

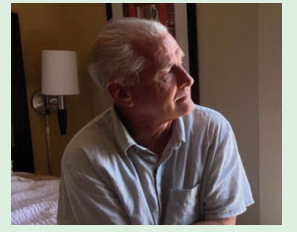
New license plate reader installed in East San Jose; more to come
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Local Realtor® clears up recent confusion about the industry
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Silicon Valley nonprofit shutters homeless support group
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MAY 31 - JUNE 13, 2024 ■ VOL. 41, NO. 12

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Love of dogs turns into dog-walking business which provides donations for a good cause

By William Bellou
Publisher

What began as pure love for one dog has turned into a successful dog-walking business in Evergreen Valley.

"My initial exposure to dogs was minimal, and my approach towards them was always trepid. But it all changed when my best friend got a puppy," said Advait Chugh, a junior at Archbishop Mitty High School.

While spending some time with his friend, Advait observed the puppy in close quarters and gradually began to cherish his time with the new puppy. The puppy grew into a friendly, healthy dog, and they experienced mutual love.

"Last summer, my friend's mom casually asked me to walk their dog while they went on a vacation, and that is when I started to walk dogs. I got paid for this and immediately knew I needed to put the money towards a good cause," Advait said. "Seeing the homeless people in many parts of our city made me think of ways to help. After visiting California Governor's Office website link for volunteers, I decided to donate for the providing of hygiene amenity kits and socks. So, I drew up a personal goal to raise money and donate to



this cause."

To reach his goal, Advait advertised by word of mouth in Evergreen and on public forums. He also read various articles on dog behaviors specific to breeds and their ages. Younger dogs, for example, typically are friskier in their first and second year and need more attention than older dogs.

"I began walking two more dogs, and they took me as much as I took them! They get excited when they know I'm there to pick them up," Advait explained. "I had to balance my schedule and weather vagaries as well. I usually walk the dogs 1:1 around the neighborhood they are familiar with. A regular three-to-four-mile walk is vitally essential for a dog's health."

Advait has reached 90% of his monetary goal and plans to surpass it to gather more funds for the cause he cares about. He has donated more than 200 amenity kits since the fall of 2023. As much as he's excited about walking dogs, Advait feels content about contributing to the community.

"Advait has been walking our dog Zeus since last summer and he gets very excited at the mention of Advait's name as he enjoys his walks," said Suresh Sasidaran. "Advait is always on time to pick up Zeus and rest assured we can trust our dog with him."

Editor's note: Here's the California Governor's Office website volunteer link: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/homelessness> To reach Advait, email: rishichugh@sbcglobal.net.

Painful cuts are predicted to balance Santa Clara County's fiscal \$12.4 billion budget

By William Bellou
Publisher

Painful cuts are predicted to balance Santa Clara County's \$12.4 billion budget.

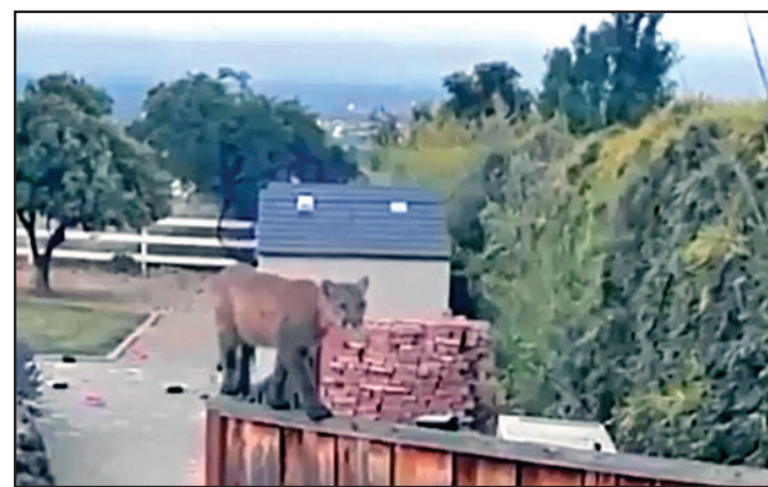
County officials are trying to bridge a massive deficit through an infusion of new revenue and realigned costs to balance its fiscal year's budget.

