

Farrington Historical foundation offers \$10,000 grant for computers  
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**Mayor endorses reform**  
Mahan looks to curb crime, reduce homelessness and build safer cities  
— **SEE PAGE 8**

Symphony San Jose presents 'From Screen To Stage' featuring Elfman concerto **SEE PAGE 7**



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# Times

FEB. 16 – FEB. 29, 2024 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 4

## Leland High School teen creates app that wins honor from Congress

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

Five San Jose teens were recognized by Congress for creating dynamic and creative digital applications.

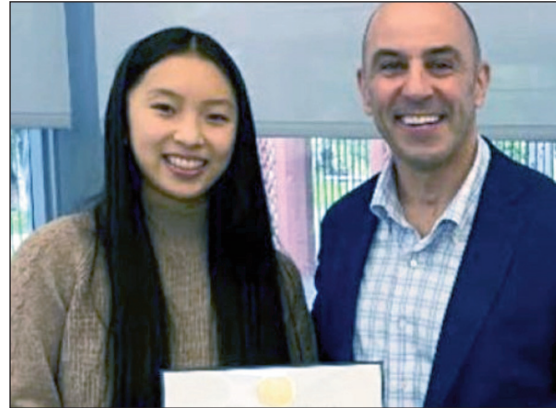
Each year members of congress invite entries from students in their districts, and community and business leaders pick the top entries.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta last week announced the winners in his 19th District's Congressional App Challenge.

The first place winner was Caitlynn Sue, a student from Leland High School in San Jose, whose app "Oakli" helps people live more environmentally friendly by providing motivation, education, and resources.

The Monterey congressman said Oakli "motivates users through its game-like system that educates users with detailed information, fun facts, and recycling tools. With a tap of their finger, the user can classify an object and get specific instructions for recycling that object from their county."

Sue will be invited to the 2023 #HouseofCode Event in Washington D.C. in the Spring of 2024, as well as having the honor of her work being displayed at the



San Jose High School Student **Caitlyn Sue** with Rep. **Jimmy Panetta**. Photo courtesy of Rep. Jimmy Panetta's office

U.S. Capitol for the remainder of the 118th Congress and featured on the House of Representatives website, [www.House.gov](http://www.House.gov).

The goal of the Congressional App Challenge is to promote student innovation, creativity, and engagement in computer science through competition and the creation of a new digital application.

This year, 40 students from across California's 19th Congressional District participated in the challenge, developing 24 original apps tackling issues ranging from sustainability, education, and social justice. Student participants included middle and high school students.

"With our daily lives becoming more and more integrated with our digital world, our young people will need to flex their creativity, ingenuity, and technical skills in order to compete in the global economy,"

*See APPS, page 2*



The community is invited to the 16th annual Winter Walk & Resource Fair at Westfield Oakridge Feb. 23.

## 16th Annual Winter Walk & Resource Fair coming Feb. 23

By Sean Eastwood  
*Times staff writer*

Every year, attendance increases at the free Annual Winter Walk & Resource Fair at Westfield Oakridge.

This year is no exception, with the theme Cruising To The New You!

The cruise-themed event, especially designed for the 50+ guests will be held on February 23rd starting at 8 am. Featuring group activities, giveaways, raffle prize drawings, entertainment, and of course a light breakfast and ending at 10 a.m. To top that off, free goodie bags will be given to the first 300 registered guests inside Westfield Oakridge Mall by the Macy's storefront.

At the event there will be various vendor tables manned by professionals for everyone to obtain information about health, safety

and many other valuable resources.

This annual fun activity is sponsored by San Jose City Council member Arjun Batra (District 10), in partnership with Councilmember Pam Foley (District 9), and Sergio Jimenez (District 2). Corporate sponsors include Almaden Times (Times Media), El Camino Health, Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, Star One Credit Union, and Westfield Oakridge.

Don't miss out on an additional raffle prize ticket when you donate old eyeglasses to the Almaden Super Lions.

Westfield Oakridge is located at 925 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA.

For more information, contact [Shirleyn.Cannon@sandjoseca.gov](mailto:Shirleyn.Cannon@sandjoseca.gov); or call (408) 535-4910.

