

History San José to host History Park's Heritage Holiday Celebration  
**SEE PAGE 5**



**Parents, teachers unhappy**  
Santa Clara County education office earns an 'F', unions say  
— SEE PAGE 7

San Jose Chamber's CEO pick could be controversial  
**SEE PAGE 9**



YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR  
**OVER 41 YEARS**

# Evergreen Times

DEC. 1 – DEC. 14, 2023 ■ VOL. 40, NO. 25

SERVING EVERGREEN AND SILVER CREEK VALLEY SINCE 1982 ■ EVERGREENTIMES.COM

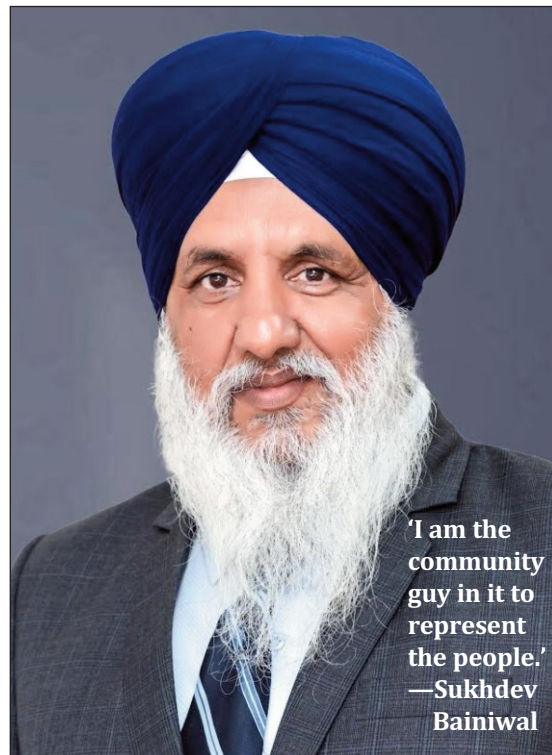
## Sukhdev Baniwal candidate for District 8 City Council walks Evergreen neighborhoods to ask for votes

*Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles on candidates running for San Jose City Council District 8 seat.*

By Kevin Larsen  
Times staff writer

"I am learning so much about all the different neighborhoods in walking door to door and speaking with the public," states Sukhdev Baniwal who is running for City Council representing District 8 in the upcoming March 2024 primary.

Sukhdev previously ran for San Jose City Council  
See *COUNCIL RACE*, page 5



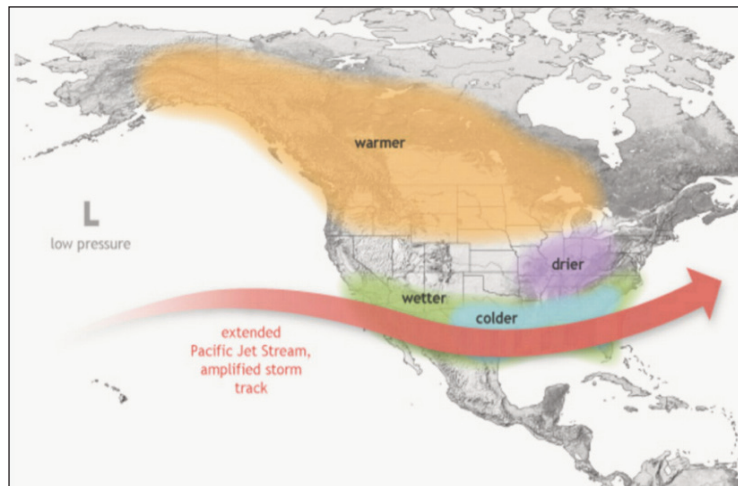
**'I am the community guy in it to represent the people.'**  
—Sukhdev Baniwal

## El Niño could be 'historically strong' for California

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Past El Niño years will unlikely determine what this winter will look like, according to the National Weather Service, because conditions this year are not typical.

An El Niño was declared this past May, which means sea surface temperatures are warmer than normal



in the equatorial eastern Pacific.

This region of the ocean typically drives large-scale atmospheric patterns that impact us locally, said Courtney Carpenter, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Here's what El Niño conditions mean for California, and what meteorologists predict winter in the northern parts of the state will be like, as of late November:

In the past, Northern California has recorded anywhere from very

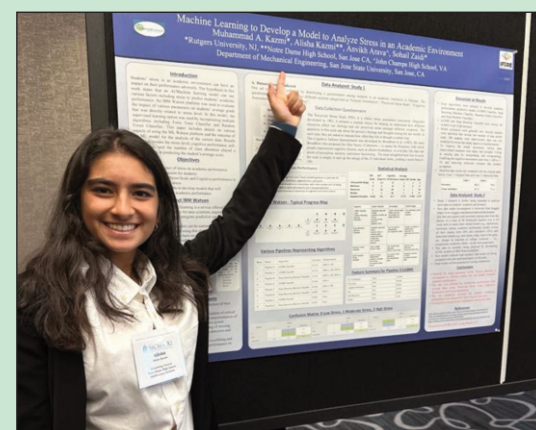
dry to very wet winters during El Niño periods. Conditions in this part of the state typically lean toward wet or near normal, Carpenter said, but the region has still seen some very dry El Niño winters.

Above normal snowfall during moderate and strong El Niño winters is typical at higher elevations, she said.

