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FEB. 9 – FEB. 22, 2024 ■ VOL. 41, NO. 4

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Richmond Ranch purchased by The Conservation Fund and to be acquired by Habitat Agency and County Parks

By William Bellou
Publisher

The 3,654-acre Richmond Ranch, located near San Jose, has been acquired by The Conservation Fund (TCF), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving land and water in the United States.

The huge ranch, with its ten individual parcels, will be acquired by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency and Santa Clara County Parks.

Z&L Properties, a China-based residential property investor and developer, sold the ranch for \$16 million. Despite an appraisal value of \$35 million dollars for the property, Z&L Properties chose to sell at a discounted price.

Situated along Coyote Ridge, which is home to numerous endangered species, Richmond Ranch has long been a conservation priority for various nonprofits and government agencies.

The Habitat Agency and County Parks will work together to determine appropriate areas for recreational trails and public access, as well as areas for critical habitat restoration. Richmond Ranch is a vital connection point between



Grant County Park, San Felipe Ranch, and open space on Coyote Ridge and in Coyote Valley. The acquisition opens the possibility of future continuous trail connections between the East Foothills, Coyote Valley, and the Santa Cruz Mountains – and is a critical step forward for expanding the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Sylvia Arenas and District 8 Councilmember Candelas said, in a joint statement:

“Preserving open space is paramount for the well-being of both the environment and communities. Open spaces, natural reserves, or greenbelts, are important for our urban landscapes, purifying air, and providing habitats for diverse ecosystems. These areas also offer

recreational spaces for our residents, fostering physical and mental health. This will contribute to biodiversity conservation, mitigates the impact of climate change, and enhances overall quality of life. We recognize safeguarding these open spaces becomes crucial for sustainable development, resilient ecosystems, and the collective well-being of present and future generations.”

District 8 Community Roundtable Land Use Committee Chair Robert Reese said “Preventing sprawl and preserving Richmond Ranch for public use has been a critical priority of the Evergreen community for a generation. Today we celebrate the permanent preservation of these lands.”

See RICHMOND RANCH, page 3



FAITHFUL SUMMIT VICTORY - A father and his two sons celebrated their climb with their favorite team by placing a San Francisco 49ers “FAITHFUL THE BAY” flag at the mountain’s peak. Standing on the right (left to right) are Arsh Raj Chopra, Praveen Chopra, and Dinesh Goyal. Standing left (left to right) are Ankit Chopra and Avinash Jindal.

A summit victory

A San Jose family reached the Mount Kilimanjaro summit on January 30, 2024, after a grueling seven-day hike.

A father and his two adult sons celebrated their climb with their favorite team by placing a San Francisco 49ers “FAITHFUL THE BAY” flag at the mountain’s peak.

Praveen Chopra along with sons Ankit and Arsh Raj Chopra fulfilled their dream of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Praveen says he loves to hike

with his hiking group, as well as some other friends.

Ankit and Arsh have gone through Boy Scout training and Arsh is an Eagle scout.

Both Chopra children developed outdoor interests and did many hikes and activities with their father, Praveen.

This was an epic Father and son adventure. The family is hopeful their favorite football team can also reach a summit as well at the Superbowl this weekend!

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NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The City of San Jose has posted a Notice of Development Proposal for a General Plan Amendment. The project proposal includes 21 single-family detached residences on a 29.6 gross acre site. The proposed development is located on the northeasterly side of Chisen Street (approximately 330 ft. easterly of Yerba Buena Rd.) in Evergreen Valley.

Pleasant Hills Golf Course Guiding Principles Process meeting Feb. 15

The City of San Jose has scheduled a Pleasant Hills Golf Course Guiding Principles Process meeting at 6 p.m. on February 15, 2024 at August Boeger Middle School, 1944 Flint Ave., San Jose, California 95148.

The meeting will discuss proposals for the 114-acre Pleasant Hills Golf Course, located 2050 and 2079 South White Road in Evergreen Valley. The city wants to hear from residents, business owners, and community members about their ideas for the site.

The City’s engagement process will result in a set of Guiding Principles that identify goals that a future development project should achieve. For questions or comments, contact Michelle Flores at. (408) 535-7901, Michelle.Flores@sanjoseca.gov.