## Art Boxes add some pizzazz to the block

The Comanche Blossom Valley Neighborhood Association (CBVNA) recently unveiled its Art Boxes on the corner of Blossom Hill Road and Chesbro Avenue. Neighbors gathered and celebrated the artwork by giving special thanks to the amazing artists involved in the project to make Blossom Valley more beautiful.



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

Times **Community News**



**Anya Li**, Notre Dame High School, runner up. *Photo: Rep. Jimmy Panetta.*

**Apps**

*Continued from page 1*

said Panetta in a statement. “The Congressional App Challenge provides a unique experience for students to test themselves and think outside-the-box to solve real world problems through the power of technology. Caitlynn, along with the other finalists and participants in this year’s Challenge, produced exceptional projects that should make us excited for future innovation in our community.”

Anya Li and Andrew Li of Notre Dame High School in San Jose received second place for their app, “Green Habit,” which provides users with eco-friendly reminders throughout the day.

Aarini Naskar and Shriyanka Hiremagalur, also from Notre Dame High School, received third place for their app, “Girlz Elevate,” which provides a trusted platform for young women to connect with each other on topics such as mental health, academic and peer pressures, and self-esteem.

A panel of leaders and academics in tech from the 19th District volunteered to judge this year’s challenge. Judges included; Santa Cruz County Office of Education Chief Technology and Innovations Officer Jason Bor-

gan, U.C. Santa Cruz Department Chair of Computational Media Magy Seif El-Sasr, Naval PostGraduate School Assistant Professor of Computer Science Marko Orescanin, Owen Arden, U.C. Santa Cruz Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Owen Arden and Western Growers Vice President of Innovation Walt DuFlock.

Officially launched by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2015, the Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide effort that allows middle and high school students to compete against their peers by creating an application or “app,” for desktop/PC, web, tablet, mobile, or other devices.



**Aarini Naskar** and **Shriyanka Hiremagalur**, also from Notre Dame High School, received third place honors. *Photo: Rep. Jimmy Panetta.*



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# City should enforce existing laws to resolve critical issues

By Arjun Batra

On January 30th, the City Council considered two very important items: (1) regulation of oversized vehicles citywide; and (2) prohibition of encampments and oversized vehicles near schools.

Concerning the first item, I had serious reservations about the proposed additional bureaucratic layer of regulation. In my view, the City should prioritize the enforcement of existing laws instead of introducing redundant pilot programs. Consistent enforcement of current laws should have greater effect in addressing issues like waste dumping without the need for additional budget-intensive initiatives, such as the suggested "on-street" permit program.

The approach outlined in the staff memo appeared to risk surrendering the City's authority to enforce laws and regulate the use of public property. These concerns ultimately led me to be the lone vote against the staff recommendation on this matter.

On the second item concerning schools, I agreed with the need to establish buffers between educational institutions and their surrounding encampments and oversized vehicles. However, I also believed it was crucial to empower city departments



**District 10 Report**  
Arjun Batra  
Councilmember,  
District 10

to carry out their duties and enforce state and local laws that address the problems associated with encampments and lived-in vehicles near schools.

Additionally, I proposed extending protections to pre-schools offering kindergarten instruction and facilities providing educational services to individuals with developmental disabilities, such as HOPE Services. Ensuring the protection of these vulnerable groups from potential disruptions was essential for guaranteeing that individuals with disabilities could derive maximum benefit from these critical serv-

ices.

Regrettably, my fellow council members did not support the inclusion of these specific educational facilities, and the motion passed with protection only extended to K-12 schools. Despite the setback, I remain committed to advocating for the inclusion of additional educational facilities in future discussions.

The fight for comprehensive protection for all educational institutions will persist, ensuring that our community continues to address the needs of diverse learning environments.



The Farrington Historical Foundation of San Jose recently granted \$10,000 to POE-South Bay to provide computers for the POE-South Bay scholarship students. Pictured (left to right) are Donna Guldemann and Rosemary Rossi, co-founders POE-South Bay, and Pam Bliss, Executive Director the Farrington Historical Foundation.

## Farrington Historical foundation \$10,000 grant for computers

POE-South Bay provides scholarship support to college students who graduated from several local high schools, including Pioneer

By William Bellou  
Publisher

The Farrington Historical Foundation of San Jose recently granted \$10,000 to POE-South Bay to provide computers for the POE-South Bay scholarship students.

POE-South Bay provides scholarship support and mentors to high need college students who have graduated from Independence, Lincoln, and Pioneer High Schools in San Jose and Los Gatos High School.