### Probabilities

The probability of El Niño lasting through winter is 100%,  
See *EL NINO*, page 8

Evergreen resident Alisha Kazmi displays her research paper which used AI/Machine to figure out what impact stress has on academic performance. She presented her research at the SigmaXi/fore conference held recently in Long Beach, CA.



## Alisha Kazmi uses AI to figure out what impact stress has on academic performance

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Alisha Kazmi, a resident of Evergreen Valley, used AI/Machine to figure out what impact stress has on academic performance.

Alisha, who attends Notre Dame High School, participated in the SigmaXi/iFore conference held Nov. 10-12 in Long Beach, CA. Sigma Xi is the Scientific Research Honor Society.

The three-day annual conference welcomed scientists, engineers, students, artists, and supporters of science worldwide to participate in discussions and demonstrations of excellence in the research enterprise.

"Students' stress in an academic environment can have an impact on their performance adversely, Kazmi said. "The hypothesis in my work states that an AI/Machine learning model can use various factors including stress to predict students' academic performance."

An IBM Watson platform was used to evaluate the impact of various parameters on students' average grade that was directly related to stress level. In this model, the supervised learning option was used by incorporating multiple algorithms including Extra Trees Classifier and Random Forest Classifier.

Kazmi's paper includes details on various aspects of using the ML Watson platform and the outcome of the ML model for the analysis of the current data. Results show that besides the stress level, cognitive performance, self-study hours, and the number of class absentees played a dominant role in predicting the student's average score.

### Attendees present, connect and collaborate

Attendees to the conference presented, connected, and collaborated on diverse ideas through symposia, panel discussions, workshops, individual presentations, student tutorial sessions, and networking events.

This is the second year for the Society's new IForE conference, which replaced the previously held Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference with its 2022 debut in Alexandria, Virginia. The move to the West Coast for 2023 will continue an initiative to reach more of the international research community in different parts of the country and across the globe.

The development of IForE '23 is being led by Sigma Xi's Fiscal Year 2024 President, Dr. Marija Strojnik, Executive Director and CEO Dr. Jamie Vernon, and the IForE planning committee, including volunteer members and Sigma Xi staff.

**'TIS THE SEASON FOR Bundt Cakes**

NOTHING bundt CAKES®

San Jose-Evergreen  
2721 Aborn Road, Suite 10, San Jose, CA 95121  
(408) 238-7500  
nothingbundtcakes.com

**SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER**

# ATTENTION GOLFERS

## Thinking about downsizing to a gated community?



Play golf on a Spectacular Championship 18 hole golf course  
for ONLY. . . . \$34.00

### The Villages Golf & Country Club

Homes ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.7 million

Enjoy Country Club Living in this 55+ Gated Community

#### Other Amenities:

Tennis - Pickle Ball - Bocce - Pools - Hiking - Billiards

Fine & Casual Dining in our Clubhouse & Bistro

### Come for a Tour ~ Stay for a Lifetime



**Dee Ramirez**  
The Villages Realty Team

Lic# 00683945 ■ REALTOR

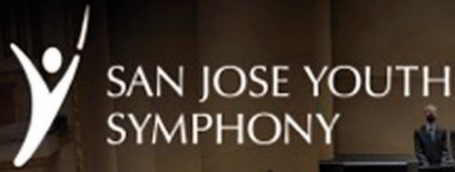
**408.440.7617**

Dee@RamirezRealtyTeam.com

www.DeeRamirez.com

2925 The Villages Parkway ■ San Jose ■ CA ■ 95135

Please note: I have not and will not be verifying or investigating any information supplied by others.



SAN JOSE YOUTH SYMPHONY



2023 - 2024 SEASON

# PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## Season Opener Concert

Featuring

Isaac Chan and Dylan Nguyen, violas

An-Po Chen, violin

Winners of the 2023 Young Artist Competition\*

Yair Samet, Music Director and Conductor

Brahms – Academic Festival Overture

Wranitzky – Concerto for Two Violas and Orchestra

Mendelssohn – Violin Concerto

Blacher – Orchestral Variations on a Theme of Paganini



SATURDAY

# 12/2 2023

Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater  
1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose 95116  
@ 7:00 PM

Tickets available now at [sjys.org](http://sjys.org)  
or by phone 408.225.2334

### SPONSORS & ASSOCIATIONS



SAN JOSE SYMPHONY FOUNDATION



San José Youth Symphony | 5671 Santa Teresa Blvd, Ste 210, San José, CA 95123 | 408.225.2334 | [www.sjys.org](http://www.sjys.org)

\*The Young Artist Competition is kindly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation. "San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation, and its use in all its variations is by license.

EvergreenTimes

Times Media, Inc.  
(408) 494-7000

EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
WILLIAM D. BELLOU  
williamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES  
WILLIAM D. BELLOU  
408-494-7000

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

ART DIRECTOR  
JEFF BAHAM  
graphics@timesmediainc.com

PUBLISHER / CEO  
WILLIAM D. BELLOU  
williamb@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
SANDY BELLOU

Copyright © 2023 Times Media, Inc. All rights reserved. The Evergreen Times prefers letters to the editor and submissions of guest articles and columns for possible publication to be sent by email to [editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com). All submitted materials become the property of Times Media, Inc., and receipt of unsolicited materials cannot be acknowledged. The opinions and viewpoints expressed by guest authors and columnists in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions and viewpoints of the Times staff and management of the Evergreen Times and Times Media, Inc.