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

Times **Community News**

Evergreen Valley College and San José City College reaffirms accreditation

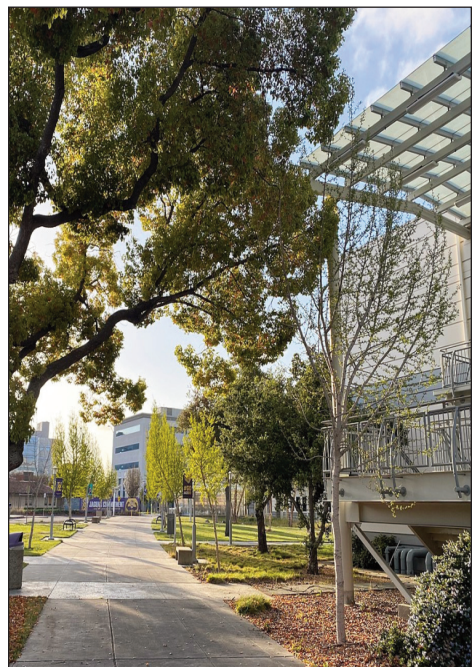
Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) has been notified that both of its Colleges—Evergreen Valley College (EVC) and San José City College (SJCC)—received full reaffirmation of their accreditation status for seven years, based on a comprehensive review by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

“The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC’s Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards,” letters from ACCJC to the College presidents read. “...the Commission acted to Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years,” the letters continued.

The letters also note zero compliance requirements and zero recommendations for improving institutional effectiveness, highlighting the successful accreditation cycle for both colleges.

Both EVC and SJCC completed accreditation site visits in October, during which time teams of evaluators from ACCJC spent multiple days on the campuses analyzing data and reviewing reports and operations at the Colleges and District.

“The accreditation process is vital to the ongoing improvement of our Colleges and we are grateful for ACCJC’s work in ensuring that we continue to meet their high standards for institutional effectiveness,” said Dr. Beatriz Chaidez, SJECCD’s interim chancellor. “The fact that both Colleges have had their accred-



Dr. Rowena Tomaneng, SJCC president, indicated that accreditation was very much a team effort that involved all constituency groups at the College. Above: SJCC campus.

itation reaffirmed reflects the hard work taking place on our campuses; our commitment to continuous improvement; and the dedication of our faculty, classified staff, and administrators to serving students.”

While the accreditation process was time consuming and required many resources at both Colleges, Dr. Rowena Tomaneng, SJCC president, indicated that it was very much a team effort that involved all constituency groups at the College. “Having our accreditation reaffirmed is a great achievement and I am proud of our faculty, classified staff, administrators, and students for their efforts in making San José City College a great institution of higher learning,” she said. “It’s important that we always work to improve upon and adapt the programs and services of the College to meet the needs of today’s learners, as well as the education and job training requirements of the regional workforce.”

“Our accreditation is critical to ensuring that our students and the public are aware that the quality of our instruction and student support services have been recognized as meeting the very high standards set by ACCJC,” said Dr. Denise Noldon, interim EVC president. “The fact that the evaluation process is peer-led confirms that community college educators and administrators from throughout the region have recognized the value of a degree or certificate from EVC.”

As part of the next seven-year accreditation cycle, both Colleges will provide midterm reports to ACCJC on October 15, 2027.

Richmond Ranch

Continued from page 1

Alice Kaufman, Green Foothills Policy and Advocacy Director said, “Development on this property would have seriously impacted wildlife habitat and connectivity between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, so this acquisition is cause for real celebration. Green Foothills applauds the work of the Habitat Agency and urges the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to move quickly forward on Tuesday to direct staff to begin the County Park’s land acquisition process.”

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Times **Local News**



San Jose Police arrest five suspects in east San Jose for illegal gambling, prostitution

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

San Jose police recently raided a commercial building in East San Jose and broke up a brothel and gambling operation.

Police report that they seized drugs, weapons, ammunition and cash, freeing sex workers and arresting three men and two women accused of running the illegal operations.

San Jose's Special Operations METRO Unit Officers developed information of a casino operating at a commercial property located in the 2400 block of Autumnvale Drive.

During the investigation, police discovered that several units in the building were being operated as an illegal gambling establishment where drug sales and prostitution activities were occurring. Officers obtained a search warrant for the property.

San Jose police officers, in collaboration with the Violent Crimes Enforcement Team, Special Operations and the Human Trafficking Task Force, served the warrant and arrested the five suspects: Saolepea Liu, 42, of Antioch; Nido Nguyen, 35, of San Jose; Phuong Nguyen, 44, of San Jose; Windie Pratt, 41, of San Jose, and Anai Garcia, 24, of San Jose.