Currently, 39 students are attending colleges across the state and country supported by grant of up to \$6,000 annually. In addition, each student works with a POE mentor during college who offers advice and access to workshops, webinars, internships and other possible scholarships. Pursuit of Excellence- South Bay (POE-South Bay) is a volunteer run scholarship program and 98% of its donations go directly into scholarships.

Because the POE students are low income, the Farrington Historical Foundation grant will help many students

acquire the computers they need to be successful in college.

"We are very pleased to be able to support your organization. What a great cause -- helping to send high-need students on to higher education and better lives," said Pam Bliss, executive director of the Farrington Foundation.

In receiving the gift, Donna and Rosemary acknowledged the struggle that many POE students face funding all the extra costs associated with college.

"The right computer is often an additional cost that our students find hard to finance on their very limited budgets," Rosemary said. "This gift will help lessen the amount students need to borrow to support their educations."

The mission of the Foundation is to restore and conserve the Kirk-Farrington house and grounds as an example of Santa Clara Valley's historic past, and as the home of the Junior League of San Jose. The Foundation also provides community grants to support local non-profit entities that work to improve the quality of life in Santa Clara County.

The Foundation endeavors to preserve the legacy of the past, contribute positively to our local community, and promote appreciation of our heritage.



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6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120

Times **Local News****NEWS BRIEFS****County budget deficit projected at \$250M**

*Deficit increasing due to high labor costs while property ownership shrinks*

Santa Clara County is projecting a \$250 million deficit in the next fiscal year.

The county's increasing deficit is the result of higher labor costs while a slow turnover in property ownership is curbing tax revenue partly due to higher interest rates.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors received the bleak financial news last week during a mid-year update on the current \$11.3 billion budget.

Last year, county officials bridged a \$120 million deficit and projected it would grow in the next several years, estimating that it would be \$158 million in the coming fiscal year.

"Balancing the budget for next fiscal year clearly is going to be difficult, and it's going to require budgetary reductions," said County Budget Director Greg Iturria.

**Santa Clara County adopts call to end child marriages**

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors have adopted a resolution calling for the End of Child Marriage, '18 No Exceptions.'

Supervisor Otto Lee brought the resolution forward with support from local advocates, survivors, and Global Hope 365, a California organization working to end child marriage internationally.

The resolution calls on the California State Legislature to introduce and pass legislation to "End Child Marriage Under 18, No Exceptions." Currently only ten states have passed laws ending child marriages for minors, no exceptions.

*Editor's note: Although this resolution will not stop any marriages in Santa Clara County, it begins an effort call on the California Legislature to act.*

**New safety law — 'daylighting'**

*Bill to help pedestrians bans parking too close to crosswalks*

A new state law, AB 413, aims to make crossing the street safer in California.

The new law, presented by Assemblyman Alex Lee, prohibits parking too close to crosswalks to improve visibility for drivers

and pedestrians. The concept safety advocates call "daylighting," goes into effective this year. There's a provision, however, with a 12-month grace period before violators get charged with costly parking tickets.

"Intersections are some of the most fatal sections of our roads where cars, bikes, and pedestrians cross paths," Lee said. "Daylighting is a simple solution that improves visibility of intersections for everyone."

California's pedestrian fatality rate is currently 25% higher than the national average, and 43 other states have daylighting laws that have been shown to be effective.

**PG&E receives green light for higher bills**

PG&E customers could face another PG&E rate hike this spring.

An administrative law judge for the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a proposed decision that clears the way for commissioners to authorize PG&E to increase rates for its customers. Law Judge Camille Watts-Zagha issued the proposal.

PG&E customers could be paying \$4 to \$6 more a month for their utility service if the PUC panel agrees with the proposal issued by the PUC law judge, estimated Mark Toney, executive director of The Utility Reform Network, or TURN.

The higher bills could take effect in April or May if the PUC agrees with the proposed ruling.

**AT&T wants to pull the plug; many say the decision could be 'life threatening'**

Most of the Bay Area would lose service that has no 'valid public purpose,' company says, but some people say losing the old-school phones would be 'life threatening.'

AT&T said in a statement that fewer than 7% of households in its territory use traditional landlines, "and a great number of those households also have alternatives available where they live."