## Holiday season gets off to a great start at San José Mineta International Airport

With the rise in passenger traffic to and from Silicon Valley, San José Mineta International Airport (SJC) anticipates a busy holiday season ahead.

“Even with our reputation for being the best and most reliable Midsize U.S. Airport, as named by the Wall Street Journal, the travel during any holiday season can feel a bit overwhelming,” said SJC Director of Aviation John Aitken. “With a little advanced planning, holiday travel through San José Mineta International should be just as fun as your vacation.”

To enhance passengers’ experience during this season, SJC recently introduced festive decorations and musicians in the terminals during peak times starting.

### Improved parking

SJC has improved its parking services with an expanded Online Parking Reservation System and the new Future Wash exterior car washing service. Travelers can reserve and pay for parking online, as well as book a waterless car wash in the Airport’s Hourly, Daily and Economy parking

# Valley Currents

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

lots. Waterless car washes are environmentally friendly and use minimal amounts of water per car, in most cases less than one cup. Plus, our friends at Future Wash use eco-friendly products with only biodegradable ingredients. This means no harmful chemicals on the ground or your car. Given the high demand during peak periods, parking reservations are strongly recommended. For parking inquiries, SJC’s parking services team is available at (408) 441-5570.

### Arrive Early

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) advises travelers to arrive at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours prior to international flights. However, SJC suggests arriving early, particularly during the holiday rush, to enjoy new dining options such as San José Mac + Cheese Kitchen, Dunkin’, a newly upgraded Peet’s Coffee in Terminal B, as well as The Club SJC.



tial additional screening.

### Speed Up Security with TSA Precheck and/or CLEAR

To expedite security clearance, travelers can enroll in TSA Precheck and/or CLEAR, available at both SJC Terminals and other airports nationwide.

### Accessible Services and TSA Cares

Providing outstanding customer service amenities, ease of access and a safe and pleasurable travel

experience it is a priority at SJC. Passengers are encouraged to check the list of Accessible Services SJC offerings, the TSA Cares program and select the one that best suits their needs.

### Use Cellphone Waiting Areas or Park for Airport Pickups

For airport pickups, SJC advises using Cellphone Waiting Areas or parking in the nearest hourly lot, as waiting at terminal curbs is strictly prohibited to maintain traffic flow.

Need more information before traveling through SJC? Contact SJC at [info@sjc.org](mailto:info@sjc.org) or (408) 392-3600.

### Check-In

To streamline the check-in process during peak travel times, online check-in is recommended up to 24 hours before departure. Most airlines allow customers to pay for checked baggage in advance online, which speeds up the process at the ticket counter. Travelers with only carry-on luggage can skip the ticket counter entirely with online check-in.

### Pack Smart

In preparation for security screening, travelers should familiarize themselves with TSA’s travel tips and keep holiday gifts unwrapped for poten-

## The 40th Anniversary Celebration of

# “THE CHRISTMAS GIFT TO SAN JOSE”

A Free Musical Production for the Entire Family!



**NO reservation or tickets required**

**LOCATION:** Foxworthy Baptist Church  
1774 Foxworthy Ave. San Jose 95124

Questions? Message @ 408-269-1212

## December 8-10, 2023

Friday, December 8 @ 7PM

Saturday, December 9 @ 2PM & 7PM

Sunday, December 10 @ 11AM (2nd half only)

Sunday, December 10 @ 2PM & 7PM



The Christmas Gift is a 90-minute musical production featuring Christmas songs & Christmas characters including Rudolph & Frosty! At the heart of the musical we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Reason for the Season and Savior of the World.

Times **Local News**

## History San José to host History Park's Heritage Holiday Celebration!

The holiday season is upon us, and History San José is getting ready for the festivities!

For two weekends in December (December 9, 15, and 16), join San Jose History Park for some holiday fun! Whether you're looking for something to do with the family or a fun date night activity, they have something for everyone!

On Saturday, December 9 & 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., the park will once again host its Children's Heritage Holiday program. Enjoy festive activities, crafts, and seasonal treats that celebrate San José's diverse traditions.

### Meet with Santa

Meet Santa and witness the enchanting display from Christmas in the Park Drive-Thru. Children's Heritage Holiday visitors will receive an exclusive 30% discount for the mesmerizing drive-thru experience at night. Celebrate the holidays with history, heritage, and joy!

And for its second year, History Park is bringing back the popular after-hours, adults-only event: Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop: Decorate & Celebrate on Friday, December 15 from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

in the heart of downtown San José's San Pedro Square Market; a new location. Join this fun night out with friends, decorating gingerbread houses, sipping on cocktails, wine, & beer! Admission includes the gingerbread house itself and everything you need for decorating your dream gingerbread house! Tickets can be purchased with or



without vouchers for two drinks at participating San Pedro Square Market bars.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: [historysanjose.org/programs-events](http://historysanjose.org/programs-events).

## Council Race

Continued from page 1

ten months ago when the majority of city council members decided to select a city council person instead of asking voters to elect a city council person in two districts to fill in the gap of those who were voted to other positions in government.

The City Council selected Domingo Candelas to take office instead of Bainiwal, but that has not deterred him from campaigning to seek the office, so he has decided to throw his name into the ring.

### Bainiwal walks, talks, listens to residents

As he walked through the neighborhood of District 8, we caught up to Sukhdev and asked him to share out his reasons for running for District 8 City Council person.

