeod on international "Highlander" franchise.

The fun two-day event starts with learning all the techniques of sword fighting. On day two, that's when the fun starts, be an
See SWORDFIGHTING, page 5

Joint Town Hall addresses local community issues

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Helping residents make government work was the focus of a recent Town Hall featuring a U.S. Congressman and a San Jose Councilmember.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta joined District 10 City Councilmember Arjun Batra to learn what problems constituents are facing and how they can help. Panetta represents California's 19th congressional district, which now includes South San Jose. He is opening an office at 841 Blossom Hill Road.

The politicians spoke with community members at the Santa Teresa Branch Library on April 8 about housing developments, the homeless and the U.S. Postal Service. Batra said he's open to communi-



Congressman **Jimmy Panetta** (left) joined District 10 City Councilmember **Arjun Batra** in a community discussion.

ty input and will let residents know what is and isn't happening in District 10. He said federal, state, county and city governments all have to work together to better the community.

"This is what it's about," Panetta said. "Having this type of conversation allowing myself and your Councilman to hear from you to let us know how we can better serve you."

Resident Gary Ogan raised concerns regarding the placement of a proposed low-income housing development. The 49-unit complex being developed by Charities Housing Development, would be located in the Plaza del Rey shopping center at Snell Ave. and Santa Teresa Blvd., across from Santa Teresa High School. Ogan said SB 35, which
See TOWN HALL, page 21

Californians demand lawmakers act on fentanyl crisis

Grieving families, law enforcement, Republican legislators tell Public Safety Committee that inaction will cause more deaths

Families of fentanyl overdose and poisoning victims, law enforcement officials, public safety advocates and lawmakers met at the State Capitol to demand action on California's fentanyl crisis on April 19.

Across the state, overdoses have only accelerated since 2021, as 500 Californians per month are losing their lives to fentanyl. Nationwide, 300 Americans lose their lives from the drug each day.

At the event, family members of Californians who died from fentanyl shared their stories of loss and the struggle to secure justice. Representatives of law enforcement highlighted the need to raise awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and impose additional penalties to deter criminals from continuing to sell the drug.

"The stories we heard today were heart-breaking – fentanyl has devastated families



Senator **Janet Nguyen**, California Senate Minority Caucus Chair stated that more than 120 people are dying each week in California from the poisoning effects of fentanyl during an April 19th news conference. At the event, family members of Californians who died from fentanyl shared their stories of loss and the struggle to secure justice.

and communities across our state," said Assemblywoman Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel). "From raising awareness, like my bill to teach students about the dangers of fentanyl, which is being held by the Education Committee, to holding dealers accountable, the Legislature should do everything in its power to fight the fentanyl epidemic and save lives."

In recent months, the Assembly Public Safety Committee killed a number of common-

sense bills to fight the fentanyl epidemic, including AB 18, to warn dealers they could be convicted of murder if someone dies from drugs they sold, and AB 701, to impose fines on fentanyl dealers for the damage they inflict on our communities.

In March, the Chair of the Public Safety Committee announced it would stop considering bills relating to fentanyl for the remainder of
See CRISIS, page 5

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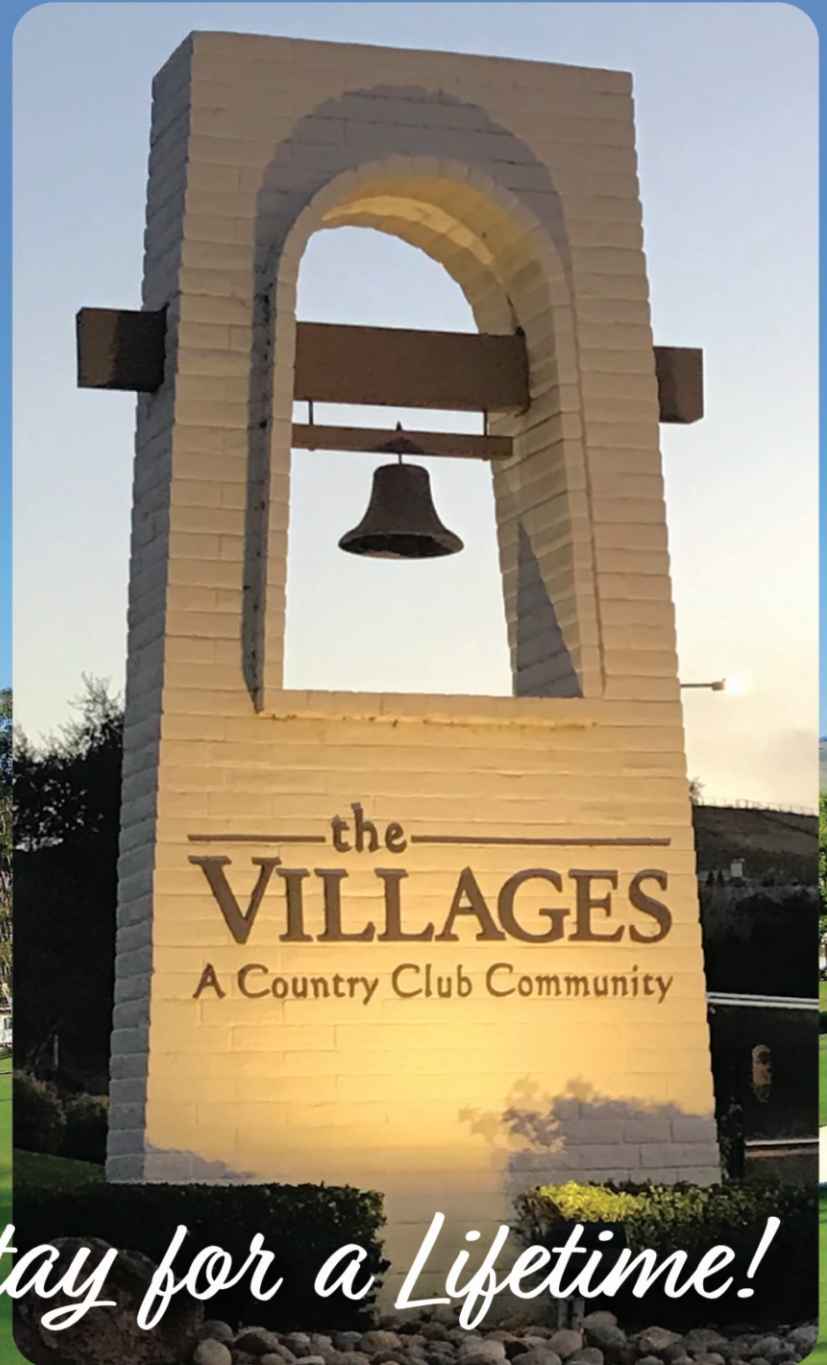
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NOTEBOOK



No kidding

Grazing goats to be hired as brush feeders to combat wildfires at Lick Observatory

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Grazing goats will soon be grazing the hills of Mount Hamilton surrounding Lick Observatory — destined to clear the brush and make the expansive pasture less prone to fire.