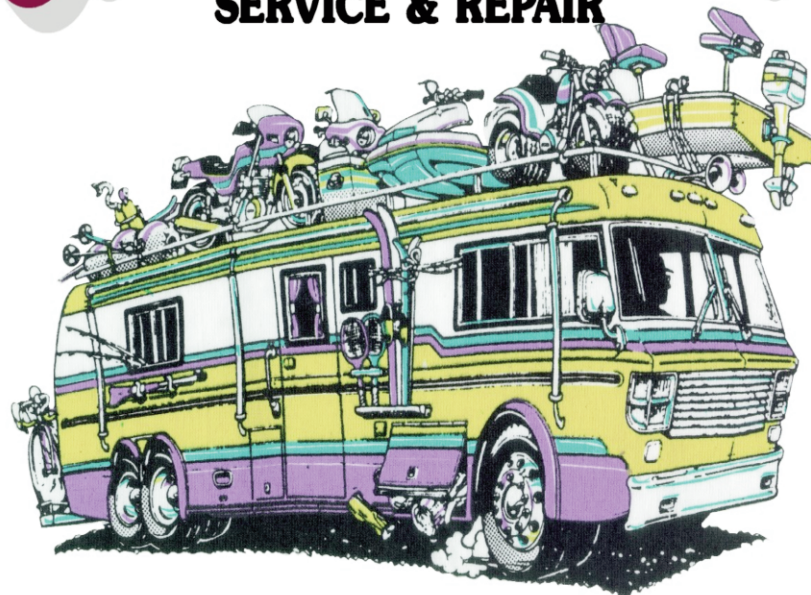
The claim that cell phones, internet and "VoIP" internet-phone service can safely replace landlines throughout AT&T's service area is "definitely not true," said California Assembly Member Gail Pellerin, a Democrat representing parts of San Jose and the South Bay, Los Gatos and areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

In a Feb. 1 letter to the utilities commission, Pellerin wrote that recent devastating natural disasters including landslides and the 2020 CZU fires in the Santa Cruz Mountains "have repeatedly underscored the indispensable role of landline services."

"During such crises, when power outages are prevalent and cellular and VoIP services are unreliable, landlines have remained the sole means of communication for emergency services, medical consultations, and disaster-management efforts."

The utilities commission could rule as soon as this fall.

Two virtual hearings regarding the proposal are set for March 19, via webcast at [adminmonitor.com/ca](http://adminmonitor.com/ca).

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Times **Local News**

**WATER-WISE**

# The Monday Meadow

By **Matthew Frazier**  
CalWEP Qualified Water  
Efficient Landscaper

The re-wilding of the valley is proven to save water!

Sunday saw the loss of many trees here in San Jose and its valleys; not the least of which were those in front yards in Almaden Valley including some business parks and plazas. One catch, they're likely non-natives and having not evolved in our native clay soil, they were destined to fail.

Tree services raced to upstage one another in the hours that followed, as business owners and homeowners clambered to salvage what they could and remove that

which they could not. California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter has been one of my go-to resources for a long time now, showcasing trees that are native to this valley and compatible with those beyond Santa Clara Valley.

One option to consider; don't be in a hurry to replace non-native trees with anything. Rather, let the turf lawn areas transition to wild meadows; yes, wild meadows. The re-wilding of the valley has been proven to save water.

**Almaden Wildflowers**

The gardens and yards of Almaden Valley are prime and ripe for meandering meadows. The area enjoys its golf courses and its wines, but what about its trees?



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

The heritage oaks have nearly disappeared now. But the flowers that emerge in their wake have not!

Almaden Valley has some terrain that would be ideal and optimal for wildflowers, which include annuals and perennials. Let the birds and butterflies congregate in your gardens and yards, rendering the linear and sterile look of turf lawn obsolete, insectary plants included.

Even further back (2006-2008) at Almaden Valley Nursery, I was visited by botanists and horticulturists who advocated for meandering meadows. The recent storm with 40 mph winds took out many trees. In their stead grow flowering weeds with their culinary and

medicinal value. The birds and insects love them. Don't spray and let them stay and just wait to see who arrives to visit your home.

**"The Monday Meadow"**

The morning after "Savage Sunday," comes "Meadow Monday." The fallen Persian Silk Tree in our front yard is now home to curious migratory birds who formerly feared birds of prey lurking about on overcast mornings and days. Twice now, January 2008 and February 2024, we lost expensive trees.

