

Foothill student finds int'l food supply organization
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Automatic traffic tickets
Local drivers may soon get tickets for going 11 mph over speed limit
SEE PAGE 6

EVC 'College Opportunities Summit' offered to high school seniors
SEE PAGE 4



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JULY 28 – AUGUST 10, 2023 ■ VOL. 40, NO. 16

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Kashvi Jain at right and Neha Parthasarathi at left, co-presidents and co-founders of Voiceopedia.

Student-led Bay Area non-profit group creates opportunities for refugees

Kashvi Jain and Neha Parthasarathi, juniors at Silver Creek High School, raise more than over 10,000 dollars for refugees in Silicon Valley

By William Bellou
Publisher

Kashvi Jain and Neha Parthasarathi, both juniors at Silver Creek High School, have raised more than \$10,000 for refugees in Silicon Valley as well as positively impacted over 500
See VOICEOPEDIA, page 18

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East San Jose free food market targets local hunger crisis

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

Free food distribution is still essential for East San Jose residents. That's evident by the line of people wrapped around the block of Mexican Heritage Plaza twice a month waiting to fill their wagons with produce and other food products. Even post-pandemic there's been a noticeable uptick in the number of residents needing food, and organizers said they've served 16,853 people in the last year, up from the previous count of 11,223.

Every other Wednesday from 12-2 p.m., residents can pick up food donated by Second Harvest of Silicon Valley in a farmers market-style setting organized by the School of Arts and Culture at the plaza. At this week's market, residents received food such as carrots, yams and chicken.

Manuela Ramirez came to pick up food with her children. She lives close by and, being familiar with the plaza, feels comfortable picking up



East San Jose residents pick up free produce and other food from a market at Mexican Heritage Plaza on July 12, 2023. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

food there.

"It's a lot of help," she told San José Spotlight, "because right now jobs are scarce."

School of Arts and Culture Events Manager Emiko Pereyra said 200 to 300 people show up each market day. The next day, families taking classes at the plaza and San Antonio Elementary School can pick up leftovers, which serves an additional 100 to 200 people. Homeless people

can also pick up food.

"We're giving them good produce, good proteins, good things that in the store would be \$5 or \$6 per item," Pereyra told San José Spotlight. "With a family of over five, which most of our community are, they can't afford it."

San Jose is suffering from a lack of affordable housing and a high cost of living. According to
See HUNGER, page 21

Former District 10 SJ Councilmember Nancy Pyle dies

Former Villages Democratic Club president; Served as San Jose – Evergreen Community College District Board President

By William Bellou
Publisher

Former San Jose Councilmember Nancy Pyle, who served eight years as a San Jose City Councilmember, passed away on Friday, July 14 at her home in Evergreen.

Pyle, 85, died from dementia according to her husband, Roger.

Pyle worked for more than 25 years as a teacher in the San Jose Unified School District before running for San Jose City Council where she represented District 10 for two

full terms from 2005 to 2012. She also served as San Jose-Evergreen Community College District as its board president.

Pyle is survived by her two children, Lisa and James Dugan, and her husband Roger.

President of Democratic Club

About five years ago, Pyle moved to the Villages Golf and Country Club, a senior retirement community in Evergreen Valley. There, she began leading the Democratic Club, with 250 members. When Pyle's dementia progressed she stepped down.

"Nancy radiated with life and

enthusiasm and helped expand the reach of the Democratic Club within the Evergreen community in her

two years as president, said Tony Berg, current president of the Democratic Club at the Villages Golf and Country Club. "Shekneweverybody, everybody knew her and everybody loved her," Berg said. "I feel very privileged to have been able to work with her for a year or two."

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan said Pyle served San Jose with distinction throughout her time as a teacher and councilmember.

"Nancy was a beloved, compas-

sionate and fierce advocate who made her community a better place," Mahan said. "Her legacy lives on in the sports fields she expanded, the library hours she extended and the open spaces she prioritized."

During her time on the city council, she focused on helping the business community, revamping and maintaining streets and parks and youth programs, specifically prioritizing after-school and recreational programs.

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Before serving in office, she was selected as the 1998 Outstanding Woman of the Year by former Assemblymember Jim Cunneen.



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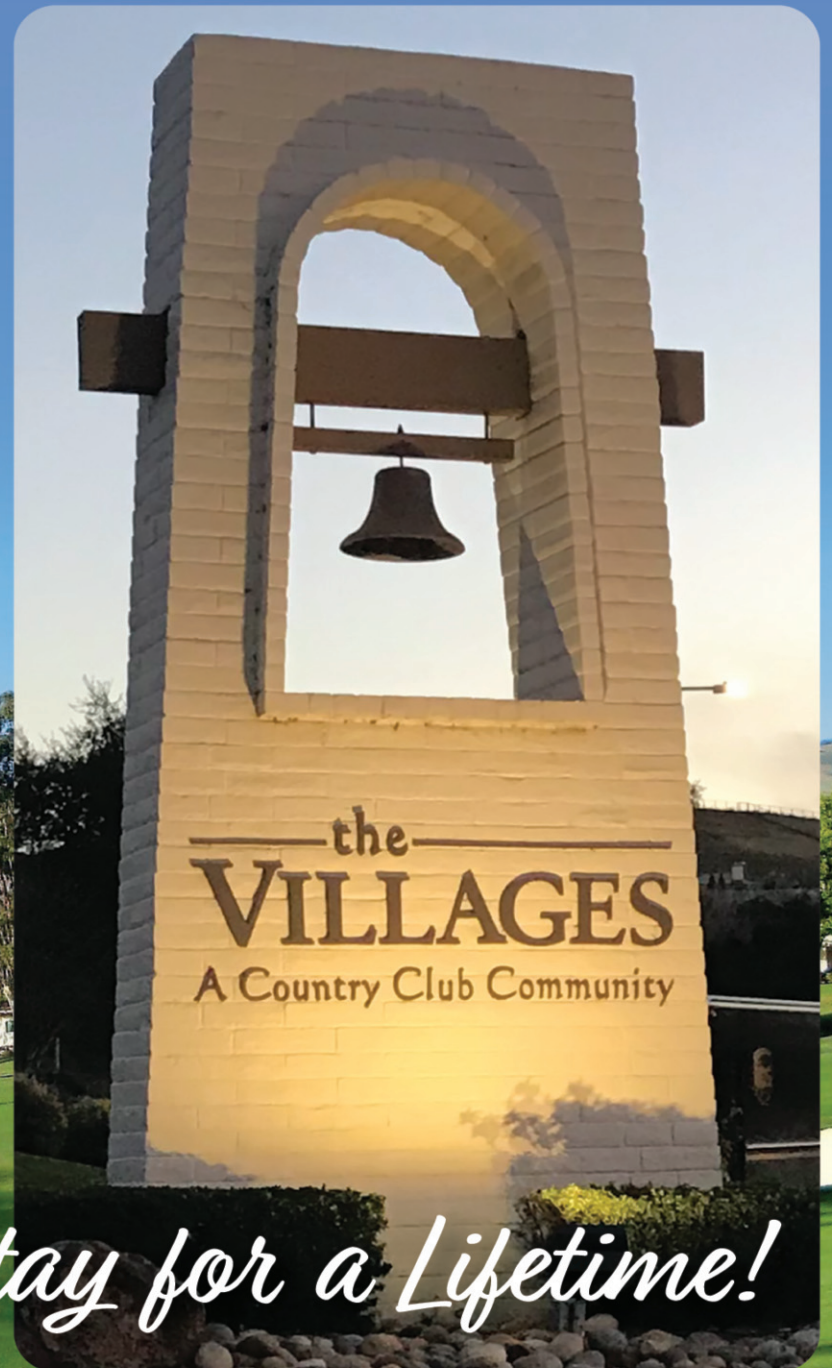
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NOTEBOOK

Foothill student finds international organization

After being challenged to simulate homeless conditions on a camping trip, Jiya Patil, a sophomore at Foothill High School, couldn't fathom how anyone survived without a consistent food supply.