Proposed changes could close about half of its \$250 million gap by shifting more patients over to Medi-Cal to reduce costs associated with the county's own primary care access program. A few other solutions include an increase in building permit fees, selling unused vehicles and other equipment and the use of restricted

monies instead of taxpayer dollars.

County officials are expected to close the other half of the \$250 million deficit by reducing expenditures across all departments by about \$118 million. Most of the cuts may be achieved by eliminating vacant jobs.

County resources may be cut for the county's participation in a statewide child services program known as First 5, which could result in reduced home visitation services to high-risk children, including those in foster care and children who are pregnant or parenting a child. Other departments seeing decreases include the District Attorney's Office.



FENCE JUMPER

This mountain lion was captured on a ring camera jumping a fence in the backyard of a home near Tully Rd. and Ruby Rd. AT 5:30 a.m. on May 18. Neighbors are asking everyone living in the area to be cautious if you are out walking late in the evening.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

This incredible night shot was taken by Gabriela Florido on Bailey Ave. on May 11. The Bay Area night skies illuminated purple with the glow of aurora borealis due to a massive and rare geomagnetic storm that made the dazzling natural phenomena visible farther south than normal.



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Times **Community News**



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

REALTOR® clears up confusion about industry

Editor,

There has been a lot of misinformation in the news lately about pending changes coming to the real estate industry and what they mean for homebuyers and sellers. As a dedicated REALTOR® in Santa Clara County I'd like to clarify any confusion your readers may have.

Because of a recent settlement by real estate brokerages and the National Association of REALTORS®, two things are changing. First, properties listed on the multiple listing service (MLS) will no longer include an offer of compensation to buyer's agents. Second, homebuyers who want to work with an agent will need to sign a written agreement with that agent before touring a home. That means before homebuyers start their home search, they'll need to discuss and agree with their agent what the agent will do on their behalf, and they'll need to decide how much and how to pay that agent.

Historically, nearly nine in 10 homebuyers have opted to work with a real estate agent or broker in what is possibly the most important purchase of their lives. That's because we help buyers and sellers navigate a maze of forms and complex paperwork; coordinate with lenders, inspectors, other agents, escrow companies, title companies, appraisers, and other professionals; and ensure that our clients' interests are represented in pricing, negotiation and closing.

The pending changes will not affect what makes REALTORS® valuable -- a commitment to work in their clients' best interests. REALTORS® throughout the state will continue to serve their clients every day and help make homeownership a reality for all Californians who aspire to it.

Michelle Perry (2024 SCCAOR President)
Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS®

SNHU announces Zheng Lou and Doanld Zeller of Evergreen Valley to Winter 2024 President's List

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) recently announced that two residents, Zheng Lou, and Donald Zeller of Evergreen Valley, have been named to the Winter 2024 President's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults, serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH.

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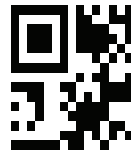


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New license plate reader installed in East San Jose

It's the 235th such camera installed in city, and Mayor Matt Mahan plans to expand it to 500 by the summer

Mayor Matt Mahan lent an extra pair of hands April 23 to put some of the first screws in a new automatic license plate reader camera at King Road and Wilshire Boulevard, which city officials said will function as an "extra pair of eyes" overseeing the neighborhood.

It's the 235th camera in the city featuring automatic license plate recognition, or ALPR, technology from Flock Safety. Mahan said that ALPR technology has helped the city arrest around 200 suspects and recover \$2 million worth of stolen vehicles last year. He also said he plans to expand the city's network of Flock cameras to 500 by this summer.