The goats will be used to clear a five-acre buffer around the telescope buildings.

Goats and sheep have been used successfully on steep hills around the Silver Creek Valley Country Club; and now goats will be used to help curb possible future fires like the ones that have swept through the Diablo Range in the past.

“There’s a big history of fires sweeping through the Diablo Range,” said Matthew Shetrone, deputy director of the University of California Observatories. “If you’re going to put a \$65 (million) or \$70 million facility at the top of a mountain, fire likes to climb mountains, so you’ve got to make

sure you’re well protected.”

More than 250 goats are nearly finished performing their fire-safety grazing on one parcel of land and ready to move on to the next. Photo courtesy of BART.

The observatory has set a priority to raise money to hire the goats — and their shepherds by obtaining a grant for many seasons to come. The priority now is to deploy goats around the emergency cell towers which were recently installed.

Using goats for fire protection has become an increasingly popular strategy in recent years for beating back brush to combat the increasing number of intense wildfires.



Benjamin Lynn of Almaden named to Dean's List

Benjamin Lynn of Almaden was named to the winter 2023 Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's West Campus in San Jose, California.

Lynn worked as a Personal Trainer for Optimum Results Ltd from November 2019 to September 2020 in San Jose.

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

Valley Currents

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



California is ranked as the 25th least expensive state to start a business, but local business leaders say there are significant challenges. File photo.

San Jose an uphill battle for small businesses

By Loan-Anh Pham
San José Spotlight

California is ranked as the 25th least expensive state to start a business, but local business leaders say entrepreneurs in San Jose face significant challenges in launching a company.

A recent study by SimplifyLLC analyzed a variety of factors to rank each state, including business filing fees, labor costs, utility costs, lending rates and start and failure rates of businesses. Despite California landing in the middle of the list, economic experts and business owners in San Jose said the survey doesn’t illustrate the increasing business costs and difficult permitting processes that create additional barriers for local entrepreneurs.

“While San Jose remains a world-class destination for a dynamic customer base and highly skilled employees, we continue to struggle with the high costs of goods and services, slower permitting times and the high cost of housing, which can drive up wages,” San Jose Chamber of Commerce CEO Derrick Seaver told San José Spotlight.

California placed in the middle of the list overall, compared to Nevada at the top and Minnesota at the bottom. The study, which adjusted numbers for population,

“If you have a brick and mortar (business), it’s definitely very expensive because of rent, utilities and everything you need.”
-Chandra Brooks

found California also fell in the middle in terms of lending for small businesses, lending about \$37.7 million in 2020 compared to North Dakota, which topped the list at about \$67.5 million. Despite its ranking, California had the third-highest utility costs in the nation, with an average monthly commercial electric bill of \$992.86.

San Jose is currently home to approximately 60,000 small businesses, with some being threatened by displacement due to new housing and transit development projects. City officials said 98% of San Jose businesses are small businesses with less than 35 full-time employees. Additionally, entrepreneurs fighting to stay in San Jose are battling increasing rents as the city works to offer relief through grants to offset the grow-

ing operation costs. Meanwhile, on the government side, vacancies in the city’s planning department have led to a permitting backlog.

Too much red tape

Chandra Brooks, a local entrepreneur and member of the National Small Business Association leadership council, said start-up costs and delayed permits are some of the biggest obstacles to getting businesses off the ground in Silicon Valley. The study revealed California’s average business filing fee is \$70, but in San Jose the base cost is \$210 and can increase depending on the number of employees.

“If you have a brick and mortar (business), it’s definitely very expensive because of rent, utilities and everything you need,” Brooks told San José Spotlight. “When you’re a small business, time is money... We lose a lot of great businesses because people have to wait for this red tape.”

Vic Farlie, an analyst with the city’s economic development department, said San Jose is also facing increasing labor costs, but still remains an appealing place for entrepreneurs to start a business in Silicon Valley. Farlie said the city has multiple efforts underway to keep businesses thriving, including monthly meetings with

See SAN JOSE, next page

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PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM,
CLAIRE CHEN, KEIRAH CHEN,
SEAN EASTWOOD, KEVIN LARSEN,
EUGENE LUU, SUNAY SANGHANI,
FRANK SHORTT, NIRBAN SINGH, JUDY LY,
APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM

PHOTOGRAPHER: ROCCO SANTORO

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Times **Community News****San Jose**

Continued from previous page
neighborhood business associations, free workshops and resources for new entrepreneurs, as well as grants for businesses to improve their storefronts to attract more customers.

"San Jose has done well over the past 10 years—more businesses opened than closed," Farlie told San José Spotlight. "It's not easy for every business owner, we know that... Small businesses in many of the underserved community areas within the city, that's our priority at the moment."

Brooks said entrepreneurs of color are disproportionately impacted in the business landscape, struggling with hurdles like loan rejections. She said historically many banks prefer loan candidates with a business record or financial cushion, things not every new business owner has readily available.

That problem prompted a local Vietnamese food vendor to crowdsource funding instead of going the traditional bank route.

"You have to have a lot of capital upfront,"

"When people start a business, they're usually pledging all they own."

- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dennis King

Brooks told San José Spotlight. "If you don't have those resources, especially for people of color and families that don't have that type of money in their families or themselves, it's almost impossible to even fathom starting a business."

Silicon Valley Minority Business Consortium founder Walter Wilson said ensuring grants last at least three years is another crucial step in allowing small businesses to get on their feet. Local governments and leaders have to be intentional in supporting racial and gender diversity through the contracting process, he added.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dennis King said immigrant entrepreneurs face additional barriers, such as cultural and language differences. For a business to be successful, he said business owners need to rely on the community for support and have a clear path to success in place for them to follow throughout their business journey.

"When people start a business, they're usually pledging all they own," King told San José Spotlight. "As a community, we should really appreciate the risk, the energy and effort that's required to make a business successful."



Pictured is a few of last year's graduates of the Sword Experience (SXP) which is scheduled May 21-22 in San Jose with Highlander star Adrian Paul who played Duncan MacLeod.

Swordfighting

Continued from page 1

actor in a storyline based in a castle, or fight in a cool location full of historical weapons.

Castle break-in story-line

Participants have the opportunity to join a story-line involving a small group that break into a castle full of historical weapons. They become surrounded by castle security, intent on arresting them for trespass-

ing. But the leader of the group, his hands now holding a priceless sword, has other ideas. The break-in wasn't just about admiring ancient weapons.