"Ten percent of the world experiences food insecurity every day—a percentage that should not exist in 2023," Patil said. "Consequently, I decided to build on my love of cooking to begin making biweekly meal donations to Building Futures, a homeless shelter in San Leandro."

After a few months of donating trays of pasta and bread to the shelter, Patil wanted to do more. She wanted to interact with the people who were directly receiving her donations; so she chose to begin donating meals to a homeless encampment in Oakland.

At the Oakland encampment, Patil spoke to more than a hundred people living on the streets through her donations of sandwiches and brownies. One woman in particular stood out to her. As this woman



Jiya Patil, a sophomore at Foothill High School, helps individuals in need survive with a consistent food supply through her non-profit organization, Gold Bear Foundation.

grabbed a sandwich on her way out of the church, she noted, "You know, it's so hard out here." She paused to point at the tents behind her. "When they hurt me, the hospitals wouldn't provide any help. Then someone took my car and left me with nothing. God bless y'all for helping me out today!"

As a result of this interaction, Patil became increasingly determined to try and reach as many people as she could and began selling handmade bath scrubs on Etsy and working a job to raise money for those who were economically disadvantaged.

After raising more than \$1,000 dollars in less than six months, Patil began donating items such as hygiene products to nearby homeless shelters, such as Tri-Valley Haven and Building Futures San Leandro.

As her peers at school became interested in supporting her efforts, she turned her passion into building the Gold Bear Foundation: a non-profit organization that she founded in 2021.

Patil had a simple mission -- inspired by her trips to homeless shelters and encampments.

She was determined to make sure that those in need never felt neglected and with the help of her peers, she established chapters of the organization throughout the Bay Area.

Through hours of group fundraising and planning, the team made donations of hygiene products and meals to homeless shelters, encampments, and economically disadvantaged schools. Just in the last two years, Gold Bear Foundation has been able to donate more than 10,000 items to nearly 2600 people in need.

The Building Futures Office Manager specifically noted, "Thank you so so much for your help Jiya. For

See PATIL, page 21

Valley Currents

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



The 10,000 Degrees 'College Opportunities Summit' at Evergreen Valley College is part of a summer series that 10,000 Degrees is holding at six partner colleges across the Bay Area.

Evergreen Valley College 'College Opportunities Summit,' a free college success program for high school seniors

The free one-day In-person program created by Bay Area nonprofit 10,000 Degrees prepares high school seniors for college success

By William Bellou

Publisher

10,000 Degrees, an organization dedicated to empowering students to enter and graduate college in Santa Clara and seven other Bay Area counties, will hold its annual 'College Opportunities Summit' on Thursday, July 27 at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose.

The 'College Opportunities Summit' is a one-day in-person college success program that focuses on preparing college-bound high school students, from low-income backgrounds, for their senior year of high school and postsecondary education.

The 10,000 Degrees 'College Opportunities Summit' at Evergreen Valley College is part of a summer series that 10,000 Degrees is holding at six partner colleges across the Bay Area.

"Empowering the leaders of tomorrow begins with unlocking the potential of our high school seniors today. As Evergreen Valley College proudly hosts the 'College Opportunities Summit' by 10,000 Degrees, we reaffirm our commitment to providing a transformative pathway to college success," said Dr. Tammeil Y. Gilkerson, president of Evergreen Valley College. "Through this one-day pro-

gram, we equip students in our community with the confidence to navigate the college journey and understanding that with proper planning, their dreams have no bounds."

At the 10,000 Degrees 'College Opportunities Summit,' students will have the opportunity to participate in the following workshops and activities led by 10,000 Degrees staff and recent college graduates:

To learn more about 10,000 Degrees services and programs, visit www.10000degrees.org.



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East Side Union High School District announces 2023-24 'meals for students'

East Side Union High School District announced its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for 2023-2024 school year effective through June 30, 2024.

Children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income is less than or equal to the federal guidelines.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age,

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All students will be served lunch and breakfast at no charge at the following sites:

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- Santa Teresa High School
- Silver Creek High School
- Adult Transition Program North
- San Jose Conservation Corp

For additional information please contact: Sonia Vargas, Child Nutrition Services, 830 N Capitol Avenue San Jose, CA 95133, 408-347-5191, email vargass@esuhsd.org.



Bay Area drivers may soon get automatic tickets for going 11 mph over speed limit

The pilot speed camera program may be implemented January 2024 in several major cities, including San Jose

By Sean Eastwood
Automotive editor

Drivers may soon receive a speeding ticket in the mail without ever talking to an officer, if a bill gets approved authorizing speed limit cameras.