Now, the front yard sees more birds than we did over all the years our home has been here since 1958.

While you research the native trees of your valley, let your gardens and yards grow wild and attract the plethora of wildlife you hope will make their entrance.

We invite and welcome you to the newest frontiers.

Here is the link to a site for our valley's native plants and trees CNPS Santa Clara Valley Home (cnps-scv.org)



San Jose Police vehicle. Photo by Thomas Hawk, Creative Commons

## 'Pink Cocaine' Drug Factory uncovered in raid at Blossom Hill Shopping Center

Evidence of an illegal narcotics factory offering a dangerous synthetic "pink cocaine" was uncovered when San Jose Police raided a building in a Blossom Hill shopping center as reported last week.

Detectives with the city's special operations unit said the building in the middle of a retail center in the 400 block of Blossom Hill Road in the Santa Teresa neighborhood manufactured and sold an illegal drug concoction that combined a mixture of ketamine, Methylene-dioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), methamphetamine, cocaine, and opioids.

Detectives said the illegal drugs allegedly manufactured at a Donut Shop and sold by suspect Luis Carrillo-Moyeda, 32, of San Jose, are commonly known as "Tusi," "2C," "Pink Cocaine," "Pantera Rosa," or "Pink Panther." Police identified Carrillo-Moyeda as the prime suspect in the case.

Detectives said they obtained search warrants on January 19 for the suspect's San Jose residence and his "business." The next day, the San Jose Police Department's Special Operations METRO Unit, with the assistance of SJPD's Violent Crimes Enforcement Team, Street Crimes Unit and Downtown Services Unit executed the search warrants and recovered various illegal narcotics, narcotics manufacturing parts, large amounts of cash. An unregistered firearm and ammunition was also seized.

Anyone with information about these cases or similar cases is asked to contact Officer Kaufman #4726 of the San José Police METRO Unit via email: 4726@sanjoseca.gov or 408-277-4044.

Submit crime tips and remain anonymous by using the P3TIPS mobile app, calling the tip line at (408) 947-STOP, or on www.siliconvalleycrimestoppers.org. If the information submitted leads to an arrest, you're eligible for a cash reward from the Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers Program.

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Times **Local News**

# Symphony San Jose presents 'From Screen To Stage' featuring Danny Elfman violin concerto

*Elfman's violin concerto was written for Symphony San Jose soloist, Sandy Cameron, who herself can be heard on numerous Hollywood soundtracks*

By **William Bellou**  
Publisher

Symphony San Jose presents *From Screen To Stage* featuring the Danny Elfman violin concerto on Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, downtown San Jose.

Many classical composers have been seduced by cinema, none more so than Erich Korngold and Dmitri Shostakovich. Korngold was the first composer with international stature to compose for Hollywood. In Russia, Shostakovich was having similar success with the new medium.

**Film/tv composers**

There have also been film/tv composers lured to the concert hall. Known for his iconic scores for *The Simpsons*, *Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Batman*, and much more, Danny Elfman is a four-time Oscar nominee and one of the most revered composers in Hollywood.

Elfman's violin concerto was written for Symphony San Jose soloist, Sandy Cameron, who her-



Violinist, **Sandy Cameron** (Photo courtesy of the artist and Symphony San Jose.)



**Conductor, Sarah Hicks** (Photo of Conductor Sarah Hicks by Greg Helgeson).

self can be heard on numerous Hollywood soundtracks.

Conductor Sarah Hicks is a specialist in film music and the film in concert genre. Whether writing for stage or screen, these composers' music tell a story.

**THE PROGRAM**

Erich Korngold: Overture to *The Sea Hawk*  
Danny Elfman: Violin Concerto  
Dmitri Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1

**ARTISTS**

Sarah Hicks, conductor

A specialist in film music and the film in concert genre, she has premiered "Pixar in Concert" and "Coco in Concert"; her live concert recording of "A Celebration of the Music of Coco at the Hollywood Bowl" can be seen on Disney+ and her work on "Little Mermaid Live" was broadcast on ABC. Since 2019, she has acted as consultant for Disney Concerts in developing live-to-film products.