For tickets and a full breakdown of the event visit: <https://swordxp.com/event/elite-event-san-jose-california>

*Editor's note: The event will be held at Dav-
enriche European Martial Artes School 395 E.
Taylor St, Santa Jose, CA 95112. Time: 8:00 a.m.
- 5 p.m.; Pricing: \$55-\$465; (408) 857-0121*

Crisis

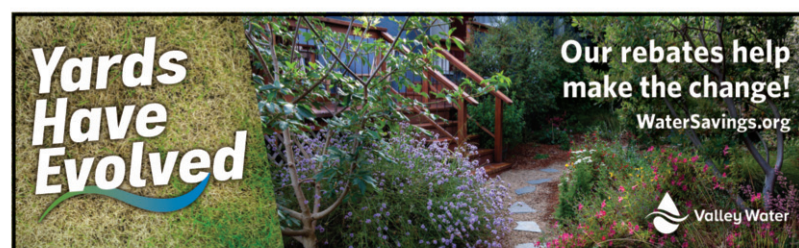
Continued from page 1

the legislative session, including AB 1508, which would recognize the extremely potent nature of fentanyl and increase penalties for dealers, AB 33, to create a Fentanyl Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force,

and AB 955, to increase penalties for selling fentanyl through social media.

The press conference featured a dump truck capable of holding 28,000 pounds, roughly the same weight of fentanyl that was seized in California last year, as well as small vials of inert materials representative of enough fentanyl to kill more than 1,000 people.

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Visit WaterSavings.org, to learn more about our rebate programs, book an inspection for pre-approval of a rebate project, or request water-saving equipment. To inquire about how you can save water in your home and landscaping, email conservation@valleywater.org or call 408-630-2554.



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Times **Community News**



Bellarmino recognized nationally and statewide for its environmental initiatives

Bellarmino College Preparatory has earned the distinction as a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education (ED-GRS), one of only 26 schools (and one of two high schools in California), 11 districts, and four postsecondary institutions nationwide to be so honored.

Additionally, for the second time since 2021, the school has been designated as a 2023 California Green Ribbon School (CA-GRS), the corresponding state award for the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools recognition.

As announced by Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Green Ribbon program recognizes schools and school districts across the state for environmental excellence and demonstrated achievement of the three Pillars of ED-GRS, as follows: Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs; Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; Pillar III: Provide effective environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), civic skills, and green career pathways.

"Bellarmino is enormously proud of our institutional commitment to environmental sustainability," noted Dr. Sonya Arriola, Bellarmine's principal. "It is our deepest desire that our students and community see this recognition as a continued call to action – to use their collective talents to study, and ultimately address, the complex challenges facing our world around climate and sustainability."

Among the many examples of Bellarmine's sustainability programs are its unique garden, which is used for outdoor course instruction that has included Botany, Marine Biology, and California History; use of biodegradable and environmentally friendly products in the kitchen; use of refillable water bottles instead of single use, disposable plastic; installation of rooftop solar panel systems; and the use of a co-generator for electrical power for the main campus and, as a byproduct, heating of the 600,000 gallon swimming pool.

Bellarmino builds student capacity for eco-literacy within its sustainable engineering projects in its Maker Lab and Advanced Placement Environmental Science courses. Between the two courses,

almost every student participates in some form of environmental literacy education.

"The challenges posed both by the pandemic and by climate change have driven home the importance of modernizing school facilities, embracing sustainability, prioritizing health and wellness, and improving learning conditions for students, especially in underserved communities," said Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education, in the announcement about the national Green Ribbon Schools. "I want to congratulate the educators, school leaders, students, families, and advocates engaged in this work for showing the nation that any school in any community can strive to be a green school, and in doing so, empower the next generation to build a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable nation."

As noted earlier, Bellarmine had been named a California Green Ribbon School Gold Level honoree in 2021 and was previously recognized for its sustainability efforts, having received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification for several of its facilities, including the Sobrato Center for Humanities and the Arts, Br. Wally Ryan, S.J. & Fr. Bob Shinnery, S.J. Student Life Center/Patricia and Steven Schott Athletic Center, and the Lorry I. Lokey Academic Center.



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Times **Community News**

'Quick-build' interim housing breaks ground

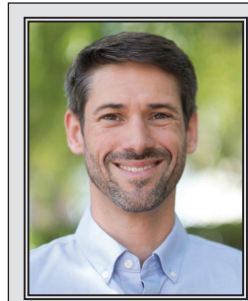
By Mayor Matt Mahan

This week, we broke ground on something truly groundbreaking – San Jose's soon-to-be largest "quick-build" interim housing community.

At a fraction of the cost and a fraction of the construction time of building long-term permanent housing, these quick-build units are the most promising solution we have for ending San Jose's era of encampments.

When the first quick-build community opened in 2020 in response to the pandemic, we saw the number of people living on our streets drop for the first time since 2015.

We began scaling up these communities because we felt a moral imperative to get people into individual shelter as fast as possible. I would argue we've always had that imperative – but now we know we can do it, and we know that it works. As you can see, our interim shelter capacity hockey stick-ed and we finally were able to make headway in reducing the



From the Mayor

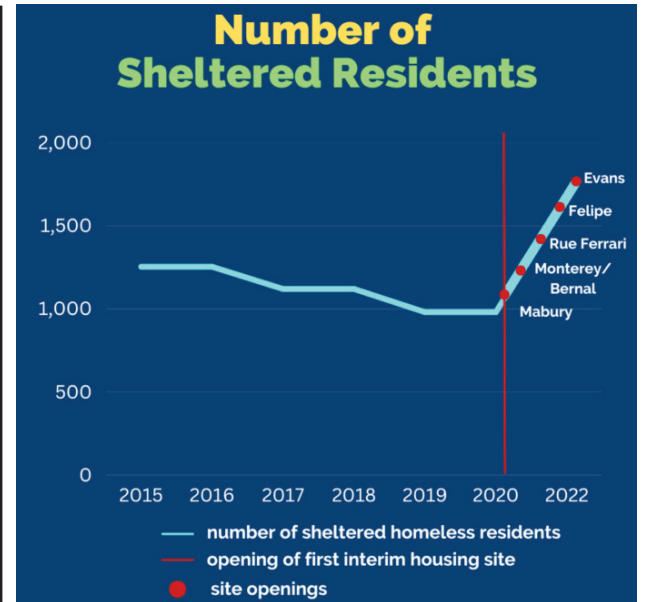
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose

number of people suffering on our streets.

These units may be temporary but our progress isn't. Most of these people will not be returning to the streets. They give people a chance to get back on the right path – a chance for a better future, and the data tells us they're taking it. If recent experience holds, over 70% of the people this community serves will remain stably housed after their time here – with over half graduating to permanent housing.

This community will also serve more people than you might think. Each unit we build helps stabilize an average of three people per year, multiplying their impact. The quick-build housing we broke ground on this week will soon have 204 beds – but will likely serve over 600 people each year. 600 people who will have a second chance at life each year.