"I grew up in Evergreen and have been a resident of District 8 for more than 46 years," Bainiwal said. I was a paperboy in the area while I was growing up. I attended the local schools here, Quimby Oak Middle School, Silver Creek High School and Evergreen Valley College. I'm happily married to my wife for more than 23 years, and have four beautiful children, and I am blessed to have a vibrant wife who has helped me raise the kids. Children are our first priority."

Bainiwal explained that he's walking to knock on doors to let people in District 8 know that "I'm passionate about serving the

community I grew up in and kindly ask for community support." "I am doing the footwork to gain the support of the voters. I'm not relying on slick campaign mailings by big government supporters. I am the community guy in it to represent the people."

Bainiwal said he listens to all who he speaks with, explaining that there are many issues in our community that are not being addressed. "I'm tired of hearing empty words by slick candidates and I instead want to deliver. I want to listen to the community and demand action to the things the wonderful people in my community want to have happen."

### Some key areas of Sukhdev's campaign platform

1. Together we will create safe cleaner neighborhoods
2. Together we will protect our communities from rising crime and promote neighborhood safety by starting Neighborhood watches
3. Together we will build solutions to house homeless individuals and maintain clean neighborhoods. Everyone needs to be indoors in a decent shelter.
4. Together we will promote small businesses within the neighborhoods
5. Together we plan to focus on keeping parks and streets safe and clean

*Editor's Note; To contact Sukhdev you can call him at (408) 421-9463 or email: [Vote-Bainiwal@gmail.com](mailto:Vote-Bainiwal@gmail.com) or visit [www.Vote-Bainiwal.com](http://www.Vote-Bainiwal.com).*

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR Bundt Cakes



NOTHING bundt CAKES®

Buy 1 Bundtlet, Get 1 Free

San Jose-Evergreen  
2721 Aborn Road, Suite 10  
San Jose, CA 95121  
(408) 238-7500

Expires 12/31/23. Limit one (1) coupon per guest. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Valid only at the Nothing Bundt Cakes bakery(ies) listed. Valid only on baked goods; not valid on retail items. Must be claimed in bakery during normal business hours. Not valid for online orders. Not valid with any other offer. Discounts applied before tax. Coupon may not be reproduced, transferred or sold. Internet distribution strictly prohibited. No cash value.



For Bakery Use Only

## Silver Creek Academy

INSPIRE EXPLORE CHALLENGE

### AN AWARD-WINNING LEARNING CENTER IN SAN JOSE



### Academic Courses! Grades K -12

\*Online & In-Person  
Now Enrolling!

2023/24 School Year Courses!

(408)839-5905

- Reading Comprehension
- Mathematics
- Writing & Grammar
- Public Speaking & Debate
- Logic & Critical Thinking
- Competitive Debate
- HSPT, PSAT & SAT Test Prep
- Study Skills for Academic Success
- Test-Taking Strategies

Visit: [SCAASanJose.com](http://SCAASanJose.com)  
for the complete schedule of camps & classes!



Silver Creek Academy  
5619 Silver Creek Valley Road  
San Jose, CA 95138



# Staying ladder safe during the holidays

By Dave Burckhard

Falls from ladders are a leading cause of injuries during the holidays.

Every year nearly a half million Americans are treated for ladder-related injuries. Injuries tend to peak as residents prepare for the season. Emergency responders are trained for safety in every task they perform. Likewise, individuals should keep safety top-of-mind when decorating.

Ladder safety starts with the purchase. Be sure to buy your ladder from an appropriate source. Legitimate models typically have an OSHA sticker verifying the ladder's safe design and testing. Select the

appropriate ladder for the job. Ensure the ladder is rated for the weight you expect it to bear. Overloading a ladder can cause it to fail.

Inspect the ladder every time it is set up. Loose hardware, bent or broken parts, missing feet pads are signs that you should stay off and ensure that no one else is able to use the ladder.

Follow the manufacturer's instruction when deploying the ladder especially if there are provisions to extend sections or articulating joints that must be locked. Ensure that each of the ladder's feet is in contact with solid ground or a non-slip floor and that there is no wobbling or rocking. Never allow



a ladder, regardless of its material, to come in contact with power lines.

Before climbing, wear proper footwear that grips the rungs

securely. Slippers are a no-no. When climbing, at least one hand should have a hold of the ladder's rung or rail. It's best to climb one rung at a time. Safety experts recommend a spotter on the ground that can help stabilize the ladder, observe any slipping, ensure that the climber is clearing any obstacles, and can call for help in an emergency.

The climber must remain centered and with both feet on the ladder's rung. Never lean beyond what can be reached with full arm extension.

Descend the ladder with caution. Never leave an erected ladder unattended especially if children are present.

The San Jose Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, wishes our neighbors a safe and joyful holiday season.

Editor's note: Dave Burckhard, San Jose District 8 CERT Volunteer Coordinator.



## Gun buyback event slated Dec. 2 at Reid-Hillview County Airport

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring an upcoming Gun Buyback Event, set to take place on December 2 at Reid-Hillview County Airport in San José.

The event will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is open to all residents of Santa Clara County. Participants are encouraged to bring any unwanted firearms, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, and assault weapons. To ensure a safer community, individuals can surrender their firearms with no questions asked and without fear of legal repercussions.