**Sandy Cameron, violin**

Declared "brilliant" by the Washington Post, violinist Sandy Cameron is one of the most strikingly unique artists of her generation. Since her debut at the age of 12 in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, Ms. Cameron has performed extensively as a soloist throughout the world.

**TICKETS**

Phone: 408.286.2600; Website: [www.symphonysanjosese.org](http://www.symphonysanjosese.org); Email: [jmeyers@symphonysanjosese.org](mailto:jmeyers@symphonysanjosese.org); Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm.

**Fun Facts**

Shostakovich wrote this first symphony at the age of 18 while working as a cinema pianist.

Korngold, considered a child prodigy, composed his first opera at the age of 11.

## Local leaders, Panetta, Ellenberg, Mahan discuss innovative efforts to address opioid crisis

*Rep. Panetta introduces bicameral, bipartisan "Combating Illicit Xylazine Act"*

United States Representative Jimmy Panetta (CA-19), Santa Clara County Board President Susan Ellenberg, San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, as well as public health and safety leaders in Santa Clara County held a roundtable discussion on the ongoing local response to the opioid and fentanyl crisis.

Leaders discussed innovative solutions to stay ahead of recent trends as well as areas of collaboration at the federal, state, local, and community levels.

Rep. Panetta continues to lead efforts in Congress to empower California's 19th Congressional Dis-

trict and communities around the country with the tools and resources they need to stop the flow of illicit fentanyl, prosecute illegal drug traffickers, and expand care options for individuals struggling with opioid use disorder.

Rep. Panetta has introduced the bicameral, bipartisan Combating Illicit Xylazine Act which would crack down and schedule the highly dangerous sedative causing fatal overdoses in California and nationwide.

"The opioid and fentanyl crisis is evolving, and we need all levels of government engaged on this issue to save lives and stop the flow of illegal drugs into our community," said Rep. Panetta. "In bringing together local leaders as well as law enforcement and public health experts, we can strengthen the partnerships so critical to deploying innovative solutions to effectively respond to this threat. I'm continuing to fight in Congress for straightforward, bipartisan policies that will ensure communities like ours have the resources that they need to help treat those living with addiction, keep out those dangerous drugs, and keep our community safe."



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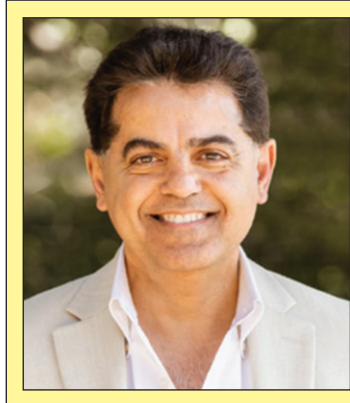
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Times **In Memory**

**OP ED**

# History San Jose brings back memories

By **Bill Schroh, Jr.**  
President & CEO  
History San José

Happy February!

Who knew that just mentioning History San José is turning 75 this year would bring back all kinds of memories from our HSJ members, volunteers, and supporters?

People have reached out to me via emails, notes, and letters regarding the history of HSJ over the years. Recently, Jennifer Renzel sent me a packet of information regarding her parents' involvement in the devel-



opment of Kelley Park. She reminded me that her parents, Ernie and Emily Renzel, along with Alden Campen saved the former Kelley Property from development.

They purchased the property for the city to turn it into a park, and the city paid them back over time. It is thanks to the generosity of these three individuals that we all can enjoy Happy Hollow Zoo and Park, the Japanese Friendship Garden, and of course History Park. History San José named the meeting room of the Pacific Hotel the Renzel Room in their honor.

To learn more about their work, visit this link. Please keep these memories coming. I delight in reading and hearing about how History San José (formerly San Jose Historical Museum) has evolved. Sometimes the story behind the organization is just as fascinating as the stories we tell today.

Our festival season got off to a great start as the Vietnamese Museum held its annual Lunar New Year Festival (formerly Tet Festival). A notable highlight this year was

witnessing the passing of the torch from the older generation to the younger generation of Vietnamese Americans during the festival. Through these intergenerational collaborations, the rich culture and heritage of Vietnam will endure in San José. If you were not able to join us last weekend, next month the Chinese American Historical Museum will be hosting a Lunar New Year event celebrating the Year of the Dragon as well.

As you can see, our affiliates use History Park in many different ways to teach visitors about their culture and heritage. Our affiliates are not the only groups allowed to use the park to celebrate their culture and heritage; History Park belongs to everyone who lives in the Santa Clara Valley.

