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# Evergreen Times

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## Symphony San Jose, Chorale San Jose perform classical music's scariest hits on October 26-27

Just in time for Halloween, Symphony San Jose and Symphony San Jose Chorale conjure up some of classical music's scariest hits in performances scheduled Saturday, October 26, 2024 (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday, October 27, 2024 (2:30 p.m.)

This thrilling and bone-chilling concert experience is perfect for the entire family. So, whether you bring your flesh-in-blood, your broom-mate, your boo, or just come on your own, Symphonic Spooktacular is guaranteed to raise your spirits.

The program includes J.S. Bach (Tocatta & Fugue in D Minor); Camille Saint-Saëns (Danse Macabre); Modest Mussorgsky (Night on Bald Mountain); John Williams (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban); Franz Schubert (Die Erlkönig); Bernard Herrmann (Psycho); and Edvard Grieg (In the Hall of the Mountain King).

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## Evergreen District 8 City Council candidate temporarily decertified as a police officer

By Joyce Chu  
*San José Spotlight*

A San Jose police sergeant and City Council candidate has had his officer certification temporarily suspended by the state police board amid allegations of mortgage fraud.

The state's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training temporarily decertified Tam Truong on Sept. 18 due to his pending criminal proceedings. The state board decertifies officers when they have committed serious misconduct, such as sexual assault, abuse of power or violation of the law.

"I am completely innocent," Truong told San José Spotlight. "When all the facts are presented, that will be clear to everyone."

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office charged Truong with grand theft related to mortgage fraud, in a one-count criminal complaint filed on Sept. 5. The complaint alleged Truong unlawfully took personal property and money — exceeding \$100,000 — from Orange Coast Title of Northern California, PHH Mortgage Services, Newrez LLC and American Home Mortgage.

In 2022, Orange Coast Title Company sued Truong for allegedly defrauding an escrow officer, which allowed Truong to ditch his mortgage and collect nearly \$540,000 from the sale of a home.



San Jose City Council District 8 candidate **Tam Truong** (center) had his officer certification temporarily suspended by the state police board amid allegations of mortgage fraud. *Photo by Annalise Freimarck.*

The San Jose Police Department put Truong on administrative leave after he was charged with grand theft. SJPD representatives did not respond to a request for comment on Truong's decertification.

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan pulled his endorsement for Truong after he was charged by the DA's office.

"This single-count complaint filed by the district attorney's office represents nothing more than an allegation," Truong previously told San

José Spotlight. "It is based on a misunderstanding of all the facts in this case. This matter has been settled through a civil proceeding, which is the appropriate venue. There is no evidence that I intended to mislead anyone."

Truong, who's worked in law enforcement for two decades, is running against incumbent Councilmember Domingo Candelas for the District 8 San Jose City Council seat in November.

San José Spotlight last year also reported that  
*See DECERTIFIED, page 4*

## State to send San Jose millions to clear homeless camps

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

The state of California is getting ready to send San Jose money to help clear encampments and provide support to unhoused residents.

The funding is being allocated from the state's Encampment Resolution Funding grant program and follows Newsom's July order that local jurisdictions be more aggressive at clearing encampments throughout the state.

Although the amount the state

plans to send is nearly \$5 million, officials reveal that it's not nearly enough compared to what the city needs to tackle the homelessness crisis.

Gov. Gavin Newsom doled out \$130.7 million last week to assist in reducing the number of homeless people statewide. Local advocates say the money won't go far, and that the state needs to invest more in solutions.

San Jose wants to open eight safe sleeping sites throughout the city, with each tent having a max-



The city began sweeping a homeless encampment near Columbus Park in early September. The area was cleared two years ago to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's demands, and since then has repopulated with dozens of people living in their cars and RVs. *Photo by Joyce Chu.*

imum price tag of \$40,000. For 500 tents, for a total expenditure of \$20 million. Additionally, the

city is working on a parking site projected to cost more than \$8 million.