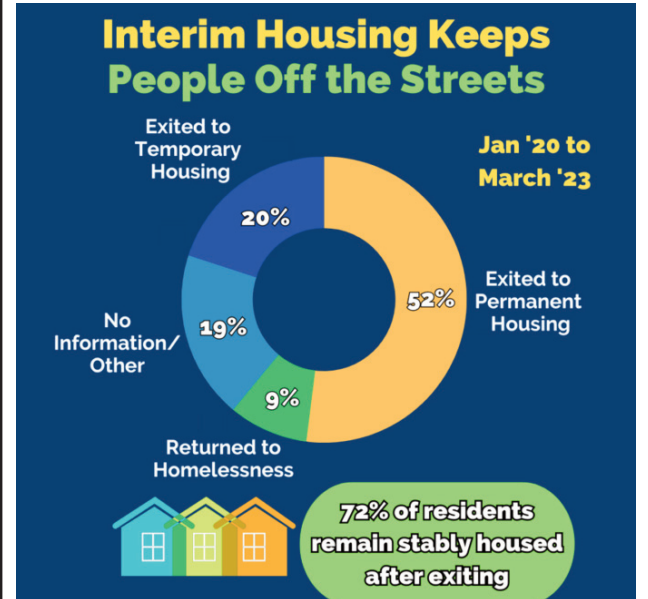
Moreover, the fears of some naysayers have not been realized. These communities have proven to be good neighbors. Comparing the year before with the year after each of these



sites have opened, calls for service for crime and blight have gone down.

As the data shows, and the people who live there know, these sites are a real solution to the human suffering we see on our streets every day. Part of the success of this model is the fact that these communities provide services – from mental health counseling to job training. Of course, they aren't the solution for everyone.

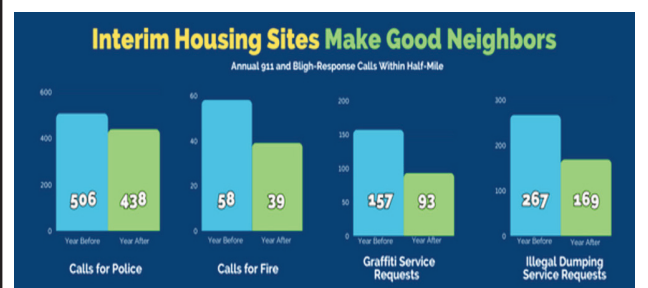
As we've discussed in past newsletters, some of the most visible cases of unsheltered homelessness in our city involved individuals suffering from untreated mental illness, and the more we leave them to languish on the streets – the worse their condition becomes. That's why I've advocated for SB 43 which works to broaden our conservatorship laws and compel those who cannot provide for themselves due to profound psychiatric or drug use disorder to get into a secure care setting to give them a chance at stabilizing their condition and achieving self-sufficiency.



Solutions like this – quick build communities and mental health care reform – are an example of the type of innovative, urgent strategies we have to embrace if we hope to move the needle on this massive humanitarian crisis in the years ahead.

We have a moral, economic and ecological imperative to deliver results – for our unhoused residents, and for the entire community. It's time for action today – our most vulnerable can't wait.

Editor's note: You may send your comments and suggestions to Mayor Matt Mahan via email: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov, or call 408-535-4800



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Water conservation is a way of life in Santa Clara County. The average Santa Clara County home with a 1,000 square foot lawn can save 350 gallons a week by limiting outdoor watering to twice a week and avoiding midday watering. That's a great way to save about half the water on your bill.

About half the water in a typical home is used outdoors, and nearly 50 percent of outdoor water is wasted because of inefficient or broken irrigation systems. Valley Water can help residents reduce outdoor water waste with a FREE in-person visit to check your irrigation system.

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Diane Vieira (above left) is soloist in the Piano Concerto no. 5 by Sergio Azevedo. Born in the Azores Islands, she has won many awards and regularly performs as soloist in Portugal and at festivals worldwide. The celebrated Portuguese soprano, **Sandra Medeiros** (above right), will perform favorite arias by composers ranging from Handel and Mozart through Rossini, Puccini, and Gershwin to her compatriot, also born in the Azores Islands, Francisco de Lacerda.

Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose presents music of Portugal

Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose (MCOSJ) continues its tradition of annual classical music concerts at San Jose's Five Wounds Portuguese National Church.

The free concert, on Sunday afternoon, June 4th, 2023, is part of the cultural celebrations surrounding Portuguese National Day and showcases Portuguese soloists and works by composers rarely heard outside Portugal.

Diane Vieira is soloist in the Piano Concerto no. 5 by Sergio Azevedo. Born in the Azores Islands, she has won many awards and regularly performs as soloist in Portugal and at festivals worldwide. Sergio Azevedo (b. 1968) is part of a generation of Portuguese composers who aspire to write music which is expressive and communicative. He sees himself as connected through a lineage of Portuguese composers to the past, and through his professorship, to the future - "In my music, there is always a connection to tradition ... things change, the past accumulates. I consider everything behind me, whether it's a C major chord or a cluster."

The celebrated Portuguese soprano, Sandra Medeiros, will perform favorite arias by composers ranging from Handel and Mozart through Rossini, Puccini, and Gershwin to her compatriot, also born in the Azores Islands, Francisco de Lacerda.

Completing the program is the Symphony no. 2 by João Domingos Bomtempo (1775-1842), Portugal's most important classical period composer. His two known symphonies are the first by any Portuguese composer, and in 1835 he became the first Director of the National Conservatory.

Event

Music of Portugal - Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose concert
June 4, 2023, 3:00pm, Five Wounds Portuguese National Church, San Jose
Emily Ray, conductor Diane Vieira, pianist
Sandra Medeiros, soprano

Program

João Domingos Bomtempo - Symphony

no. 2

Sergio Azevedo - Piano Concerto no. 5
W. A. Mozart - Exsultate Jubilate, K.165
G. F. Handel - "How beautiful are the feet" from The Messiah

G. F. Handel - "Rejoice" from The Messiah

Giacomo Puccini - "O mio babbino caro" from Gianni Schicchi

Giacomo Puccini - "Quando m'en vo" from La Boheme

George Gershwin - "Summertime" from Porgy and Bess

Gioachino Rossini - "Una voce poco fa" from Il Barbiere di Sevilla

Francisco de Lacerda - Quero cantar ser alegre

Tickets: Free, available at the door.

About Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose

Founded by conductor and musical director Emily Ray in 1996, Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose (MCOSJ) is a volunteer orchestra performing quality concerts in the South Bay. The 35- to 50-piece orchestra is known for its innovative programming that surprises and delights its listeners. In May 2011, the San Francisco Classical Voice praised MCOSJ's performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, calling it "thrilling to hear."