We are always looking to expand the cultural diversity at History Park. If you belong to a group or organization looking for a place to host a cultural celebration, please email us at [info@historysanjose.org](mailto:info@historysanjose.org). I would love to hear from you!

Hope to see you soon at History Park!

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NEWS

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San José Mayor **Matt Mahan** at a press conference on February 8.

## San José Mayor endorses Prop 47 reform

Mayor **Matt Mahan** views reform as a key step in curbing crime, reducing street homelessness and building safer cities

San José Mayor **Matt Mahan** held a press conference February 8 to speak in support of Prop 47 reform.

"10 years ago, the voters approved Prop 47, a well-intentioned initiative, to reduce over incarceration in our state. A decade later, we've succeeded at reducing our jail population, but like all legislation, Prop 47 was not perfect and has had significant unintended consequences," Mahan said.

Mahan said a small number of people brazenly commit crimes without fear of accountability. "People are so trapped in addiction that they refuse services and subsist in misery on our streets and, in the worst of cases, are dying of fentanyl overdoses in increasing numbers."

Mayor Mahan outlined several steps to reform Prop 47.

- Reclassifying theft with two or more prior convictions as a jail-eligible felony.
- After two hard drug convictions, providing discretion to change a third hard drug possession as a treatment-mandated felon, with a full expungement if drug and/or mental health treatment is completed.
- Adding fentanyl to the list of hard drugs, resulting in felony prison time for dealers when in possession of large quantities or firearms.

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**TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK**

# Top Tech Trends of '24

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:

**Top Tech Trends of 2024**

Last week we analyzed the new trends and solutions that may have the significant impact on technology success in 2024. Let’s continue our story here:

**1. Quantum Computing**

In November, IBM unveiled its Quantum System Two. At 22 feet wide and 12 feet tall, these modular computing units can be linked together to amplify their power. When quantum computing technology like this becomes mature, extremely complicated problems that are beyond modern computers' ability to crack -- like those at the forefront of medicine, ecology, economics and more -- could finally be made solvable.

**2. Electric Vehicles**

As we step into 2024, big changes are happening in the EV industry and the electrification of transportation. Electric vehicle trends for 2024 include

lower electric car prices, an expansion of EV charging stations, and greater EV charging plug compatibility.

**3. Brain Computer Interfaces**

This year, researchers are taking a deep dive in exploring Brain-Computer Links. Brain-computer interfaces (BCI) are likely to show promising developments this year. BCI operates by enhancing the brain’s adaptability in areas where neural circuits are malfunctioning, utilizing intact brain regions linked to emotions and cognition. This process restores communication between peripheral sites, like body parts and the brain. This is a notable technology trend of 2024.

**4. Importance of Full-Stack Development**

This 2024 technology trend heralds a paradigm shift in software engineering by streamlining the development process. The ability to work across the entire stack empowers full-stack developers to expedite product development and deployment, providing a competitive edge in today’s fast-paced technological landscape. As businesses prioritize efficiency and agility, the full-stack development trend continues to gain momentum, shaping the way applications are conceptualized, developed, and delivered.

Concluding, from the integration of cutting-edge technologies like quantum computing to the rise of innovative fields such as AI Trust, the year ahead promises unprecedented opportunities and challenges. These are the advanced yet significant technology trends of 2024.

**About the Author**

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

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## Supporting efforts to reform Prop 47

By Matt Mahan

So often, we pass legislation for the right reasons but end up with the wrong results.

We declare an end to over-incarceration but leave our small businesses to fend for themselves against rising thefts.

We declare an end to the war on drugs but lack an alternative means to keep fentanyl out of our neighborhoods and addicts in our treatment centers.

We end up with unintended consequences that make us all less safe. And when we see these unintended consequences, we can't be afraid to fix what isn't working.

We can't be afraid to challenge the status quo when it clearly is not working for our community. That's why I announced that I'm supporting efforts to reform Prop 47, a well-intended and sweeping 2014 ballot initiative that reclassified numerous theft and drug-related crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. While Prop 47 has reduced overcrowding in jails and prisons and given second chances to many individuals who have gone on to choose better paths, it has also exposed glaring gaps in our justice system that need to be addressed.