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



# Vote for Domingo on November 5th

**Domingo Candelas** was born and raised in District 8, and has spent the last two years as councilmember fighting for residents and neighborhoods in Evergreen and East San José.



## Domingo is getting it done!



**Dave Cortese California State Senator**

“During his time as San José’s District 8 Councilmember, Domingo has been at the forefront of fighting for families. His commitment to our community and his passion for public service makes him the clear choice to represent District 8 in City Hall.”



**Zoe Lofgren U.S Congresswoman, District 18**

“Domingo Candelas brings a deep passion to public service, and has been a strong community advocate his entire life. He is committed to ensuring that San José continues to move in the right direction and that all District 8 residents have a voice in City Hall. I know he is the right candidate for D8, which is why he has my full support.”

[domingocandelas.com](http://domingocandelas.com)  
408-365-4446 (cell)  
[alofus@domingocandelas.com](mailto:alofus@domingocandelas.com)

Paid for by Domingo Candelas for San José City Council District 8 2024 FPPC# 1461584



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## Panetta reintroduces bipartisan legislation ensuring veterans transportation to medical appointments

United States Representative Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would permanently provide safe and reliable transportation for veterans to and from VA facilities and other treatment centers.

The Veterans Earned Transportation (Vets ETA) Act would permanently reauthorize a VA program that provides these transportation services for veterans to better access vocational rehabilitation, counseling, and medical treatment, particularly for those who are visually impaired, elderly, immobile, or living in remote and rural areas.

“Many veterans who live in rural areas throughout our country have a difficult time accessing VA health care due to the distance they have to travel,” said Rep. Panetta. “This bipartisan legislation would ensure permanent funding for vital VA transportation services, allowing veterans, regardless of their ability or where they live, access the mental, physical, and vocational care that they may need. Taking this action is a big step towards ensuring that the United States is serving all those who served our country.”

More than 32,300 veterans currently live in California’s 19th Congressional District. The Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) was established in 2010. Since then, the VA has focused on expanding access and estab-

lishing Mobility Managers at each VA facility to better meet the transportation needs of veterans across the country. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) and Ted Lieu (CA-36) co-lead the Vets ETA Act.

“The absence of dependable transportation for our veterans to their VA appointments greatly impacts their access to essential care,” said Rep. Fitzpatrick. “I am proud to join my colleagues in the introduction of the bipartisan Veterans Earned Transportation Act, to permanently authorize a program that ensures safe and reliable transportation to VA treatment providers, thereby alleviating the unjust burden on our veterans, so they can receive the care they deserve.”

“Our veterans have dedicated their lives to defending our nation and deserve access to high-quality care after their service,” said Rep. Lieu. “We owe it to them to make sure they have access to mental health care, medical treatment, job training services, and more offered by the VA. No veteran should lose access to these critical supports due to a lack of reliable transportation. I am pleased to join Representative Panetta to reintroduce the Vets ETA Act, which would permanently fund a VA program that provides safe and reliable transportation for veterans to and from their VA care.”

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## Decertified

*Continued from page 1*

Truong at one point owed more than \$30,000 to a former employee of his private security company, Training and Protective Services. He started the company in 2012 to offer private patrols for neighborhoods just as the city’s police force was hemorrhaging officers due to Measure B, a ballot measure that slashed retirement benefits for SJPD officers.

One of Truong’s employees, Kevin Halverson, claimed he worked nearly 1,700 hours in the first half of 2013, but was paid for only a little more than 500 hours, in a wage theft case filed with the state labor commissioner in 2014.

Following a hearing and testimony from Halverson and some of his co-workers in early 2015, the labor commissioner ordered Truong to pay Halverson \$34,071 in wages, damages, interest and penalties. Truong’s company dissolved a short time later.

“Running for elected office as a decertified police officer isn’t a very good look for a candidate,” Steve Slack, president of the San Jose Police Officers’ Association, told San José Spotlight. “Voters deserve to know the truth and we encourage Tam Truong to publicly release, in its entirety, the settlement agreement that he says resolves the civil lawsuit that accused him of defrauding a mortgage company out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

**Happy Halloween**  
from the staff of the Times



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Times **Community News**

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\$96.00 per person (Non-refundable cancellation after October 9, 2024).