The five suspects were booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail for various warrants and multiple felony charges.

Weapons and drugs seized in raid on illegal casino and brothel in East San Jose. San Jose police photo.

Addiction is a crisis on the streets

By Matt Mahan
Mayor

As we all know, we have a crisis of addiction and mental illness on our streets, in our jails, and in our homes.

We are condemning our most vulnerable to immense and unnecessary suffering because we simply don't have anywhere for them to get the care they need.

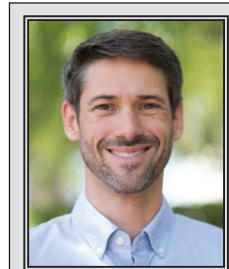
Our County has less than 13 acute inpatient beds per 100,000 residents.

We are short of more than 900 beds. This shortage has an immense impact on those who are suffering, and on the entire commu-



nity who must bear the consequences of our failure to act.

Proposition 1, which will be on the March ballot, changes that. If passed by voters, it will add over 10,000 new beds statewide so that our neighbors don't have to cycle between our jails, emergency rooms and tent encampments. It won't fix the problem entirely, but it is an important step in reimagining our mental health system.



From the Mayor
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose

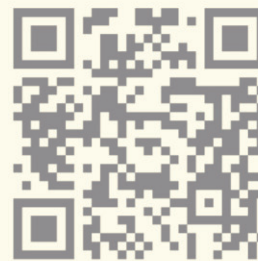
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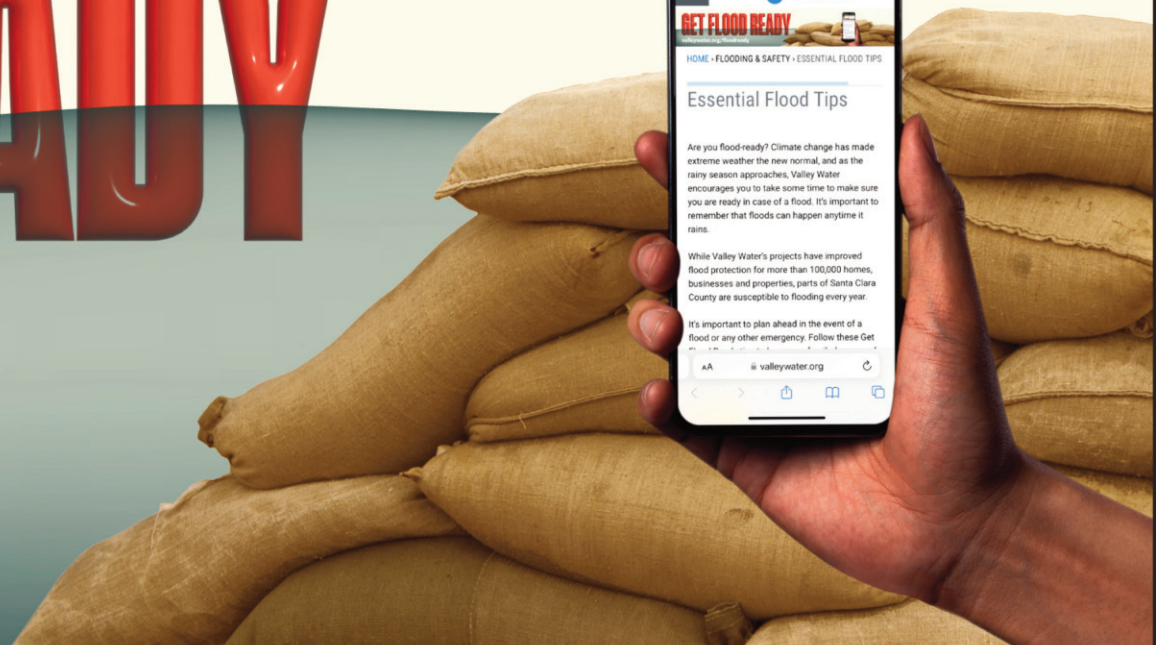
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Times **Local News**

Op Ed

Happy 75th Anniversary to History San José (San Jose Historical Museum)

By **Bill Schroh**

As most of you know, History San José was established in 1949 to commemorate the centennial of California statehood. Initially, a replica of California's first State House was constructed on the grounds of City Hall (now Plaza de Cesar Chavez).