"It is home to many seniors and families who want it to be safer and believe that this camera technology will help," Mahan said in Spanish of the area where the camera was installed.

Peter Ortiz, the San Jose councilmember representing District 5, said the intersection where the camera was installed has a high number of traffic collisions and hit-and-runs, and that the "extra pair of eyes" will allow police to catch reckless drivers and curtail criminal activity in



Mayor Matt Mahan helped install an automatic license plate reader on the intersection of King Road and Wilshire Boulevard in San Jose on April 23. Credit: NOLLYANNE DELACRUZ

East San Jose.

San Jose Police Chief Paul Joseph said he hoped the camera would deter people from committing crimes and would make residents feel safe.

"No one thing that anyone's doing is going to prevent crime," Joseph said. "Hopefully, there is a deterrent effect where people realize that coming to San Jose or being in San Jose and committing a crime, the likelihood of being caught is far greater with this use of technology."

Danny Garza, president of the Plata Arroyo Neighborhood Association, said East San Jose residents have been asking the city for more public safety measures in the area for 15 years.

He said that the city's Strong Neigh-

borhood Initiative, which launched in 2000, taught residents to advocate for themselves as they dealt with an ongoing crime problem.

"I'm proud for the community," Garza said.

A combination of funds from the city's general fund, allocations from last year's budget and a grant for tackling organized retail theft were used to fund the city's network of Flock cameras. Thomas said each camera costs \$3,000 to operate each year.

Josh Thomas, senior vice president of policy and communications of Flock Safety, said that the new camera operates via a combination of modern hardware and machine learning. The cameras are designed to take a photo of the cars passing by, and capture the state and number on the license plate as well as the color, make and model of the car. Thomas said that law enforcement can use a search function in Flock's program to search with the features of the car to narrow down suspects' vehicles.

Although ALPR technology is increasingly popular among Bay Area city officials, privacy advocates continue to express concerns. Mike Katz-Lacabe, director of research with Oakland Privacy, said that what's unique about San Jose's network is that the data is stored for a year — in other cities, like Oakland, it is held for only 28 days — increasing the risk of the information being exposed in a data breach.

In California particularly, there are worries that the stored data may be shared with agencies that target immigrants here illegally. Katz-Lacabe said that although there is a law in place to stop California

See *READER*, next page

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Times Local News

Silicon Valley nonprofit shuttered homeless support group

By B. Sakura Cannestra
San José Spotlight

A homeless support group in San Jose is closing down, and members are unsure about whether they will be able to continue their work.

Sacred Heart Community Service shuttered its homelessness organizing committee, Survivors of the Streets (SOS), and let go of the group's organizer, citing dwindling resources. This loss comes at a pivotal moment when various programs are getting off the ground. The program launched in 2019.

Michael Morand, one of the founding members of SOS, said the disbandment is frustrating. He had been spearheading a landscaping and beautification program with San Jose that could give jobs to homeless individuals. He said the committee had just begun gaining momentum when Sacred Heart announced it would be ending.

"For us personally as a group, it was a big loss," Morand told San José Spotlight. "As far as the impact it would have on the city and/or the county, it's hard to determine... We came up with some great ideas and had some good things going, so the impact could be huge."



Michael Morand is a member of the now-disbanded Survivors of the Streets committee, which used to be hosted at Sacred Heart. Photo by Joyce Chu.

Demone Carter, Sacred Heart's director of community engagement, said some funding programs that began during the COVID pandemic will sunset soon and private donors have been pulling back on funding. In 2021, the nonprofit received more than \$49 million in unrestricted revenue. In 2022 it increased to more than \$54 million, but dropped to \$44 million in 2023.

"We're always looking at ways to streamline (and) reallocate resources in the way that we feel will best serve our mission and vision, and this was one of those tough decisions," Carter told San José Spotlight.

He added that the group's biggest expenditure was paying the sole employee, Derrick Sanderlin, as other committee members were volunteers.