MCOSJ features world class artists as well as emerging professional soloists. MCOSJ has given the world premieres of more than twenty works and the West Coast or South Bay premieres of many others. Brilliant Classics recently released a disc of A.J. Fernandes' Violin Concerto featuring violinist Carlos Damas accompanied by the orchestra.

MCOSJ caters to a broad audience, featuring classical repertoire and modern works by composers from around the world. Select high school musicians are invited to join the orchestra in many of its concerts. <http://www.missionchamber.org>

For more information, email: info@missionchamber.org; or visit <http://www.missionchamber.org>; or phone: (408) 236-3350.

Times **Community News**

San José Mayor **Matt Mahan**, was joined by former Mayor **Sam Liccardo**, and community partners at LifeMoves, Goodwill of Silicon Valley, Sand Hill Foundation Co-founders Peter and Susanna Pau, and members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to celebrate the opening of the City's newest emergency interim housing (EIH) site.

San Jose celebrates opening of quick-build community which will house homeless residents working to beautify the city

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

San José Mayor Matt Mahan, was joined by former Mayor Sam Liccardo, and community partners at LifeMoves, Goodwill of Silicon Valley, Sand Hill Foundation Co-founders Peter and Susanna Pau, and members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to celebrate the opening of the City's newest emergency interim housing (EIH) site, or quick-build community April 19.

The Guadalupe Interim Housing Community, located near San José Police Department Headquarters on Guadalupe Parkway, will provide 96 private rooms for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and bring the city closer towards Mayor Mahan's goal of ending the era of encampments. Half of the units will be dedicated for members of San José Bridge, a program for homeless San José residents that provides them with employment; job training, the development of long-term career goals and job placement; and assists in finding housing and placement in San José.

"No one should live in encampments," said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. "Sites like Guadalupe, which cost a fraction of traditional housing, offer a safe and dignified alternative to the streets. I'm especially excited that we are reserving half of these units for residents enrolled in our work program that employs homeless neighbors in jobs cleaning up our city. Offering people work and stable shelter is the path we need to take to end unsheltered homelessness."

San Jose Bridge has employed 137 unhoused residents since March 2022 and 46 participants have secured permanent jobs at various companies and organizations, including Tesla, Goodwill, the Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center, and the San José Airport. San Jose Bridge participants have removed 351,450 pounds of trash from city streets and trails.

Including Guadalupe and the new Monterey/Branham quick build community, which broke ground in April, San José now has 697 units operating or under construction, with another 300 in the pipeline. San José is also set to receive 200 small homes from Governor Gavin Newsom, which will

get San Jose 20% of the way to Mayor Mahan's goal to create new capacity to move 1,000 unhoused residents out of unmanaged encampments by the end of this calendar year.

San Jose's quick-build community model has led to a halt in the increase of unsheltered homeless residents for the first time since 2015. Based on the 2022 countywide point-in-time census (PIT), 75% of homeless residents are unsheltered in San José compared to 84% in 2019.

The Guadalupe site is a \$16.95 million undertaking, with funding for construction through federal American Rescue Plan funds, City of San José Housing Department funds, and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funds from the state. The City also received generous donations from community partners, including \$1 million from Destination: Home, \$500k from All Home, and \$25k from Housing Trust of Silicon Valley. Peter and Susanna Pau donated the living units through their Sand Hill Foundation saving the city millions in development costs. SHP Foundation previously contributed to the construction of the city's first quick build apartment community at Evans Lane and the Pau's continued support for this housing model is generating ongoing interest in philanthropic support.

"Homelessness is a crisis. The City of San Jose, Mayor Matt Mahan, and former Mayor Sam Liccardo act and not just talk," said Peter and Susanna Pau, Co-founders of Sand Hill Property Foundation. "This project is not the whole answer, but it is an effective solution. We hope more will follow. Our Christian Foundation is helping because this is God's work"

The Guadalupe quick-build community is being developed by Bay Area-based firm DevCon Construction, Inc. and will include onsite laundry, community kitchen, dog runs, computer rooms, community programming space, and case management offices. The site operator, LifeMoves, will provide wrap-around services to connect residents with a case manager and transition them to permanent housing. Each prefab unit also comes with a bed, heating and air conditioning, as well as a personal bathroom complete with a shower.

See **QUICKBUILD**, page 17

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

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Times Career Corner

Fake job postings
frustrating propositions

By Angela Copeland

Although April Fools' Day is over, this is no joke. If we didn't have enough to wade through, now we have to consider fake job postings.



An increasing number of job seekers are noticing this trend. But, unfortunately, it's one that has been around for quite some time.

According to The Wall Street Journal, a survey of more than 1,000 hiring managers conducted by Clarify Capital found that 27 percent reported having job postings up for more than four months. Of those, almost half were left up

to give the impression that the company was doing well.

Other employers left job postings up for different reasons. They may want to give the impression to overworked employees that help is on the way. Or, they may be hedging their bets that they will need employees in the future.

If this sounds frustrating for a job seeker, it is. Job seeking is a grueling process that takes a considerable amount of time and energy. It requires job seekers to sneak out of work for a series of interviews. If the job seeker were to be caught in this process, it could put their current job at risk.

Some companies will delay hiring as they search for the perfect candidate. After some time, they decide not to fill the role at all. Other companies delay hiring to save money. In some

situations, the hiring process can take so long that the hiring manager may change. And, the new hiring manager may want to reevaluate the role.

Companies often look at job candidates like a product. Imagine going shopping at a store like Target. You can look at every item, and in the end, if you don't want to buy anything, no one will care. But, with a job seeker, this isn't a fair experience. Job seekers are people, not products. These decisions have a real impact on their lives.

I once interviewed for a role at a large financial services company. The company put me through roughly 12 rounds of interviews over a five month period, including in person interviews in another state. Near the end of the process, they assured me that I would get an

offer. I stopped looking for other jobs, and started packing my things to move. A few weeks went by and the hiring manager called. The role had been on hold since the beginning. He continued to interview me in hopes that he would eventually gain approval. He did not.

If you're a job seeker, remember that your job search is a numbers game. If you aren't hearing back from a company or if they're going slowly, hedge your bets. Apply for more roles. Keep things moving, so that you will find an employer who is truly hiring. Look for job postings that haven't been up for months, and that contain specific details about the role. Eventually, you'll find a real opportunity that's a great fit.

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

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San Jose had a 31% drop in home sales in 2021-22, a recent report reveals. Real estate experts said interest rates, tech industry layoffs and high cost of living are all factors. Photo by Loan-Anh Pham.

San Jose home sales are slumping, report says

By Loan-Anh Pham
San José Spotlight

San Jose has seen the steepest decline in home buying among major California cities during the last two years, and the slide hasn't let up yet.

A recent Insurify report reveals San Jose had a 31% drop in home buying between 2021-22, which local real estate experts said is due to a combination of factors—high interest rates, lack of housing inventory, tech layoffs and Silicon Valley employees shifting to remote work.