"Reducing the number of unsecured firearms in our community is paramount to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. The Gun Buyback program provides a crucial opportunity for individuals to responsibly dispose of unwanted firearms, preventing accidents, gun thefts, and potentially harmful situations. By working together through initiatives like this, we can make a significant impact in creating a safer environment for everyone," said Sheriff Jonsen.

Participants will receive a cash incentive in exchange for turning in their firearms.

The compensation amount will vary depending on the type of firearm, as determined by law enforcement professionals onsite. Additionally, non-functional firearms and ammunition can also be turned in for proper disposal.

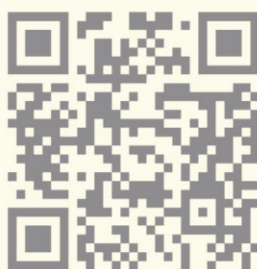
The Gun Buyback Event at Reid Hillview Airport is organized in partnership with the San José Police Department, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, Behavioral Health Services, Santa Clara County Roads & Airports, and the Offices of County Supervisor Otto Lee, San José Councilmember Omar Torres, and San José Councilmember Domingo Candelas. The collaboration among these entities is a testament to their unified commitment to public safety and reducing gun violence.

# GET FLOOD READY

Know your flood risk.

Sign up for alerts.

Get sandbags.



[valleywater.org](https://valleywater.org/FloodReady)  
/FloodReady



Times Local News

# Santa Clara County education office earns an 'F', unions say

By Jana Kadah  
San José Spotlight

When it comes to the Santa Clara County Office of Education's performance, parents, teachers and residents are giving it a failing grade.

County education officials received all Fs on a report card drafted by the Association of County Educators and SEIU Local 521 earlier this month—and it's meant to sound the alarm. This move stems from concerns over whether the county is properly utilizing an excess \$85 million to address education issues and invest in students. The county's education board focuses on providing education and services to those who are moderately to severely disabled.

"This is not just a critique but a call to action," Riju Krishna, teacher at Opportunity Youth Academy, told San José Spotlight. "The fundamental problem is money is not going where it should. There's a lack of accountability and transparency, and there's a fundamental denial of the existence of issues."

Kelly Wylie, an office of education spokesperson, said there is \$50.6 million in restricted funding earmarked for specific purposes and \$49.2 million earmarked for designated purposes for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

"All funds are allocated for specified or designated purposes with no reserves available that are unused," she told San José Spotlight.

This is the first time a report card like this has been issued. It is split into three "subjects" that represent each of the county's



The Santa Clara County Office of Education has received failing grades in a report card put together by a group of parents, teachers and residents. File photo.

education goals: improving access to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education; providing quality support to districts, schools, students and communities; and being a premier service organization. Each section has between three to four examples of where the county is doing well, and more than double the number of suggestions to improve conditions.

As the county office of education and its school districts continue to deal with low teacher recruitment, substitute teacher shortages and upticks in student behavioral issues, special education employees, known as paraeducators, are working alongside students with moderate to severe disabilities. These students often need more support as paraeducators simultaneously teach and help students take care of basic needs like eating. But the worker pool has yet to recover from COVID-19 pandemic layoffs. In addition, infrastructure is crumbling and there aren't enough special education programs to meet the demand, educators said.

Krishna said she has been trying to get the county to address infrastructure and staffing problems for nearly two years. Each time she has brought up issues, leaders have told her "we are doing everything we can and should."

"That essentially means they are

doing nothing," Krishna said.

She said it took the county more than a year to make a bathroom compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which had significant impacts on students in wheelchairs. Krishna shared pictures from Martin Murphy Middle School where there was



Andrea Hightower's daughter playing in a dirt field at Martin Murphy Middle School. Photo courtesy of Andrea Hightower.

garbage and glass on the floor. Other sites, Krishna said, are also not up to standard, with the county's most vulnerable students playing in dirt fields surrounded by a metal fence.

Andrea Hightower, a parent who has a severely autistic, nonverbal child in the middle school, shared a photo of her 13-year-old daughter in a fenced off dirt corner of the campus, given only two mats to entertain herself.

"This picture confirms what I wish wasn't true. (The county) forced the most severely disabled kids onto the districts' campuses, then segregated them behind cage like fences in unsafe settings and called this inclusion," Hightower told San José Spotlight. "(Office of education) administration has given up on our most vulnerable kids."

Sarah Gianocar, SEIU 521 chapter president and occupational therapist with the office of education, said the majority of problems could be solved if the county just used the excess dollars in reserve. One example she gave is to use \$6 million to give paraeducators raises to retain employees.

Gianocar said dollars could be used to open more special education locations around the county, offering more full day programs where parents could leave their preschool-aged children for more than six hours.

"My husband and I are cooking meals for students in another program because they don't have hot food at school," Gianocar told San José Spotlight. "We've been trying to fix it for a year and (the county) keeps telling us that it's going to happen, but in the meantime, kids are going hungry."

Gianocar said the county is going to have to give back millions of dollars in grants because it didn't meet the requirement in the number of students being served.

The county office of education did not address this issue but is asking the federal government if it can rollover \$18.6 million in grant funding to the 2023-24 fiscal year for program improvements, Wiley said.