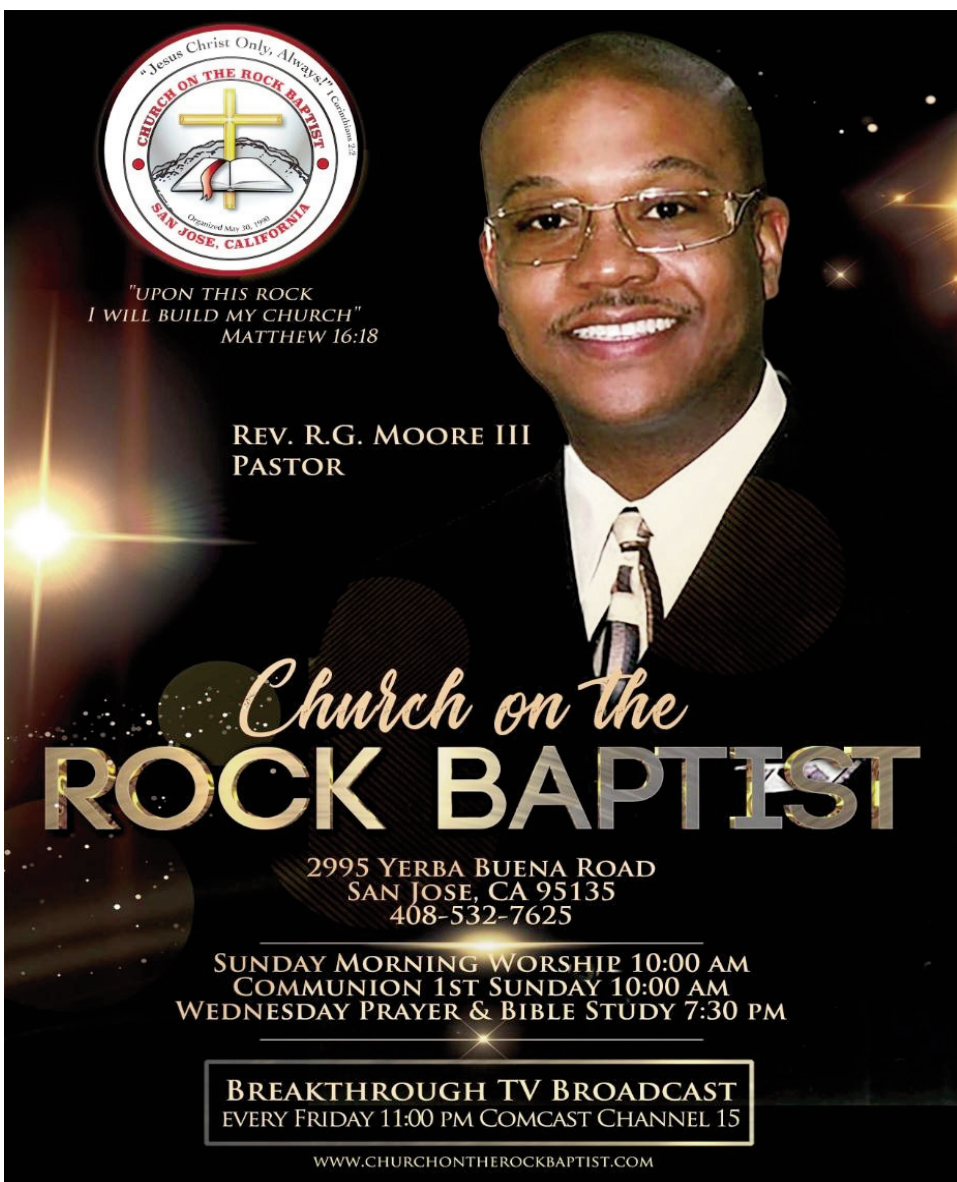
The program would give speeding driv-

ers a ticket by using speed cameras and an automatic billing system, according to Assembly Bill 645, introduced by Laura Friedman of Glendale.

"The speed safety system shall capture images of the rear license plate of vehicles that are traveling 11 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit and notices of violation shall only be issued to vehicles based on that evidence," the bill states.

The new pilot speed camera program would be implemented as soon as January 2024 in several major cities, including San Jose, Oakland, Glendale, Los Angeles, Long Beach and the city and county of San Francisco.

Fines would start at \$50 for going 11 mph over the posted speed limit and increase from there.



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Santa Clara County Housing Authority acquires affordable housing properties in East San José

Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) announced last week the successful acquisition of two affordable housing properties in East San José.

The two properties acquired by SCCHA include Girasol Apartments, located at 1710 Alum Rock Avenue in San José, provides 60 affordable homes to seniors ages 62 and older. The property was built in 1998 and was acquired from HUD for \$4.15 million.

The second location is Paloma Blanca, located at 132 North Jackson Avenue in San Jose, provides 42 affordable homes to seniors ages 62 and older. The property was originally built in 1995 and was acquired from HUD for \$2.65 million.

"We are thrilled to expand our presence in East San José through the acquisition of these two properties," said SCCHA Executive Director Preston Prince. "These acquisitions mark a new role for the agency, allowing us to preserve and enhance the availability of affordable housing in the region. It is an excellent example of how we, as a Public Housing Authority, continuously strive to make a difference in the lives of our residents."

SJECCD board names new interim chancellor

The San José - Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) board of trustees has appointed a new interim chancellor to lead the District, unanimously selecting Dr. Beatriz Chaidez. Chaidez, who most recently served as vice chancellor of human resources for SJECCD, began in her new role July 1.

"We are very fortunate to have a highly

skilled and experienced leader such as Dr. Chaidez to serve as interim chancellor. The board is confident that Dr. Chaidez is the best choice to lead the District until we find our next permanent chancellor," said SJECCD Board President Bob Livengood. "During her tenure as SJECCD vice chancellor of human resources, Dr. Chaidez has proven herself to be a steady leader, a creative problem solver, and a passionate advocate for students."

Prior to joining SJECCD, which she did in early 2019, **Chaidez** (inset) held various roles in K-12 administration, including serving as assistant superintendent for human resources with Salinas City Elementary School District (SCESD). She has also been director of pupil personnel services and special education—also with SCESD—assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction with Sacramento City Unified School District, and superintendent/principal with Raisin City School District.



Chaidez has extensive experience with labor relations and negotiations, employment law, worker's compensation, and California Education Code. She has also served as an executive board member for both the Association of California School Administrators and the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators.

"I am thankful to the board of trustees for placing their confidence and trust in me. The District's values of opportunity, equity, and social justice align with my personal values as an educator," Dr. Chaidez said. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue to work alongside my colleagues among our dedicated faculty, classified professionals, and administrators."



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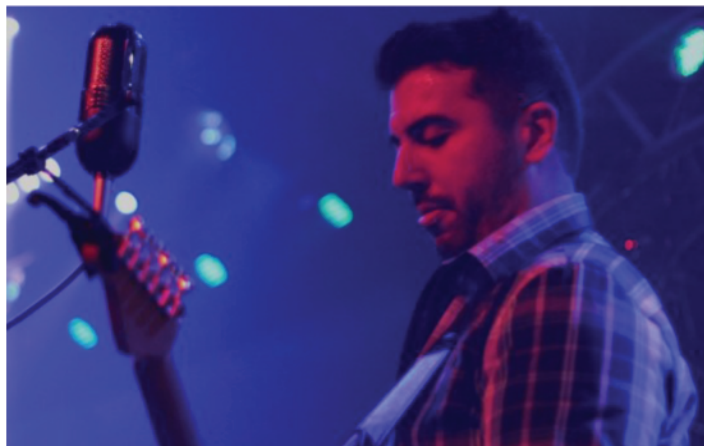


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Clarrissa Cabansagan is the new executive director of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition.
 Photo courtesy of Clarrissa Cabansagan

New Silicon Valley leader to tackle bike safety

By **Julia Forrest**
San José Spotlight

Clarrissa Cabansagan began riding a bicycle at seven years old. Fast forward 30 years and not only is biking part of her daily life, she has also spent her adult years finding ways for bike transit to be safer across the Bay Area.

It's that same commitment she carries with her as she takes charge of the handle bars at Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, where she will soon be executive director after serving as deputy director of strategy and development for one year. It might not be the smoothest ride, at least initially—Cabansagan is stepping into the role at a time when traffic fatalities have plagued San Jose for years.

San Jose has seen 23 traffic fatalities through June 30, and while slightly down compared to 37 this time last year, the city saw a record high 65 traffic deaths in 2022. These numbers worry Cabansagan, who noted most victims are from vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, youth and people of color.

"In every city, we're really focused on reducing traffic deaths," Cabansagan told San José Spotlight. "We do see that as a priority for us as an organization, that when we design streets with people in mind, cars aren't able to act as crazy as they have been."

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition launched in 1993 and focuses on making biking more accessible to all communities. The organization works across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, spanning 35 cities, to promote safety and security in riding bicycles. It also works in stride with other local organizations vying to curb traffic deaths.

One such organization is the Vision Zero Task Force, which San Jose established in 2015 and is the fourth of its kind in the nation to help generate solutions to reduce traffic deaths. The task force uses data analysis to create safety programs in sections of the city with the highest number of traffic fatalities. The city pinpointed 17 streets in 2022 that

it considers the most dangerous.

San Jose Councilmember Pam Foley, chair of the task force, said Cabansagan's new role as executive director will help make San Jose streets safer by continuing their strong partnership.