The first relates to our growing drug addiction crisis which in turn contributes to homelessness, other forms of crime, and untold human suffering. Since the passage of Prop 47, participation in drug courts has plummeted and overdose deaths have skyrocketed in part because judges have lost the leverage they need to compel severely addicted individuals to enroll in treatment and stick with it. They also don't have all the tools they need to treat fentanyl like the deadly drug that it is.

Prop 47 assumed that shifting funding from jails to more treatment options would increase utilization of treatment, but by removing the consequence for failure to use treatment, it tragically has had the opposite effect. As an aside, I personally believe that the best "consequence" would be sentencing to a secure treatment facility that is mandatory like a jail, but specialized for addiction treatment and rehabilitation.

But until our state and counties build and license secure treatment facilities for substance use disorders (this would be an eligible use of Proposition 1 funding, should voters approve it in March), we are left with traditional jail as the most effective stick for compelling the severely addicted to choose treatment. Those of us working to reform Prop 47 would bring back this tool, but in a measured way by allowing a judge to change a third hard drug possession conviction as a treatment-mandated

felony. The offender would be assigned an addiction specialist and have access to shelter and job training, and the ability to expunge the offense upon successful completion of the treatment. Refusing treatment would result in jail time with the option of diverting to the treatment pathway at any time.

We also would add fentanyl to the list of hard drugs resulting in felony prison time for drug dealers when in possession of large quantities or firearms.

The second big gap revolves around retail theft, and particularly repeat and organized retail theft. As the PPIC recently testified in Sacramento, retail theft in California is rising in spite of likely underreporting. Beyond even the appalling videos of brazen thefts we've all seen on social media in recent years, I'm heartbroken by the number of small businesses in our city who tell me theft is threatening their livelihoods while they feel powerless to stop it.

While second chances may be worth giving, we shouldn't be giving third, fourth, and fifth chances without real consequences and ideally evidence of a commitment to change on the part of the repeat offender. Once again, I'm the first to argue that our jails must become more effective. Low-level offenders in local jails should be gaining job skills and preparing to re-enter society as productive community members with a transition plan in place. Our jails often fall far short on rehabilitation. But the answer should be to improve them, not refuse to send offenders to them.

To bring back accountability and stop repeat and organized retail theft, those of us working to reform Prop 47 would reclassify a third theft with 2 or more prior convictions as a jail-eligible felony and would allow the fourth theft conviction to be eligible for state prison. We would also allow aggregation of the amounts stolen by an individual to reach the \$950 threshold to reduce the incentive to structure crime around a series of "small" offenses that never amount to serious consequences.

These are targeted and measured changes to Prop 47 that would increase accountability where it is needed most—compelling treatment for those hooked on the most destructive and addictive drugs, applying meaningful consequences for repeated theft, and prosecuting those who bring fentanyl into our communities—without returning to the era of mass incarceration.

- We need to have a solution when mothers who have lost their children due to a laced fentanyl pill come asking why the dealer who sold their child poison is still on the streets hurting other families.

- We need to have a solution when our small businesses come to us in fear of losing their livelihood over repeated retail theft.

- We need to have a solution to the crisis of addiction we see playing out on our streets and in our homes. Reforming Proposition 47 is an important piece of that solution.



**From the Mayor**  
Matt Mahan  
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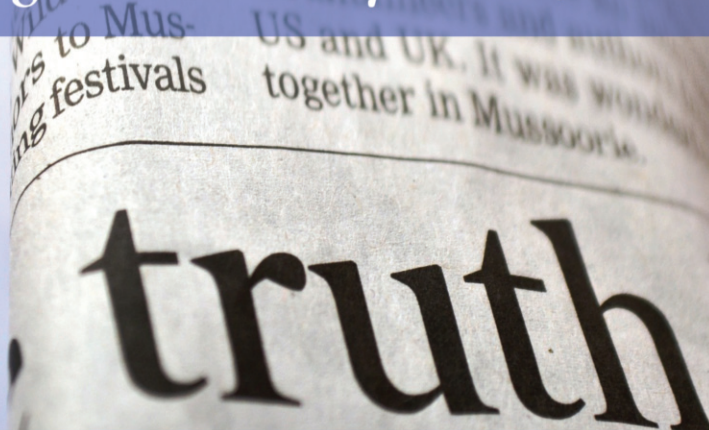
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