Originally intended as a temporary structure to be removed after a year, the public's enjoyment of the museum experience led the city to relocate the State House to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, where it proudly stands today. I just recently found out that the Fairground Heritage Foundation is planning to restore the State House to showcase the history of the Santa Clara Fair. New life for an old building; how great! I wish them luck and of course, HSJ will help them in any way we can.

In the coming year, you'll notice a few subtle changes at HSJ. Our logo will proudly showcase the anniversary, and we're planning special museum programming to celebrate our 75-year milestone. We are also proud to announce that we have published our 2022-2023 annual report.

About a year ago, WCBS Radio



approached me with a fascinating proposal—they wanted to establish a radio studio at History Park. While it might sound crazy, there's a historical tie.

Charles Herrold can be seen in the doorway of the "Arc Fone" radio station in the Garden City Bank Building, circa 1913. Photo via History San José.

One of the first radio stations in the country began in San José in 1912 when Charles "Doc" Herrold initiated broadcasts. A quirky tidbit: the "first" DJ was his wife, Sybil, who played records on a phonograph over the airwaves. If you follow Doc Herrold's history, it leads us to today's KCBS Radio, which proudly claims the title of the

"world's oldest broadcasting station." Welcome home, KCBS! Be on the lookout for the radio studio right in the lobby of the Pacific Hotel, set to begin broadcasting this spring.

Looking ahead to the 2024 calendar, I see exciting new festivals, community events, and captivating family programming. We'll keep embracing fresh opportunities and partnerships to celebrate the vibrant cultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley!

Looking forward to seeing you at History Park once the rainy season is over.

Editor's Note: Bill Schroh, Jr. is President & CEO, History San José.

Report: Best Places to Find a Job in 2024

With 2024 bringing the chance for new beginnings and finding a better job often proving to be more effective at keeping up with inflation than cost-cutting, the personal-finance website WalletHub just released its report on the Best Places to Find a Job in 2024.

To determine the strongest local job markets in the U.S., WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 31 key metrics. The data set ranges from job opportunities per job seeker to employment growth to the monthly average starting salary. Here are the findings:

Best Cities for jobs Worst Cities for jobs

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Scottsdale, AZ | 173. Bridgeport, CT |
| 2. Tampa, FL | 174. Columbus, GA |
| 3. Salt Lake City, UT | 175. Memphis, TN |
| 4. Columbia, MD | 176. Bakersfield, CA |
| 5. Austin, TX | 177. Stockton, CA |
| 6. Atlanta, GA | 178. Augusta, GA |
| 7. Seattle, WA | 179. San Bernardino, CA |
| 8. Pittsburgh, PA | 180. Gulfport, MS |
| 9. Plano, TX | 181. Las Cruces, NM |
| 10. Boston, MA | 182. Newark, NJ |

Best vs. Worst

- Columbia, Maryland, has the highest median annual household income (adjusted by cost of living), which is 3.1 times *See JOBS, next page*

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Times Feature

Presentation High School Field Hockey Team celebrates becoming SCVAL Champions

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

The Presentation High School field hockey team experienced great success recently in becoming the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League (SCVAL) El Camino Division Champions.

Even though the season had a happy ending, players aren't quite ready for the season to be over.

"I would be lying if I said I'm happy the season is over because I really loved playing on this team," said Kat Kowalski, grade 12. Mike West, the Athletic Director at Presentation, enjoyed witnessing the team's success this season.

New and returning players benefitted from the guidance of coaches who know what it means to be a Panther. West heard daily from officials, opposing coaches, other athletic directors, and fans about the remarkable sportsmanship and character of the Pres community.

"Thank you to the field hockey program for infusing our fall with such positive energy, it helped our other teams to feed off your success," said West. "I love my job, and all the student-athletes and coaches make this a special place to serve as AD."



Presentation High School's field hockey team are Santa Clara Valley Athletic League (SCVAL) El Camino Division Champions.

While the players, coaches, and athletics faculty worked hard to achieve this level of success, it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the school community as a whole and students' families, who cheered the players on and helped them find a balance

between athletics and academics. The athletics department faculty makes it evident that they want to see each player grow as an athlete and student.

The team looks forward to celebrating and carrying their success into future years.