William Chea, president of the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, said the housing market has shifted in the last two years with less people purchasing homes due to higher interest rates and a lack of housing options. It's a reversal of the explosive market in 2020 when interest rates were low and competition among buyers was fierce across the city due to fewer houses on the market, he added.

From the outside it appears the market has cooled, Chea said, but in actuality it's entering a new stage post-pandemic.

"It was a nuclear hot market, where the sellers were expecting to put the property on the market for 'x' amount of dollars and then they would probably get multiple offers," Chea told San José Spotlight. "It seems that the market has slowed down, but when you look at the numbers, it really hasn't."

The Insurify report shows San Jose's drop in home buying was greater than San Francisco, San Diego, Riverside and Los Angeles, which all had a 29% drop. Houses are also staying on the market longer, according to the report. Additionally, U.S. mortgage interest rates during 2020 were reported to be approximately 3% and have since doubled to about 6%.

Last year San Jose had the worst housing shortage among major U.S. metro cities, and Zillow found the average mortgage in San Jose, including homeowners insurance and taxes, was more than \$9,000 per month.

Holly Barr, a realtor with Compass, said San Jose sellers are reluctant to put their properties on the market now and are unsure whether they can afford a new place once they sell.

"People are not selling because they're like, 'Well, where am I gonna go? I don't want to double my interest rate from 3% to 6%,'" Barr told San José Spotlight.

Instead, homeowners are choosing to rent out their properties, she said. San Jose's rental market remains competitive, with last year averaging \$3,501 monthly for a two-bedroom home and requiring a renter to have a \$122,040 annual salary.

Kelly Dippel, a real estate advisor with Coldwell Banker, said the tech industry has also played a significant role, with Silicon Valley layoffs contributing to less potential buyers in town. A growth in remote work is another factor with families opting out of the Bay Area for cheaper housing. The report found California was in the top 10 in terms of states with the highest population drops between 2021 and 2022.

"We've had layoffs with Google and Facebook, so some buyers are a little bit apprehensive about getting into the market right now because of job security," Dippel told San José Spotlight. "I would say within the last two weeks there's more buyers out, so I do feel like it's getting stronger."

Chea said as the year progresses, interest rates will likely plateau, and demand should pick up.

"We're witnessing a gradual resurgence in the housing market," he told San José Spotlight.

Survey finds married California couples are the 12th most happily married in America

• 80% of California couples are happy in their marriages, equating to 11 million people

• However, West Virginia couples are the happiest (90%).

Movies and fairytales tend to teach us that once those wedding bells have rung, it's happily ever after for the couple.

However, it turns out that it's not just a

fantasy - according to a survey commissioned by Mixbook and carried out by QuestionPro, 88% of married couples in Minnesota reported being blissfully happy in their relationships.

The photo books company studied census data to identify the number of married people in each state, and then surveyed

See *HAPPY*, page 18



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San Jose college administrator dies on vacation in Mexico

A top official and longtime leader of the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District has died.

Vice Chancellor Jorge Escobar died recently while vacationing in Mexico, according to a statement last week from the district.

Escobar, 55, was in the running to take over as chancellor from Interim Chancellor and Raúl Rodríguez, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The district didn't provide further details about Escobar's death, other than saying he died in a "tragic accident" while on vacation. Other media reports said Escobar drowned at a beach in front of a tourist complex in Jarretaderas.

"Those who worked closely with Jorge or had experience with him know that he was an extremely talented administrator who embodied a rare combination of professional and interpersonal skills," Rodríguez said in a Facebook message. "Beyond his professional acumen, Jorge was known for his kindness, generosity, and sense of humor."

Escobar had worked as an education administrator since 2005, when Princeton University hired him as a manager of administration, according to his LinkedIn profile. He started working at San Jose City College in 2014 as vice president and was temporarily promoted to acting president in 2018.

The San Jose-Evergreen Community College District hired Escobar as vice chancellor of administrative services in 2019.



Jorge Escobar started working at San Jose City College in 2014 before working his way up to district vice chancellor. Photo courtesy of Jorge Escobar's LinkedIn profile.

Rodríguez said Escobar was skilled at bringing disparate groups together and building coalitions, as well as a strong supporter of students.

"In addition to the impact that Jorge had on our district, he also played a significant role in the broader community," Rodríguez said. "He was involved in many organizations doing vital work to make San Jose and the Silicon Valley a great place to live, learn, and work for everyone."

The district is currently searching for an administrator to succeed Rodríguez as chancellor, according to spokesperson Ryan Brown. Administrators are still conducting interviews of candidates, and the district's goal is to have a permanent chancellor in place this summer, he said.

Wendy Ho, a trustee for the district, expressed her condolences Tuesday on Facebook.

"A very sad day for us at SJECCD," Ho wrote. "Thank you for your tireless commitment to our students and community, Jorge. You will be missed."

Contact Sonya Herrera at sonya@sanjos.espotlight.com or follow @SMHSoftware on Twitter.

Quickbuild

Continued from page 13

"The need, in our community, to bring our unhoused neighbors indoors has never been higher," said LifeMoves CEO Aubrey Merri-man. "LifeMoves believes it takes us all coming together to build a thriving community. Close teamwork, partnership, collaboration, a sense of urgency, and a unified vision have brought us together to celebrate this ribbon-cutting milestone. Opening San Jose's Guadalupe Interim Housing site will provide a supportive transitional step toward stable housing for people, along with the resources and customized, intensive services to help chart their course to permanent housing."

The Guadalupe quick-build site will be the home of numerous residents who were originally living in the Guadalupe Gardens encampment – the city's largest before being decommissioned in 2022. Several residents that moved from the encampment into hotels and motels will be able to move into the Guadalupe quick-build community. Going forward, outreach teams will prioritize SJ Bridge participants and unhoused residents living in the nearby neighborhood to live at the site.

"When we began discussing this site back

in 2020, we knew there was a real opportunity to both expand our community's shelter capacity and create a new model for how lived experience can influence the design and operations," said Jennifer Loving, CEO of Destination: Home. "We are so glad to see this vision come to fruition and are proud to be a partner of a project that has been meaningfully shaped by leaders who've experienced homelessness."

Increasing the city's supply of emergency interim housing and identifying new sites to support them was a focal point of addressing unsheltered homelessness in Mayor Mahan's budget proposal. The Mayor's core budget priorities include homelessness, public safety, blight, and bringing jobs and housing back to San José. Mayor Mahan continues to push the City to narrow its focus and make meaningful progress in these areas using practical, cost-effective solutions.

"The Guadalupe EIH site should be used as a model for interim shelter sites moving forward," said Gabriela Gabrian, of the Santa Clara County Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB). "From the conception of the project and throughout the development process, we were given decision-making power and were able to offer our lived experience of homelessness to help set this site up for success."