Carter said SOS members have been invited into other committees in Sacred Heart, such as the Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee and Race, Equity and Community Safety committee. But he doesn't know of anyone from SOS who has joined another committee.

Before being disbanded, SOS had been working with the city and the county on a few programs, such as the landscaping program, Sanderlin said.

Sanderlin said he believes the homeless and formerly homeless committee members will continue trying to organize, without Sacred Heart's support.

"There are other groups that can offer perspective to the city, but what I really think SOS provides is the opportunity... not just inform city leaders but actually push on them and make demands," Sanderlin told San José Spotlight.

Morand said he felt the decision to close SOS came from more than just a lack of funding. Before its end, SOS had been protesting homeless nonprofit service provider HomeFirst over alleged discrimination, and Morand said he worried that stance led to the committee's disbanding.

Carter said that wasn't the case and repeated that SOS was closed while Sacred Heart's resources were being reallocated. HomeFirst

spokesperson Lori Smith also denied the suggestion, saying the nonprofit hadn't been aware SOS was still operating and wasn't engaged with the committee at all.

Morand and other SOS members would like to continue their work, even though the relationship is over with Sacred Heart. He still hopes the nonprofit could change its mind and reestablish the committee. Morand said he plans to continue the landscaping program either way, to help bring more job opportunities for unhoused people.

To Sanderlin, the closure of SOS is a warning about dwindling support for organizing in San Jose.

"This is so much more than just one committee, this does call into question the infrastructure of organizing in San Jose," he told San José Spotlight. "There's other things going on between that, but if we don't have time to build with people and there's no capacity funding wise, we just have to start asking a lot of deeper questions. It's going to be hard."

Reader, continued

agencies from sharing information with out-of-state agencies, information still can be shared unofficially while police departments work with these agencies on joint task forces.

"If it's shared unofficially, there's a lack of

accountability," Katz-Lacabe said.

Katz-Lacabe encouraged drivers concerned about privacy issues to be aware of what their local governments are doing and educate themselves about what ALPR cameras look like, and lobby officials to amend issues in their privacy policies.

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TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

Privacy Policy

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:



Privacy Policy

If you’ve ever signed up for a social media platform, created an email address, downloaded an app, or ordered something online— you’ve encountered a privacy policy. Let’s study what is a privacy policy, that incorporates aspects of personally identifiable information (PII) which we learnt a few weeks ago.

A privacy policy is a legal document that explains how an organization handles any customer, client or employee information gathered in its operations. It will include how data is collected, stored, used, shared and protected and the user’s rights in connection to the data. It is required by law in the European Union, the State of California and other jurisdictions.

A privacy policy should specify any personally identifiable information (PII) that is gathered, such

as name, address and credit card number, as well as other information like order history, browsing habits, uploads and downloads. The policy should also explain if data can be left on a user’s computer, such as cookies. The policy should disclose if data can be shared with or sold to third parties and if so, what the purpose is.

When do I need a privacy policy?

Basically, if you or your company collects any type of personal information, you need a privacy policy. Email addresses, names, birthdays, social security numbers and credit card numbers are all examples of personal information. Your method of collecting this information might vary. You may use a website, a mobile app, an eCommerce site or emails to get the info. No matter how you get users’ personal data, you will need a policy that explains what you’re using it for.

So how do you sign up the privacy policy?

With the help of clickwrap (or click-accept) agreement, users sign an online agreement by clicking a button or checking a box. Privacy policies and Terms and Conditions are two of the most common types of clickwrap agreements that companies can add to sign-up pages, checkout flows, and login pages.

Clickwrap agreements have become a common, legally binding way to enter a contract with another party online. The transaction is comprised of a collection of trackable data points confirming that a user “actively assented” to an agreement through an action — in this case, clicking a button.

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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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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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.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassis.com
or www.stfrancisofassispreschool.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

SOS

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PROVERBS 18:10 - GOD IS OUR SHELTER