Jobs

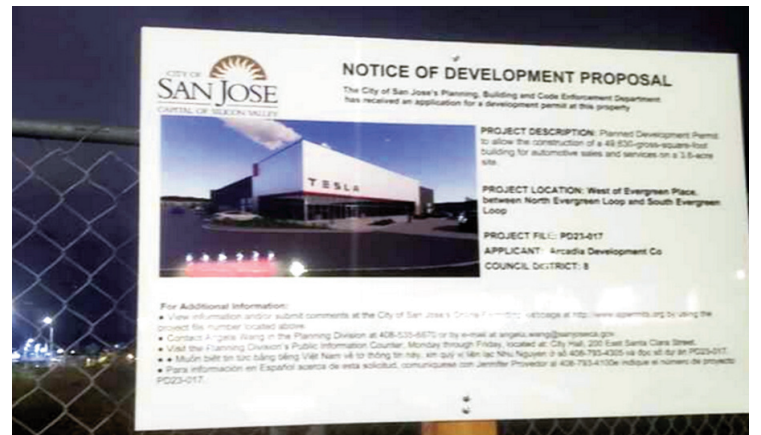
Continued from previous page
higher than in Detroit, Michigan, the city with the lowest.

- San Jose, California, has the highest monthly average starting salary, which is 3.7 times higher than in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the city with the lowest.
- Fremont, California, has the fewest part-time

employees for every 100 full-time employees, which is 3.8 times fewer than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the most.

- Pearl City, Hawaii, has the lowest share of workers living in poverty, which is 11.7 times lower than in Huntington, West Virginia, the city with the highest.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-jobs/2173>



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San José Chamber Orchestra presents FANTASIA, February 11 at St. Francis Episcopal Church

San José Chamber Orchestra (SJCO) continues its 33rd con-cert season with FANTASIA in Willow Glen at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Sunday, February 11 at 3 p.m.

The program features the West Coast Premiere of conductor Alys-sa Wang and soloists James Blanchard on flute and Matthieu Cognet on piano.

"SJCO is looking forward to conductor Alyssa Wang making her SJCO debut with the program FANTASIA, featuring four unusual, yet complimentary musical works from two esteemed composers of the past and two composers of the present," said Music Director, Barbara Day Turner.

The evening promises to be uniquely satisfying and entertaining."

Music by Daniel Kidane, Germaine Tailleferre, Dobrinka Tabakova, and Benjamin Britten.

The Program:

- Daniel Kidane: Be Still



Flautist, James Blanchard.
Photo by Curtis Brown



Conductor and violinist, Alyssa Wang.
Photo by Robert Torres

- Germaine Tailleferre: Concertino for Flute, Piano and Strings featuring James Blanchard, flute and Matthieu Cognet, piano

- Dobrinka Tabakova: Fantasy Homage a Schubert

- Benjamin Britten: Young Apollo featuring Matthieu Cognet, piano

Tickets: Online: <https://sjco.org>; Phone: 408.295.4416; Box Office: sjcorch@gmail.com Tickets also available at the door Feb. 11, 2024.

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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.



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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
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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
or 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!

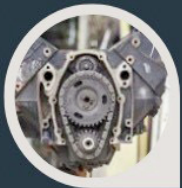


the**point**.church

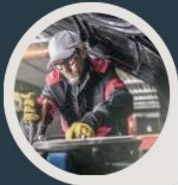
THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrace Cir San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

To place a worship listing, email times@timesmediainc.com

AUTO REPAIR SERVICE



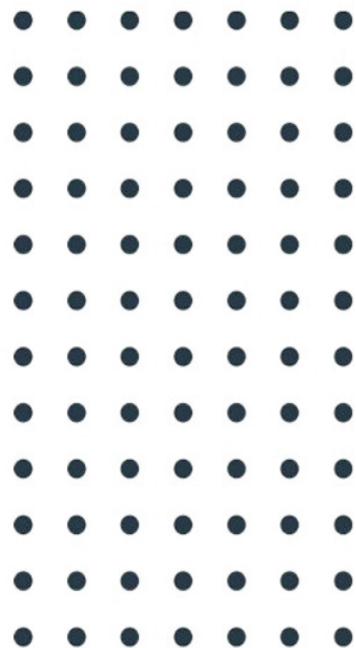
**MAINTENANCE
& REPAIRS**



DIAGNOSTIC



TIRES & MORE



408-477-2242

**3519 SAN FELIPE ROAD
SAN JOSE , CA. 95135**

www.sosAUTOfix.com