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Times Feature

Keeping the roads and highways safe for everyone

By County Supervisor Joe Simitian

The idea for a law to restrict cellphone use while driving came to me as I was campaigning for election to the California State Legislature roughly 20 years ago. Almost everybody I met had a horror story, ranging from the annoying to the devastating—a loved one ending up in the hospital, or worse, a fatality.

Today, with 13% of all car crashes due to drivers being distracted by their cell phones, the “Hands-Free” cellphone bill I authored might seem like simple common sense, but it was ahead of its time. It took me six efforts over a half-dozen years before it finally passed in 2006, clearing the 40-member Senate with a razor thin margin of just 21 votes.

In a letter to then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, I argued that having one hand on the wheel and the other on the phone while talking was a “measurable and significant” traffic risk, pointing to solid research.

The Governor, however, didn’t really need data to persuade him. Before signing the bill, according to the Los Angeles Times, Schwarzenegger had already warned his 16-year-old daughter that she would lose her driving privileges if he caught her driving with her cellphone in her hands, and he sometimes followed her to make sure: “If she makes that mistake,” he said, “then I will take the car away from her, and she will drive with the bus, because it’s inexcusable.”

My bill didn’t take away anyone’s car or driving privileges. But it did have an immediate and dramatic impact.

A study conducted by the Safe Transportation Research and Education Center at the University of California, Berkeley, examined state crash records two years before and two years after my hands-free legislation took effect on July 1, 2008. Overall traffic deaths declined by 22 percent, while identifiable hand-held cellphone driver deaths went down 47 percent.



County Report

Joe Simitian
County Supervisor

That translated into 700 fewer fatalities and 75,000 to 100,000 fewer collisions each year in California—the largest year-to-year drop in collisions in state history.

In real-life terms, that means that every single day in California there are a couple of folks who are going to sit down to dinner with their families who otherwise wouldn’t have made it.

At the time, California became the fourth state in the country to prohibit motorists from holding cellphones while driving. I followed up with legislation that prohibited texting while driving and drivers under the age of 18 from using any smartphone technology while driving.

Today, 24 states prohibit drivers from using hand-held cellphones while driving, and even more ban cellphone use by novice or teen drivers, and text messaging for all drivers.

In our region the hands-free law quickly became wildly popular, with an approval rating of more than 90%, cutting across all demographics. Significantly, the vast majority of those who were surveyed not only supported the law, but thought it

was “important.”

It’s clear that most California drivers “get it”. They understand just how dangerous distracted driving is, and most are doing their part to make the roads safer. But we also know that there are still too many drivers texting and talking on hand-held phones—a point made by a number of participants in the Distracted Driving Telephone Town Hall I hosted last month with Santa Clara County Sheriff Robert Jonsen.

With the passage of time, I think folks may have gotten a little lax again about cellphone use while driving. There’s a lot on everyone’s mind. But no phone call or text is worth the cost of a life.

As we near the end of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, it’s a chance for us to remember how important it is to drive with care. It’s all about how to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. We have the power to save lives on our roads and highways. So, let’s do it, and be safe out there.

Editor’s note: Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District which includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, See SIMITIAN, page 20

Happy

Continued from page 16

3,000 married people, asking them how many were actually happy in their relationships. This enabled them to provide an absolute number of happily married people in each state. And it was found that 11,424,854 Californians (80% of married couples here), said they are indeed happily married! When compared to other states, couples here came in 12th position overall, placing them among the happiest in America.

And the best chance you have of a successful marriage, when the results were broken down by state, is in West Virginia - 90% of married couples here, or around 635,000 people, are still head over heels in love with their partner. Things aren’t as cheerful in North Dakota or Montana, where only 1 in 3 (142k in Montana, and 97k in

North Dakota) said they are happily married.

The Top 5 Most Happily Married States

West Virginia (90%); 635,636 couples
Minnesota (88%); 1,927,563 couples
Colorado (86%); 1,950,615 couples
Indiana (86%); 2,194,335 couples
Kentucky (84%); 1,426,113 couples

However, two-thirds (66%) of California couples admitted that marriage doesn’t just ‘flow’, and that they have to work on it to keep it a happy one. A bold 53% favor taking the lead of various celebrities i.e. the semi-separation model, believing that married couples can live separately from each other and still be happy! For example, Gwyneth Paltrow and Brad Falchuk waited over a year after their wedding before they finally moved in together.

Finally, over a quarter of those who are married compare themselves to other married couples, which is perhaps unrealistic.



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Times **Notebook**

Water Commission explores drought impacts and responses in Water Resources IMPACT magazine

The California Water Commission staff has acted as guest editor for two issues of Water Resources IMPACT magazine, featuring articles on the topic of prolonged drought in California.

The magazine articles delve into how drought impacts people and the environment and how we can respond to droughts, better preparing for the inevitable.

The first issue, published in February 2023, focused on water scarcity issues confronting California and the ways these issues impact different sectors. The second issue, published on April 20, 2023, focuses on drought response, considering the options for adaptation. This two-part series complements the Commission's work on strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of a long-term drought.

The authors who contributed to the double issue are a diverse array of Tribal leaders, academics, NGO thought-leaders, water managers, and water policy influencers, each of whom brings their own perspective on the topic of drought. Their expertise and perspectives in climate science, water policy, and water management will help inform drought-related decision-making and support policies that better prepare the state to thrive during prolonged drought events.

The second issue includes contributions from:

- Atley Keller, Stantec, and Laura Jensen, California Water Commission
- Dr. Nicola Ulibarri, University of California, Irvine
- Laura Ramos, California State University, Fresno
- Dr. Kristin Babson Dobbin, University of California, Berkeley
- Dr. Tara Moran, California Water Data Consortium
- Sarah Naumes and Dr. Leigh Bernacchi, University of California, Merced
- Sarah Heard and Jeannie Brantigan, The Nature Conservancy
- Dr. Roger Bales, University of California, Merced, Dr. Martha Conklin, University of California, Merced, and Dr. Michael Goulden, University of California, Irvine
- Heather Cooley, Pacific Institute
- Michael McNutt, Riki Clark, and Dave Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Deniene Rivenburg, Irvine Ranch Water District
- Martha Davis, former Assistant General Manager for Policy, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

The March/April edition of Water Resources IMPACT magazine can be accessed, free of charge, on the American Water Resources Association website: https://awra.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=IMPACT_03_2023 using this promotional code: 23MarAprWC. The code will expire in July 2023.

Scam: Your tax credits may not be for real

Con artists are targeting local business owners to trick them into claiming tax credits that they aren't eligible to receive.

The Internal Revenue Service warns about scams revolving around the Employee Retention Credit, a tax credit for businesses that continued paying employees during the COVID-19 shutdowns or had a significant income decline during the eligibility period.