**Drive home the savings.**

**AI Olseen**  
State Farm Agent  
3267 S White Road,  
San Jose, CA 95148  
Phone: (408) 274-4900  
Hours: 9 am – 6 pm  
(Lunch 1-2 pm)

Call for competitive Auto Insurance rates.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.<sup>®</sup>  
CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
State Farm General Insurance Company  
Bloomington, IL

**A Free Musical Event!**

# The Snowman™



**Where:**  
Evergreen Valley High School Theater  
(3300 Quimby Rd)

**When:**  
Saturday  
December 2,  
2-3pm

**Everyone is Invited!**  
Appropriate for children of all ages!

**Live Narrated story with Symphony Orchestra and Choir!**

EVHS BAND AND ORCHESTRA

# WINTER CONCERTS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30,  
JAZZ, PERC, AND STRINGS  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 1,  
ALL BANDS

STARTS AT 6:30PM | \$5 ENTRY PRICE | PAYPAL ZELLE CASH

@EVHSORCHBAND

Times **Local News**

**WATER WISE**

**Winter's Wrath and the Forging Path**

**Matthew Frazier**

*Qualified Stormwater Manager  
Qualified Water Manager*

Winter nears. Days grow shorter. Nights grow colder. Halloween and Thanksgiving have passed. All the familiar elements of Autumn have made themselves known. With little transition time, the rains are set to come. Or will they?

Rains have become scarce in Santa Clara County, even here in the hills of Evergreen Valley. Rains forge paths. Paths that define new conveyance systems. Rain comes. Storms come. We make preparations and anticipate what is to come between now and when Spring arrives.

**Capturing and harvesting storm water**

As a Qualified Stormwater Manager, there is much I watch for, with regard to weather. Capture and Harvest of rainwater and stormwater are among those items. As a columnist, I share sentiments and thoughts with you through Water Wise®. As an essayist, I share visions of what is to come, with colleagues.

Winter's Wrath approaches with unhampered and unyielding vigor. What waits for us, as cit-

izens of the valleys of Santa Clara County and as residents of Evergreen Valley? Rains will bring hues and tones of Emerald and Jade to the terrains of this particular valley, more so than the neighboring valleys.

Evergreen Valley College has Montgomery Observatory, home to a large and powerful telescope, capable of viewing the entirety of the valley. Will you visit this magnificent place? Will you meet the Astronomy professor and their technician who directs the seminars and star viewings?

Winter brings us much-needed rain and storms. These waters forge paths with fervor and vigor. Such beauty. Such force. Rills make their way across the terrain in the form of sheet flow, creating niches as they move forward and in all other directions.

Bring us the waters we seek, to irrigate our shrubs and our trees, and to rejuvenate our gardens and landscapes. Many are letting their turf lawns die and decompose into the ground. These turf lawns will give way to fresh vibrant soil that will host a new wave of native plants,



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

native to the county.

**Imagination and visions of landscape architecture and design**

Bring your visions of Landscape Architecture and Landscape Design. Bring your imagination. This is the concept stage of what is to come. Forging paths from the rains and storms, this is where new life takes form. Winter's Wrath is our host. Forging paths is what we will celebrate. These will be channels, streams, and other water bodies.

Gather now. Congregate on your balconies with green mason jars filled with chilled limeade and chilled mint tea on a Tuesday evening and Friday evening. Reward yourselves for a week of hard work. Watch the rains and the storms come forth. This is our legacy for Evergreen Valley.

Capture and Harvest... This is the essence of what it means to have non-potable water for irrigating our gardens and landscapes, and our crops as well. Write to me; write to us, and share your memories and your visions of the winter coming and the spring that will follow.

These evenings and nights are yours. Seize the moments without hesitation or reservation. Thank you, each and all, for taking the time to read this essay.

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

**El Nino**

*Continued from page 1*

Carpenter said. The conditions are anticipated to last through spring, with a 62% chance conditions will last through April to June 2024.

As it stands now, the probability of a strong El Niño in California is 75 to 85%, she said, with an over 35% probability of a "historically strong" El Niño that rivals 1997-1998 and 2015-2016.

A strong El Niño records surface water temperatures warmer than normal, the weather service said. The further the sea surface temperatures are away from normal, the stronger the El Niño event is said to be.

"We talk a lot about these extreme events occurring, but we've never really seen ocean temperatures this warm," Carpenter said. "How that affects our storm pattern here locally remains to be seen."

All of these factors mean meteorologists are going to be less reliant on past El Niño years to tell them what's going to happen this winter, she said.

"Any single storm can produce impacts — as we know — from strong winds, heavy snow and flooding either at the local scale or across the state."

**AWARD-WINNING TRANSFER COLLEGE**



**MAKE CONNECTIONS  
THAT COUNT.**



Times **Feature**

Nick Adams, Matt Mahan and Steve Wymer pictured in the *Willow Glen Times* March 2023 issue.

## San Jose Chamber's CEO pick could be controversial

By **Jana Kadah**  
*San José Spotlight*

Once-political powerhouse for business interests in San Jose is looking to return to its former glory—and soon it will pick a new CEO to help it get there.

The San Jose Chamber of Commerce is close to selecting its next permanent CEO after former president and CEO Derrick Seaver resigned in August. Toni Miranda, former senior executive at Blach Construction, has served as interim CEO but his gig is set to be up in the next few weeks.

Several influential business leaders familiar with the hiring process told San José Spotlight there are two finalists for the CEO role: Nick Adams, president and CEO of NINICO Communications, and Leah Toeniskoetter, founding director of SPUR San Jose, a senior manager at Deloitte and daughter of prolific developer Chuck Toeniskoetter.