"Clarrissa's in-depth knowledge of both land use and transportation issues and focus on racial and social justice makes her a great pick for executive director," Foley told San José Spotlight.

The city and county have also made efforts to promote people accessing and riding bicycles. In May, VTA approved a basic design for the Central Bikeway, otherwise known as The Shortliner, a 10-mile stretch of protected bike lanes running between San Jose and Santa Clara. The bicycle highway system comes with a price tag of \$213 million, with funding sources to be determined.

"Overwhelmingly, people are saying, 'I would bike more. I'm interested in biking, I just want it to feel safe. I want to feel less stressed out on the road,'" Cabansagan said. "And the superhighway like (VTA) is planning is one that we fully agree needs to happen."

The county currently has 800 miles of bike-ways, including designated bike lanes on roads like San Fernando Street in downtown San Jose. Santa Clara County also has about 200 miles of bike trails, which includes many that are not connected via continuous, uninterrupted paths.

Cabansagan said while there are some areas for improvement for cyclist safety in the area, the steps Santa Clara County has made in making biking more accessible and safe can serve as a model for neighboring counties.

Specifically, she hopes to expand bike safety initiatives into San Mateo County, where she calls home.

Shiloh Ballard, current executive director of the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition who is retiring next month, said she believes Cabansagan's previous roles have prepared her to pedal the organization forward, including as program director at TransForm—a Bay Area mobility justice organization.

"She's known in the region as a thought leader on transportation issues," Ballard told San José Spotlight. "She's really perfect (for the job)."



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Times **Local News**

San Jose candidates compete for community college seat

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

Candidates for a community college school board are throwing their hats in the ring for a special election in November.

Three people are vying for an open seat on the board of the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District: Diego Barragán, Lisanna Dominguez and Clay Hale. The seat became vacant earlier this year after Omar Torres, the former trustee, joined the San Jose City Council.

The cost of the special election is currently unknown, according to a spokesperson from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

The community college district is governed by a seven-member board, which represents more than 918,800 people across the county. Approximately 20,000 students attend San Jose City College and Evergreen Valley College each semester.



Photo courtesy of Diego Barragán

Diego Barragán, 42, works as director of operations at communications consulting firm Voler Strategic Advisors. Working for a small business taught him to be a problem solver within a team, he said, as well as budget-conscious project management. He previously served as congressional assistant for Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and council policy and legislative director for former San Jose Councilmember Xavier Campos. He ran for a seat on Valley Water's board last year.

His priorities for San Jose-Evergreen Community College District include making sure college is affordable and accessible, expanding opportunities for career advancement and strengthening relations with high schools to ensure pipeline programs prepare students for college. He said his budgetary knowledge will enable him to prioritize students as well as provide adequate staffing and programming.

"There needs to be an advocate in the seat who will ensure downtown students have an affordable educational pathway to pursue their dreams," he told San José Spotlight. "For our youth... I hope my story shows them obtaining a graduate degree is possible. I attended the same SJUSD schools they are attending and obtained a master's degree in business. For parents, they will have an advocate who will be mindful of the affordability to support a student in college."

Lisanna Dominguez, 39, said her roles in educational nonprofits, including currently as chief of staff and strategy officer for the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, have provided her with the professional experience to be a community college trustee. She previously served as vice president of strategic planning



Photo courtesy of Lisanna Dominguez

and development for the Latino Education Advancement Foundation, which empowers community college students, and as director of programs for the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley.

Lisanna Dominguez states, her priorities include increasing enrollment, ensuring students have career path options, building relationships between high schools and community colleges and encouraging college prep classes for seamless transfers to four-year universities.

"I have so much experience in education nonprofits, and because I've seen so much of those struggles and challenges firsthand, I feel that my position as a trustee could help build out those opportunities for the community," Dominguez told San José Spotlight. "It's my drive and commitment to ensure students have viable options for higher education."



Photo courtesy of Clay Hale

Clay Hale, 28, is a teacher in the East Side Union High School District. He is also an East Side Teachers Association Union site representative and School Site Council president for Yerba Buena High School. Hale advises high school students in a dual enrollment program partnered with Evergreen Valley College. He said helping students through the challenges of their college experience motivated him to want to advocate for them on the school board. As a first-generation college student and gay man, he said he's inspired to be an advocate for change.

Hale said his goals in running for office are to increase community college student transfers and graduation rates, establish community partnerships and ensure funds are directly allocated for student success in the classroom.

"As a teacher I know what it takes to support our students," he told San José Spotlight. "Many of our students are first-generation college students. I want to make sure they feel supported navigating the community college process. I have the direct experience it takes as a college advisor on Evergreen College campus to aid in student success."

The special election will take place Nov. 7.

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Times **Feature**

CAREER CORNER
Grieve, and keep going



in the moment. They do it to keep you engaged in their months-long interview process.

If the company hires someone, all other candidates are rejected. But, sometimes the company chooses not to hire anyone at all.

By **Angela Copeland**

Receiving a rejection after a job interview can be devastating. Whether you had three interviews or ten, you were all in. Otherwise, you wouldn't have snuck away from your existing job to interview.

The process of interviewing for a job is a lot like dating. The longer it goes on, the more you can picture your new future. You begin to layout plans in your mind.

It's not hard to do this. In fact, it's natural. In the first interview, you're expected to share how soon you are able to start working. And, through the process you are often asked to lay out your ninety day plan. You're asked to design the strategy you might later implement. In order to perform well in a job interview, you must picture yourself in the new role.

Unfortunately, this comes at a high personal cost to many job seekers. Job interviews with one company can often span over multiple months. I've personally observed interviews as long as six months. You jump over hoop after hoop. You connect with your new team. The problem is that many companies take more than one candidate through this grueling process. It is not unusual to have at least two, if not three, finalists.

It's also not uncommon for the company to tell you that you're definitely getting the job. They do this because they feel optimistic

To be honest, many companies look at interviewing candidates like you might try on shoes at a store. If they aren't a perfect match, they put them back and go about their day. Rarely does a company truly understand the impact to the individual job seeker.

But, this doesn't make it hurt any less. It often makes the job seeker question their identity. You may find yourself wondering if you took a wrong turn somewhere. You will very likely grieve the loss of the future you would have had. You feel the pain of being stuck in your current situation.

Know that these are normal emotions. If you weren't all in on a company, you wouldn't land the job interviews. And, it's a real loss. But, it doesn't make you any less of a professional. It doesn't mean you should change your career path. If you made it to the final round, realize that you did a great job. And, if the company gives you an excuse about why you weren't selected, remember that it's an excuse. It may or may not be accurate.

Whatever you do, keep going. Keep applying. Keep interviewing. Grieve, but keep moving forward. And, don't give up on your dreams. One company having a disorganized, insensitive interview process is not a reflection on your own career potential.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at www.angela-copeland.com.

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Times Feature

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK:

Virtual Reality

By Shubhi Asthana



Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

Virtual Reality

Did you miss on your favorite band’s live show because the tickets sold out in minutes? Worry not! In the last few years, musicians have been

able to stream concerts to Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, allowing fans to enjoy the virtual spectacle from the comfort of their homes. Now some VR platforms are going beyond just recreating the live experience, by offering viewpoints and interactions that users could never get if they were at the venue.

Let’s understand virtual reality more closely!

Virtual reality is an artificial environment that is created with software and presented to the user in such a way that the user suspends belief and accepts it as a real environment. On a computer, virtual reality is primarily experienced through two of the five senses: sight and sound.