While most eligible employers have already claimed this credit, unscrupulous companies are advertising ERC services to draw in businesses that are not eligible for the credit.

What's in it for them? As always, scammers hope to get their hands on your personally identifiable information for identity theft. In some cases, they may charge you for dishonest services. Your best line of defense is to get to know the scam so that you can spot it first.

How this scam works

You see an ad online or hear one on the radio that claims the government still owes your business an Employee Retention Credit, which you can claim on your taxes this year. They may ask you to call a number or visit a website for more information. A quick chat with the customer service rep or looking at a website convinces you that qualifying for the ERC is extremely easy. You decide to give it a try!

You contact the company, and they tell you to qualify for the credit – without knowing anything about your business or how you handled COVID-19 shutdowns. They ask you to provide sensitive information, including your Social Security number, employer identification number (EIN), and other details the scammer can use to commit identity theft. If you hesitate to provide your personal information, they'll quickly assure you they only want to help you get the money your business is entitled to.



The company charges a service fee in other scam versions to help you get the credit. Unfortunately, if you accept their services and claim a credit you aren't eligible for – even if you do so in good faith – you could face serious consequences, including paying back the credit with penalties and interest. Ultimately, the IRS will hold you responsible for any inaccurate information on your tax return – not the scammer.

How to avoid similar scams:

- Don't believe marketing materials guarantee you'll qualify for a tax credit. Anyone who makes guarantees without knowing anything about your business is likely up to no good.
- Think twice about promises of huge refunds. Scammers use the same tactics for many different cons. Tax credit schemes are no exception. Scammers count on an emotional response to a promise of fast, free cash before reason sets in. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Find more useful advice at the BBB Tax Tips & Resources page. You may also want to review the BBB Business Tip: Getting your business ready for tax season.



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Times **Community News**



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Saratoga Symphony Concert Romantic Byways to be presented May 7 at Lincoln Glen Church

Enjoy a classical music free orchestra concert with beautiful melodies and exciting rhythms Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m. at Lincoln Glen Church.

The music program pieces were composed in the 18th – 20th centuries and provide a range of music periods.

A major program piece is a Violin Concerto from the Romantic Music Period with violin soloist Bill Palmer.

Conductor Dr. Jason Klein talks to the audi-

ence about each program piece for the audience before it is performed.

The Saratoga Symphony website (www.saratogasympphony.org/concerts) has published a concert poster that lists each music piece on the program. Lincoln Glen Church is located in Willow Glen at 2700 Booksin Avenue San Jose, CA 95125.

Simitian, continued from page 18

Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, portions of San Jose and unincorporated communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. He previously served in the California State Senate and State Assembly. Stay up to date on news and events happening in District Five by signing up for Supervisor Simitian's newsletter: district5.sccgov.org/newsletter.



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Times Cover Story

Town Hall

Continued from page 1

allows qualifying development projects with minimum affordable housing guarantees to move quickly through the local government review process, is to blame.

“We don’t have a say in it whatsoever,” he said, adding the development will make the shopping center businesses close or relocate.

Batra said Charity Housing is willing to work with the community and will offer a site tour.

This affordable housing development is one of hundreds planned for San Jose. Another location under consideration is the current site of Southside Community and Senior Center. Developer AvalonBay Communities and Bridge Housing plan to build 156 affordable apartments and 200 market-rate apartments at the site. A new community center would also be constructed.

Panetta said affordable housing is a top issue in San Jose and district wide as workforce housing is needed for teachers, police officers and fire fighters.

A resident called Batra out for being the one dissenting City Council Vote against a \$16.8 million loan for an 81-unit affordable housing project at 1510-1540 Parkmoor Ave. Batra said as San Jose isn’t building affordable homes fast enough, he cast a symbolic vote to send a message to the housing department.

Batra was also criticized for not supporting the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act, which would allow San Jose nonprofits to make the first offer on multi-family residential properties, providing existing renters with affordable rates. Batra said he could create a better displacement plan that will cost less and protect more families.

“I came to this job to think out of the box and bring some efficiency,” he said.

Panetta vows to fight

Panetta said he understands people’s frustrations with the federal government and will help his constituents deal with bureaucracy.

“You call my office...We can help you,” he said. “Any personal issue you have with the federal government, you gotta know that we’re there to fight for you.”

Housing the homeless

Residents asked why South San Jose is being inundated with homeless housing. Batra said San Jose can’t be alone in solving the homeless problem. He said the city and county worked well together during the pandemic and need to again with the assistance of state and federal aid.

Gov. Gavin Newsom plans to build 1,200 tiny homes to house the homeless statewide, including 200 in San Jose. The city has chosen the Cottle VTA station as the site for 100 tiny homes. Batra said in addition to housing, supportive county services for unhoused people is critical.

U.S. Postal Service

Residents raised concerns regarding a shortage in postal workers, mail delivered at midnight and low pay for mail carriers. Panetta said the prior federal administration wanted to gut the postal system and lost staff during COVID.

“Postmaster General Louis DeJoy needs to go,” Panetta said.



District 10 City Councilmember **Arjun Batra** said he needs input from residents.

Mail carrier Guillermo Martinez said the mail service is losing revenue as rates increased for third class mail. He said entry level pay is tough for mail carriers trying to raise a family and getting priced out of homes.

Martinez apologized to residents for late deliveries but said they lost staff.

“There’s nothing we can do about it,” he said. “With the wages here, folks won’t stay. The union is trying to start locality pay to get an increase in the region.”

Panetta said bills were put forward to support the postal service.

“We realize how important the postal service is and we want to support you,” he said.



Congressman **Jimmy Panetta** said he will fight for his constituents.

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Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz

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Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.

Our ministries/activities include:

- Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
- A Food Pantry serving anyone in need—open Tu/Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater productions, informative lec-

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night—all in a wholesome environment.

Our activities flow from our core values:

- Extravagant Joy
- Passionate Faith
- Loving Respect
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- Shared Laughter

Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.

www.ccavucc.org.

We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion

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

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

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Web: www.ecc-sj.org

At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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God is One
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SAN JOSE GURDWARA

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

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St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cibari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

Almaden Community Center

Almaden Senior Association

We are excited to announce that we are offering some trips planned for the coming months.



Graton Casino Bus Trip is Tuesday, April 18, 2023 leaving the Almaden Community Center at 8 a.m. and returning about 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person which includes \$20 free play!

Filoli Gardens is Tuesday, May 16, 2023 arriving by carpool or your own transportation by 11 a.m. The cost is \$31 per person including a short orientation, a Filoli book bag and guide book.

1776 Play at the San Jose Center for Performing Arts Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 2 p.m. cost is \$85 per person. Transportation is on your own, carpool, or LightRail.

For more information or to make reservations, email Donna Smith at dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net or call 408-266-4938.

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

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