Adams and Toeniskoetter beat out several well-known business politicians including former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis, former Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and Silicon Valley Business PAC Director Victor Gomez.

Gomez, a lobbyist and former chief of staff at San Jose City Hall, previously helmed the chamber's political action committee (PAC) in 2015-17 before he left to launch Silicon Valley Business PAC in 2018. This group aimed to fill a void in the city's political landscape after the chamber of commerce dissolved its PAC amid backlash for racist ads in 2020.

"Ever since that happened, I don't think anybody has really pushed the organization in a way where it's advocating for the needs of the business community in San Jose," Gomez told San José Spotlight. "There's been this huge void, so I hope and expect that whoever ends up in this position does grab the bull by the horns and elevate the work that they're doing in advocacy for the business community."

It's a concern others have shared. While the business community agrees about the importance of revitalizing the chamber by reestablishing its PAC and rallying around local businesses, there are disagreements

over who should lead.

Two local lobbyists criticized Adams and questioned his integrity, calling him "slimy" because of his ties to infamous former eBay executive Steve Wymer, who was accused in a heinous stalking and harassment campaign while at the tech giant. Despite his past, Wymer wielded troubling influence at city hall with former Mayor Sam Liccardo and even secured a spot on Mayor Matt Mahan's transition team. Adams did not respond to requests for comment.

Adams, who is not a registered lobbyist, is being accused of lobbying elected officials on the 18th floor—including the mayor's office.

This is problematic because backdoor lobbying to influence city officials or policies are not disclosed as is required for registered lobbyists—meaning the public is left in the dark.

"Nick is the kind of guy that a lot of business leaders don't really feel like he's trustworthy," one lobbyist told San José Spotlight on condition of anonymity, due to not being authorized to speak on the matter officially. "I just don't know a lot of people locally that like him."

But apart from these ethical concerns, the lobbyist says the chamber needs to refocus on its goal of advocating for businesses before it attempts to relaunch a PAC. Membership was at an all-time low following the 2020 scandal, with hundreds of local leaders leaving the group. There were no more than 300 members when Seaver was CEO, he previously said, but under his guidance that number grew close to 800. Before the scandal the chamber had 1,500 businesses.

"I have clients waiting on the sidelines that will not join the chamber until they know that it's a business advocacy organization," the lobbyist told San José Spotlight. "And you have essentially picked the top two people that don't know anything about advocacy."

Contact Jana at [jana@sanjosespotlight.com](mailto:jana@sanjosespotlight.com) or follow @Jana\_Kadah on X, formerly known as Twitter.

*Editor's Note: Victor Gomez sits on San José Spotlight's board of directors.*

San Jose Dance Theatre

The Original San Jose

# NUTCRACKER

Celebrating 58 Years of Magic

DECEMBER 8-10, 2023

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts | 255 S. Almaden Blvd. San Jose, CA 95113  
Directed by Mariana Zschoerper & Performed with the Cambrian Symphony  
San Jose Dance Theatre is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

For tickets, visit [SJD.T.org](http://SJD.T.org) or scan the QR code:

We treat pets like family

Compassionate care for your animal companion is the cornerstone of Aborn Pet Clinic. We are dedicated to providing a relaxed experience for you and your pet at every visit. Whether it's a routine check-up or an emergency treatment, our staff responds quickly to your pet's needs and takes the time to explain examinations and procedures. — Dr. Raj Singh

**ABORN PET CLINIC**  
**(408) 270-4600**

2525 Aborn Rd., San Jose, CA 95148

# REAL ESTATE GUIDE



**DEE RAMIREZ**

Realtor Lic. #00683945



**(408) 440-7617**

Dee@DeeRamirez.com  
www.DeeRamirez.com



**SHAWN ANSARI**

**COMPASS**

shawn.ansari@compass.com  
www.ShawnAnsari.com

DRE #01088988

**(408) 529-4574**

**REALTORS: YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**

**STARTING AT \$89 PER ISSUE! Call now to place your ad by phone: (408) 494-7000**



## Santa Clara County Parks celebrates 25 enchanting years of Fantasy of Lights

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

Santa Clara County Parks is thrilled to announce the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Fantasy of Lights, an awe-inspiring holiday extravaganza. Anticipation is high with an estimated influx of more than 25,000 vehicles expected to drive-thru Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos.

From Tuesday, December 5 through Saturday, December 30, families are invited to experience the magic of a 1.5-mile drive-thru adorned with sparkling holiday lights and over 50 themed holiday displays. Favorite attractions, including a thrilling dinosaur den with an erupting volcano, an engaging display of playful penguins, Santa shooting hoops and a dazzling tunnel of moving lights, are set to captivate attendees of all ages.

To secure admission, tickets must be purchased in advance as no tickets will be sold at the gate. Tickets can be purchased by the desired day and time of entrance (30-minute periods between 6:00pm and 9:30pm).

**Drive-thru Event Pricing**

- \$30 per vehicle (up to 12 people)
  - \$50 large vehicle (capacity 13-20)
  - \$100 oversized vehicle (capacity 21+)
- Processing fees are additional  
Fantasy of Lights would not be possible without



the generous support of our loyal media sponsors: The Breeze 98.1FM, Telemundo TV48, NBC Bay Area, El Observador, Cinelux Theatres, and News For Chinese.