The simplest form of virtual reality is a 3-D image that can be explored interactively at a personal computer, usually by manipulating keys or the mouse so that the content of the image moves

in some direction or zooms in or out. More sophisticated efforts involve such approaches as wrap-around display screens, actual rooms augmented with wearable computers, and haptics devices that let you feel the display images.

Virtual reality is making a huge foray into music. Launched in 2018, a startup called MelodyVR has built a library of live shows, recorded for streaming to Oculus VR headsets or iPhone and Android devices through its app later. It says it has worked with more than 850 musicians, including Kelly Clarkson, Wiz Khalifa and Lewis Capaldi.

As well as being able to watch from a position in the audience, users can view the concerts as if they were backstage, behind the sound booth, or even on stage with the band. The company has also created more novel experiences; a VR

performance by British singer Emeli Sandé displays two images of her simultaneously, one playing the piano and the other singing.

Virtual reality fits the music industry’s exploratory nature. However, it’s a fact that VR experiences still have room to grow to be considered mainstream. It will be up to the artists, producers, and technologists to create opportunities for people to access different VR music experiences. Experts predict that the trend will be about artists letting fans into their own VR universe, rather than simply engaging with a single music video or concert.

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

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Times Feature



Voiceopedia

Continued from page 1
individuals through their 501c3 nonprofit- Voiceopedia.org.

As co-founders and co-presidents of Voiceopedia, Jain and Parthsarathi strive to advocate for equity within the refugee community through providing equal access to welfare and education.

Through garnering the power of social mediums, Voiceopedia members create content about the humanitarian crisis occurring globally spanning from women's rights in Iran to even the Ukraine War. They not only educate youth populations through platforms like Instagram and Facebook, but also host webinars, podcasts, and even projects to expand their target reach.

With the breakout of current crises such as the Afghanistan ban on girls' education and the Ukraine War, Voiceopedia is one of the sole organizations working to address the current influx of refugees in times of war.

Entrepreneurs and leaders in the community have been interviewed by the organization, including Dr. Robert Burns and Rachel Holmes to get their insight into human rights and why they strive to benefit their community. In their most current interview with Burns who is Director of Coaching at SVUDL (Silicon Valley Urban Debate League), Voiceopedia team members



Voiceopedia co-founders **Kashvi Jain** and **Neha Parthsarathi** (center front row) are pictured with their administrative team, Pictured (left to right) are: **Ava Rejaie, Roshni Gundavelli, Chau Nguyen, Meghana Pavuluri, Anaya Jain, and Paavna Rangarajan.**

educated individuals by spreading awareness regarding different experiences and walks of life of many immigrants in our community.

Social media is quintessential to Voiceopedia's mission, spreading awareness for humanitarian issues. Being a catalyst for change, media allows awareness to spread as well as access to educating our intended target demographic, youth. Voiceopedia has published over 100+ literary works throughout our blog posts. They hope to help refugees reach the same level as mainstream citizens, creating equity throughout. "When the community comes together, even one voice rises and becomes powerful," says Kashvi Jain, founder and co-president.

Continued, next page

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Times **Feature**

Continued from previous page

The organization has helped over 150+ refugees by providing refugees with backpacks containing school supplies such as pens, markers, erasers, and rulers in their school supplies drive. Additionally, they donated care packages with food, clothes, and undergarments in their partnership with the International Rescue Committee. They conduct bimonthly bake sales at Evergreen Village Square where they all work together to bake delightful desserts and interact with their community to raise funds for supporting their projects. They have even received donations from large corporations such as Nvidia and Google, as well as from the 2022 RSVP Challenges Fitness Group.

While there are several organizations that advocate for refugee rights, Voiceopedia accomplished their goal by supporting other local nonprofits focused on legal advocacy for fleeing refugees.

Recently the organization's literary program with a global refugee non-profit, Light and Sal Academy, taught displaced youth English. Neha Parthasarathi, one of the co-presidents, states, "Education is a basic right that every individual must possess. Literacy enables one to be a self-advocate and express their opinions in this free world. Through empowering youth, Voiceopedia members aspire to uplifting these disadvantaged communities through equitable systems."

With support from companies, media, and sponsorships, Voiceopedia is looking to launch a community project to build libraries for refugee schools with a lack of access to literacy and books.

Founding of Voiceopedia

You may be wondering: how did Voiceopedia form? Let's rewind to the summer of 2020. Voiceopedia was born from the burning passion of five freshmen in high school. Although they were all young and constantly second-guessing them-

"We hope to help hundreds, thousands, millions more one day. We hope you support our cause and help the world become a better place."

- Voiceopedia Team

selves, they knew the cause they wanted to advocate for was dearly important in the current humanitarian climate. What kind of accomplishments were in store for these five compassionate young women?

"At the time, we didn't really know the answer to this question, and we're still figuring out what we can do to be a catalyst in our communities," said Jain. "Every single day, human rights abuses occur, simultaneously creating tremendous impact on the livelihoods of millions. As youth, they desire to advocate for current issues many are not aware of. Social media allows them to spread important information regarding these respective crises."

Fast forward to now, the organization has grown to achieve a 501c3 status as a student led organization. Crises have further exacerbated globally, impacting our country. Several refugees are being taken into the arms of our sanctuary state, California. Together as a team, supporting refugee youth in the Bay Area was of utmost importance to them. Raising over 10,000 dollars, they began simply donating funds to local organizations to orchestrate the donation of school supplies to refugee children that migrate from regions all around the world.

To learn more about Voiceopedia and their cause, visit voiceopedia.org and follow the organization on [@voiceopedia.ca](https://twitter.com/voiceopedia.ca).

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Largest annual antique auto show in the West to be presented at History Park San Jose Sept. 9

Go back in time at the 23rd annual Antique Autos in History Park San Jose on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The 23rd annual Antique Autos in History Park presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San José will take place on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

Also located on the grounds this year will be the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. There will be antique crafts demonstrated, antique collectibles, and toy trains. Also, take a trolley ride and see blacksmith demonstrations. Food will be available from food trucks and other possible outlets. Several activities will be provided for children attending the event.

Music venue

Rhythmaires Dixieland Band will provide music. Songs will be sung by The Fabulous JewelTones along with dancing by the San Francisco Bay Area Vintage Dancers.

Requirements for entering an antique vehicle

For those interested in entering their antique vehicle, there is no registration required. They can just bring their antique vehicle to the gate at History Park. All vehicles permitted on the grounds of History



Park must be manufactured between the late 1800s and 1945 and are period-correct. No vehicle will be allowed on the grounds of History Park during the show that is newer than 1945.

The featured vehicles this year are 1916 to 1930 Orphan Autos.

An example of an orphaned U.S. vehicle, is a 1920 Liberty Model 10-C, the nomenclature proclaiming that it's the longer and more powerful version of the two six-cylinder model lines that Liberty produced in 1920, pretty much the precise midpoint of its existence. This 10-C model is based on a 117-inch wheelbase and develops 56hp.

Plan your day around the following:

- 11:15: Dance Performance
- 12:00: The Fabulous JewelTones
- 12:30: Music by Rhythmaires Dixieland Band

12:30: Video: Merrily we Roll Along, narrated by Groucho Marx

- 2:00: Model T Put Together
- 2:30: Barbershop Quartet
- 3:00: Silly Ricky's Juggling & Fun
- 3:30: Drawing for Door Prizes

Tickets prices at the door are: Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$8, Children (6 to 12) & History San Jose members: \$5. Participants & Children under 6 are free. (Adjacent City Parking: \$10.)