Vasona Lake County Park is located at 333 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA95032. For directions, ticketing and more information visit [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org) or call (408) 355-2201. Fantasy of Lights is proudly presented by Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation.

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

## WHEN JOURNALISM IS NOT PRESENT TO SERVE COMMUNITIES, BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

Trained journalists report authentic, credible information. And we fight for those who produce genuine news!

**Evergreen Times**  
Serving the community since 1982

- Times Media, Inc.
- Almaden Times
  - Evergreen Times
  - Willow Glen Times

Source: University of North Carolina School of Media & Journalism



**WE ARE YOUR OFFICIAL DROP OFF LOCATION!**

**NOV 1, 2023 - DEC 14, 2023**

HELP BRING JOY TO CHILDREN IN NEED WITH A NEW & UNWRAPPED TOY.

**DROP OFF @**  
**3519 SAN FELIPE ROAD**  
**SAN JOSE, CA. 95135**

# Times Classifieds



Call to place your ad today!  
408-494-7000

## Limousine Service

### LIMOUSINE SERVICE

**New West Limousine**  
SERVING THE BAY AREA SINCE 1989

**FROM \$125 PER HOUR**

Lincoln Stretch Limo  
Lincoln Town Car  
Mercedes Grand Sedan  
Mercedes Limo Van  
Cadillac Escalade SUV  
Ford Expedition SUV

**(888) 582-9987**  
reserve@newwestlimo.com  
NewWestLimo.com

## Employment

**LOGISTICS SPECIALIST**  
Analyze logistics operations. Bachelor's in International Trade related. \$62421/yr, Pumyang Shipping America Inc., 3494 Depot Rd, Hayward, CA 94545

## Jewelry

### M & L Jewelers

Jewelers & Watch Repair  
Ring sizing - Watch bands  
Watch batteries - Engraving  
Stone replacement & More!

Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!

**(408) 270-6080**

3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA  
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

## Shoe Repair

**ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR**  
408-270-0850

No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

Hours:

**Mon-Fri**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Saturday**  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

2850 Quimby Rd. Suite 100 • 270-0850

## Driving School



**Advantage Driving School** is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses. Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

**Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;**  
**Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182;**  
**Email: info@advantagedriversed.com**  
**Website: advantagedriversed.com**



  
**LIVING HOPE APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES**  
<https://www.livinghopeam.org>  
Village Square Branch Library (4001 Evergreen Village Square San Jose, CA 95135). (408) 592-7562  
Pastor Shelia Sapp "Worship Service and Dinner" (Community Room) 10/29/23 at 3:00pm. "Bible Study" (Group Study Room) every Saturday at 12:00pm  
OUR MISSION: Evangelizing our community and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
OUR MINISTRY: Training ministers on how to use their love for God to reach those in need of His love.  
OUR PASSION: Transforming lives within our community with God's love.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN**  
6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector  
Phone: 408-268-0243  
Web: www.eca-sj.org  
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.



**EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)**  
<http://www.eicsan-jose.org>  
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148. (408) 239-6668  
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".  
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?  
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to

practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatak" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.



**GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN**  
[www.GraceChurchEvergreen.Com](http://www.GraceChurchEvergreen.Com)  
408-274-1200  
See you on Facebook. 2650 Aborn Rd at Kettmann, across from the Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 55 years.  
John Goldstein Pastor. john@GraceChurchEvergreen.com. Christian worship every Sunday at 11am. Together we build better lives and a better community.  
Music Institute (408)791 7772. After School Piano, Violin, Other classical Instruments.  
PreSchool, Ages 2-6  
Caring for your child with God's love and affection.  
Check our website for current activities.

**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our

promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office.



God is One  
ੴ ਇਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

**SAN JOSE GURDWARA**  
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148

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

on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJose-Gurdwara.org>

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135  
408-223-1562.  
[www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org](http://www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org)  
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor

and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:  
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass  
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall  
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM  
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road  
Sunday 9:30 AM  
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday

8:15 AM  
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!



**thepoint.church**

**THE POINT CHURCH**  
3695 Rose Terrace Cir San Jose, CA 95148  
(408) 270-7646  
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM  
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM  
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM  
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM  
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

To place a worship listing, email [times@timesmediainc.com](mailto:times@timesmediainc.com)



## DID SOMEBODY SAY **ROAD TRIP?**

The holidays are fast approaching!!  
Before you jump into the madness, don't wait until the last minute to service your car before a road trip.

We recommend having your vehicle inspected at least two weeks prior to when you plan on hitting the road.

Now thru December 31, 2023,  
we are offering **DISCOUNT**  
Road Trip Packages

### PACKAGE 1

Oil Change  
Multi-Point Inspection of vehicle  
Top off Fluids  
Tire Inspection (pressure & wear)

**5% discount off service**

### PACKAGE 2

Includes Package 1  
Replace Air Filter  
Replace Cabin Air Filter, if applicable  
Tire Rotation


**10% discount off service**

### PACKAGE 3

Includes Package 1 & 2  
Battery/Starting/Charging System Test w/printout  
Coolant Flush

**20% discount off service**



408-477-2242 

sosAUTOREPAIR.com 

3519 SAN FELIPE ROAD  
SAN JOSE, CA. 95135

Call for an estimate. Must mention this flyer to receive discount. No cash value. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Offer valid until 12/31/23