Editor's note: There is NO alcohol, NO pets (except service dogs), and NO BBQs allowed inside the park. These are History Park rules and must be followed by everyone in attendance.

Free live concerts at the 'Festa' August 5 and 6

3 Bay Area mayors to participate in 'Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp'

From an international singing sensation to a Bay Area country music star, there's entertainment for everyone at the 2023 Italian Family Festa San Jose on Saturday and Sunday August 5-6.

And it's all free!

World Folk & Roots singer, Michela Musolino will be performing on Saturday August 5th, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The Sicilian-American singer has been internationally lauded for her unique ability to reimagine Sicilian folk and roots music. Her songs make your heart sing and your feet dance!

On Sunday August 6th, we'll get a little bit country with the Silicon Valley's own, Mike Annuzzi.

He takes the stage from 1:30pm-3:30pm. You've heard his hits on country radio, including "Just Getting Started" and "New Boots On."

The Anthony "Nino" Lane Band brings its classic Italian sound to the Festa Sunday August 6th from 4pm-6pm. Anthony has been performing since he was 10 years old. His credits over the past few decades are long and impressive.

Also joining a weekend of excellent entertainment are: Bay Area Sinatra - John DeMers, Gold Money Band, Blue House, Livewire, The Fratello Marionettes and Nadejda (Nadia) Poskatcheva.

Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp

New this year, the Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp! Three Bay Area mayors will face



Michela Musolino (Photo by Nino Di Maio)
At right: Anthony "Nino" Lane Band



off—with their feet!

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor and Milpitas Mayor Carmen Montano will battle in this first of its kind competition.

These distinguished city leaders will hop into barrels full of grapes and crush out the juice with their bare feet. You won't want to miss the fancy footwork of this messy competition... come out and root for your city's mayor!

The Celebrity Grape Stomp takes place Saturday, August 5th at 2pm at History Park—don't be late, the mayors have just one minute to stomp their way to victory!

We're also pleased to announce longtime

94.5 KBAY morning radio host, Lissa Kreisler, will emcee the event.

More great news... you don't have to be a celebrity to compete in Grape Stomping! Anyone can try their hand (or foot) at it. All you have to do is sign up in person at the Grape Stomp Stage. There will be multiple heats Saturday August 5th from 2:30-3pm and Sunday August 6th from 2-3pm. There is a prize for the winner!

Editor's note: The Italian Family Festa is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). All proceeds support the preservation of Italian culture and the Italian American Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program.

Times **Community News**



Emiko Pereyra, events manager for the School of Arts and Culture, speaks with **Manuela Ramirez** (second from right). Ramirez said the food helps her family get by. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

Hunger

Continued from page 1

an annual report by the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies, wealth inequality in the region is more pronounced than in the U.S. overall, or globally, with the top 1% of households holding 48 times more of the total wealth than the bottom 50%.

“It is a tragedy and an embarrassment that families are going without food in the wealthiest region globally,” Jessica Paz Cedillos, co-executive director of the School of Arts and Culture, told San José Spotlight.

Tracy Weatherby, vice president of strategy and advocacy at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, said half of what the food bank provides to Santa Clara and San Mateo counties goes to San Jose, especially the east side, which is predominantly Latino and Asian. During the pandemic, Second Harvest doubled the number of people it served from about 250,000 a month to more than 500,000. In the first half of last year, that decreased to 400,000 a month, but has since returned above 500,000 again.

“Wages haven’t increased with inflation,” she told San José Spotlight. People are having a real tough time staying housed and paying for child care so they can keep working. Part of what our services do is help people afford those other things.”

Weatherby said a decrease in federal government benefits exacerbated the situation. During the pandemic, CalFresh emergency allotments provided the maximum household size, she said, which was a huge benefit to families who normally receive much smaller allotments.

From March 2020 to March 2023, 93,000 households in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties received on average an extra \$171 per month for groceries through CalFresh, she said. When this ended, \$16 million in food benefits left the community.

“From a federal perspective, they don’t see people having the level of need that we know they have to live in our high-cost area,” she said.

But times are tough for Second Harvest as well. While the food bank’s costs have increased 30%, donations to the nonprofit have plunged, according to Weatherby. The food bank has had to adjust its food purchase budget and rotate milk and eggs with meat, rather than providing all three during every distribution.

The market at Mexican Heritage Plaza is made possible by volunteers such as Lisa Inzunza, who has helped out for more than a year. She said it makes an enormous differ-

ence in the community.

“No family should go to bed hungry,” she told San José Spotlight. “We assist putting food on the table. Otherwise, they may not have it.”

Patil

Continued from page 4

a group of teens, your age to be helping out so much and giving to this cause so selflessly is amazing. Every time one of our kids or women needs help, we are all so grateful for people like you. Without you and your organization, none

of this would be possible, so we are just so thankful for Gold Bear Foundation.”

As more people recognized their work, the organization garnered more support, expanding from a small group of only 7 members to an international organization of more than 170 members volunteering



in 12 chapters.

With the additional help, Gold Bear Foundation was able to recently donate 1900 items to a homeless shelter across the country in New Jersey, as well as a water filtration system to a village in India to help over 300 students cope with unbearable heat waves.

As Patil continues on her mission to help those struggling economically, she hopes to expand the organization even further to support as many people as possible.

For more information and how you can help with your donations, visit: <https://goldbearfoundation.wixsite.com/mysite>

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Places of Worship



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We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. 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
• Deep Connectedness
• Intentional Growth
• 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.ccvaucc.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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118
408.265.5837
www.bibleroad.org
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Worship at 10:30 AM
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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243
Web:www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM
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God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
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www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.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 (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458



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Times **Feature**



Free County Park Entrance Day Saturday, July 29

By Times Media staff writers

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce a special Free Entrance Day on Saturday, July 29.

The free park day is offered as a token of gratitude to the community for entrusting the Parks and Rec department with the stewardship and recreation of over 52,000 acres of beautiful parkland and 28 adventurous and unique parks.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore nature without any entrance fees, fostering a deeper connection between the

community and their cherished outdoor spaces.

“By opening fee based County Park gates at no cost, we aim to remove any barriers that may prevent individuals and families from experiencing all that County Parks provide,” states Don Rocha, Executive Park Director. Whether it’s hiking along scenic trails, picnicking in picturesque surroundings, or engaging in various recreational activities, this Free Entrance Day offers an opportunity for all to create a memorable day while connecting with nature.

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation is committed to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the region, providing residents and visitors with accessible and well-maintained parks that promote physical and mental well-being, environmental education, and community engagement.

Spurred by ‘Rust’ movie tragedy - legislature passes Senator Cortese’s film safety bill

The Legislature passed legislation by Senator Dave Cortese last week establishing landmark safety rules on motion picture productions.

The state budget agreement, which incorporates Senator Cortese’s SB 735, establishes the nation’s first safety protocols in law for television and film workers.

The bipartisan legislation reflects two years of negotiations between studios and labor representatives following the 2021 death of a cinematographer on the ‘Rust’ film set. The bill is headed to the Governor for signature.

“Conversations about this legislation started the week after the tragic loss of a cinematographer. Those negotiations have produced the nation’s first and best safety practices for California workers in the state’s vital motion picture industry. The agreement will also boost diversity on film productions and create an industry pipeline for students of color, and it will uplift local economies by helping to keep motion picture productions in California,” Cortese

said, who chairs the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement. “This agreement establishes best practices statewide that were already in use among Hollywood’s top studios. I commend Governor Newsom, the film studios and unions for their commitment to film safety.”

The bill protects film and television workers by establishing clear, mandatory guidelines around the use of firearms and ammunition on productions, among other provisions. It establishes training requirements and safety standards for prop masters and armorers, and prohibits the use of live ammunition except in limited circumstances following safety rules and laws. The bill also creates a five-year safety pilot program requiring any employer who receives a motion picture tax credit to hire an independent safety advisor to conduct preproduction risk assessments, and oversee safety practices and procedures in motion picture, television, and streaming productions.

“We thank Senator Cortese for his leadership on this transformational legislation that will prioritize safety in our industry and save lives,” said Rebecca Rhine, Western Executive Director of the Directors Guild of America. “Now DGA directors and their teams, along with all other cast and crew members, have a skilled and experienced ally and collaborator on production whose sole focus is keeping everyone safe. While this model starts with the film tax incentive in California, we look forward to the day it becomes the standard across the country.”



Micro-storms composed of dirt and dust and thrust their prize forward into unsuspecting regions.

WATER WISE Days of the Cesswi

By Matthew Frazier

Qualified Stormwater Manager
Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper

Hello Hydro-Colleagues.

Some time ago, I shared an article essay entitled “Days of The CESSWI” in which I made a brief and succinct mention of The CESSWI – The front-line soldiers of The Stormwater Universe.

These inspector-technicians brave storms and other harsh elements to ensure the compatibility and safety of construction sites.

The CESSWI forge ahead, through ice, rain, and wind, to bring construction sites into the realm of compliance for further work. Now that the rains and the storms have passed here in San Jose and its valleys, there is another threat that looms on our horizon... Wind Erosion. Time for ideas. Time for Ideation.

Though we are not seeing rains during July, and even this summer, there is the threat of losing topsoil and residual nutrients due to the winds of summer. Dust Devils create micro-storms composed of dirt and dust and thrust their prize forward into unsuspecting regions.

The CESSWI are working tirelessly year-round to secure and stabilize construction sites along with their siblings, The CPESC, whom I will mention in a future article essay.

With the mandate that 70% of exposed ground needs to be vegetated or re-vegetated upon completion of construction, these winds pose a threat to the newly-seeded hillsides and valleys.

Santa Clara Valley and its neighboring valleys aren’t so much prone to wildfires but it doesn’t hurt to secure and tether flammable items which could become kindling. Having driven through Santa Ana during windstorms, we are quite fortunate to have such mild winds here.

Garden centers and nurseries throughout

these local valleys suffer immensely during droughts. Even though we received substantial volumes of rainfall this past winter and spring, there is cause for concern with the spread and deposition of seeds from invasive and non-native plants.

Having completed the Qualified Stormwater Manager training nearly three years ago ... I have a personal academic-professional ambition-goal of becoming a CESS-WI-In- Training and helping to protect these valleys from erosion and sedimentation which disrupts and ebbs away at the native local environs.

Santa Clara Valley is home to native heritage oaks and other shrubs and trees which are resilient to harsh winds. Yet the spread of weed seeds via wind is causing a surge in non-native weed growth. Not to worry too much: These flowering weeds

attract beneficial insects and pollinators.

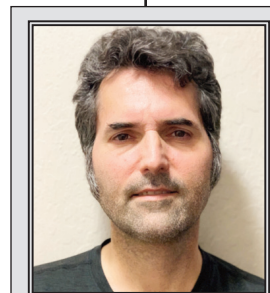
In a follow-up article essay, I will advocate for the planting of valley-native perennial flowers which will flourish and help stabilize the ranges and slopes of our valleys.

What can we do as citizens and natives of these valleys? Broadcast seeds from valley-native annual and perennial wildflowers. Especially perennial wildflowers. California Native Plant Society – Santa Clara Valley Chapter is a wonderful asset and resource for exploring valley natives and helping to balance and preserve our valley and all it encompasses.

I encourage and invite each and all who read this article-essay to visit your local native-plant nursery and work with their consultant specialists to choose appropriate plants which will lessen the effects of wind erosion and sedimentation. This venture is well worth the effort.

Thank you, each and all, for taking the time to read this entry. May your gardens and yards flourish with natives. May Ideations reign!

Editor’s note: Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Stormwater Manager, and Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. You may contact Matt at (408) 656-5622 – Mobile; or by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com.



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

Times **Community News**

'Cockroaches, mold, fraying carpets': San Jose tenants protest living conditions

By Joseph Geha
San José Spotlight

A group of San Jose tenants are organizing to call out their corporate landlord for poor conditions and spiked rents across several low-income apartment complexes.

The KDF Tenants Association represents more than 1,000 residents from four different affordable complexes in San Jose, which are owned by Newport Beach-based KDF Communities. Tenants picketed outside Orchard Glen Apartments in the Seven Trees neighborhood yesterday, and said previous efforts such as petitions and letters pushing KDF to improve conditions and lower rents have mostly failed.

The real estate firm owns and runs thousands of affordable apartments across California, Washington and Colorado, and has been the target of lawsuits and complaints about fires and decrepit living conditions in its buildings.

"I have seen my neighbors dealing with cockroaches, mold, fraying carpets and broken appliances. Even when they come to fix the problems, the repairs are rushed and low quality," Orchard Glen Apartments resident Bertha Espinosa said through a translator while protesting outside the complex office.

Espinosa said she recently had a three-foot hole open in her apartment ceiling, and after reporting it to management, didn't hear back for several days—the hole wasn't fixed for a week.

Espinosa said her family uses about 80% of its monthly income to pay rent.

"If this current negligence continues, it will only force more of my neighbors to move out," she said.

In addition to consistent increases in rent while tenants' wages stagnate, organizers said KDF needs to update common areas and provide better security.

Amanda Valderrama, a regional supervisor for VPM Management, which manages Orchard Glen for KDF, said apartments in the building priced as affordable for people earning 50% to 60% of the area median income received a rent increase of 6% to 7.5% this month. She said studio apartments did not see an increase in rent.

A family of four at 60% of the area median income in Santa Clara County earns up to \$107,000 annually. While rents are set based on that income level, any tenant who earns less than that can live in those restricted apartments, and tenants said the increases are harming their ability to stay in the city.

"VPM Management has been in communication with the tenant association and continues to work with them," Valderrama told San José Spotlight.

KDF at one point last year tried to raise rents as much as 17% to 20% at its Valley Palms complex, but dropped it to 10% under pressure from city officials. About 100 residents and local organizers took to the streets in September to protest in response.

Tenants' last resort

The tenants association, being formed with the support of the Regional Tenant Organizing Network, is a first of its kind for residents living in low-income buildings where ownership benefits from low-income housing tax credits.

Affordable housing buildings are not subject to local rent laws like San Jose's apartment



Margarito Gomez, a member of the KDF Tenants Association, speaks during a protest outside the Orchard Glen Apartments in San Jose on July 14, 2023. Gomez has lived at Orchard Glen for 17 years. Photo by Joseph Geha.

rent ordinance or California's Tenant Protection Act.

The city had some success in forcing KDF to make renovations and improvements at Valley Palms in recent years by stepping in between the landlord and its tax credit funding, but other problems have persisted, tenants say.

James Huynh, director of the Regional Tenant Organizing Network, said tenants' concerns have been ignored, and they have been harassed by management when they try to advocate for themselves. The group of tenants, largely immigrant families, has been told by city officials and private attorneys the steep rent increases are legal.

"This is kind of their only option, to organize and make noise," Huynh told San José Spotlight.

Doris Meneses lives in the KDF-owned Cherry Creek Apartment complex with her daughter and son-in-law, and said her rent has increased more than \$300 in the past year and a half.

"Even with all of our incomes combined, we can barely afford the rent. I don't understand how we live in a low-income apartment if it is so unaffordable for me and my family," Meneses said.

She told San José Spotlight she wants more tenants to join the association, even if they are scared, and hopes KDF will come to the negotiating table.

San Jose Councilmember Peter Ortiz said he supports the tenants and hopes to amplify their voices.

"The people who call San Jose home and work here, and provide services, like fast food workers, janitorial workers and security officers, they have a place here in Silicon Valley as well," Ortiz told San José Spot-



Governor signs new legislation to grow quality jobs in infrastructure programs

Bridging the gap between green energy and middle class employment

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation last week that will enhance California's job training pipeline, community benefits, and jobs standards in state and federal infrastructure programs.

The Governor was joined by the joint authors of Senate Bill (SB) 150: Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose), Senator Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), and Assemblymember Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley).

SB 150 is part of a greater infrastructure streamlining package initiated by Governor Newsom to address climate change and modernize California's transportation system. SB 150 will embed workforce and community benefit incentives into state and federal infrastructure programs including the federal Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act.

"As we prepare for a changing climate, we all also need to position California's workforce to meet the needs for sustainable industry in the 21st century," said State Senator Dave Cortese. "Over the past few years, my fellow lawmakers and I have doubled down on bridging the gap between green energy and middle class employment. SB 150 sets an exciting new bar! By harnessing both state and federal investments, and surpassing the job requirements established by the federal government, we are establishing the groundwork for the next generation of good-paying, eco-friendly jobs. This historic legislation puts California to work as we build resilience into our environment and economy."

"Most poor people work, often full time and more than one job. The problem isn't that Californians don't have jobs, or that our historic investments won't create jobs. It's that more people need access to good jobs," said State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. "In the midst of this industry-changing moment in the infrastructure, manufacturing, and sustainability sectors, SB 150 is about bringing the same intentionality that exists for reducing carbon emissions to our role in creating good jobs with taxpayer investments."

light. "If these property owners are being enabled by government tax credits, they should also be accountable to the people."

During the protest Friday, tenants chanted in Spanish, including "Inquilinos unidos jamás será vencido," meaning "The tenants united will never be defeated," and "Si, se puede," meaning "Yes, it can be done," a storied slogan rooted in the farmworker labor movement.

The tenants also briefly filled up the apartment complex front office, chanting and holding signs, while Margarito Gomez, a 17-year resident of the building, delivered letters from the association to a building manager.

"There's a big debate in San Jose right now around what is causing homelessness," Sandy Perry, president of the nonprofit Affordable Housing Network of Santa Clara County, told San José Spotlight. "This is a perfect exam-

ple of what is causing homelessness, if you listen to these people, and all the rent increases people are being asked to pay."



Tenants from the KDF Tenants Association protest outside the Orchard Glen Apartments in San Jose. Photo by Joseph Geha.

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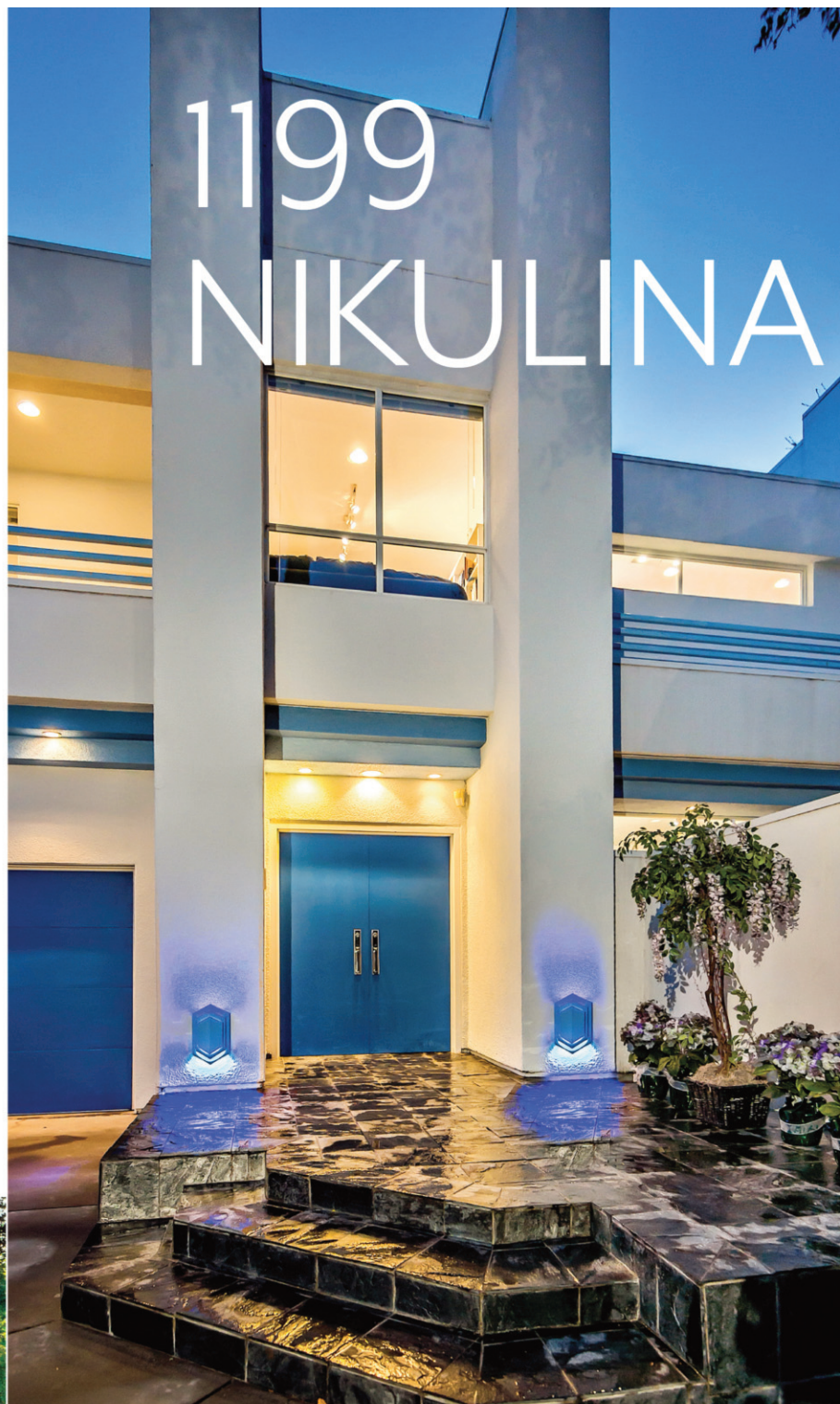
\$3,650,000

5 Bedrooms

3.5 Full Baths

4760 Sq Ft

.75 Acre Lot



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