Travel through trestles, through towering redwood groves and up winding narrow-gauge grade to the summit of Bear Mountain as conductors narrate the history of Roaring Camp, the railroad and the forest.

In the 1880s, narrow gauge steam locomotives were used to haul giant redwood logs out of the mountains. Roaring Camp's steam engines date from 1890 and are among the oldest and most authentically preserved narrow-gauge steam engines providing regularly scheduled passenger service in America.

Lunch will be provided: Chicken Platter includes side salad, western-style ranch beans, corn, roll and butter, unlimited soft drinks, coffee, hot tea, water and marshmallows to roast.

Sign up MWF from 8-10am in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center.  
For questions, contact Donna at [dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net) or 408 266-4938



**30th anniversary of holidays at the Ainsley House**

From Nov. 14 - Dec. 22, the Ainsley House and Holiday Boutique will be open Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Ainsley House is thrilled to welcome visitors this holiday season with a variety of festive events for the whole family.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of celebrating the holidays at the Ainsley House, and the theme, "Holiday Heritage," will highlight the ancestral and cultural traditions of the decorators. Each room will be adorned to reflect these unique heritages, making the Ainsley House a magical and unforgettable experience.

There's something for everyone to enjoy! Join us for a range of holiday celebrations, including Holiday Teas & Tours, the Holiday Boutique, Evening Open Houses, and Photos with Santa, as the Ainsley House spreads holiday cheer.

The Ainsley House invites the community to enjoy a festive holiday season with a variety of events and activities. From November 14 through December 22, the Ainsley House and Holiday Boutique will be open to the public Thursdays through Sundays from 11 AM to 3 PM. Please note that the Ainsley House will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Visitors can explore the beautifully decorated house at their own pace with self-guided tours. Admission is \$12 for adults (ages 18-64), \$10 for seniors (65+), and \$8 for youth (ages 7-17). Museum members receive free admission.

The Holiday Boutique, located in the Carriage House and the kitchen on the first floor of the Ainsley House, will be open during regular visiting hours. It features a selection of unique seasonal gifts, ornaments, jewelry, scarves, and more, perfect for holiday shopping.

The Campbell Museum Foundation's annual Holiday Teas and Tours fundraiser will take place on December 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15. Guests will enjoy finger sandwiches, champagne, a special Ainsley blend tea, and delicious treats in the Carriage House, followed by a self-guided tour of the Ainsley



The Ainsley House was built in the style of an English Tudor Cotswold cottage in 1925 and serves as an arts and crafts house in Campbell, California.

House. Seating begins at 12 p.m., and admission is \$65 for the general public and \$60 for museum members. Proceeds support exhibits, education programs, and preservation efforts at the Campbell Historical Museum and Ainsley House. Reservations are required and can be made at [www.campbellmuseums.com](http://www.campbellmuseums.com). Reservations Open October 16.

Santa Claus will make a special appearance at the Ainsley House on Saturday, November 23, from 9 AM to 12 PM. Families can meet Santa in the festive Sunporch room, with reservations available in one-hour time slots: 9-10 AM, 10-11 AM, and 11 AM-12 PM. While waiting for their turn, guests can enjoy hot chocolate and participate in holiday crafts. Admission is \$20 per family, and reservations can be made at [www.campbellmuseums.com](http://www.campbellmuseums.com).

The Ainsley House will host two special evening Open House events on Thursday, December 19, and Sunday, December 22, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. These events provide a wonderful opportunity to experience the house's holiday decorations at night, accompanied by live music in the living room and light refreshments in the Carriage House. Admission is \$15 for the general public, \$10 for museum members, and free for children 17 and under. Tickets will be available at the Carriage House on the evening of each event.

For more information and to reserve your spot for the Holiday Teas, Santa Photos, and Open House events, please visit [www.campbellmuseums.com](http://www.campbellmuseums.com).

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Times **Local News**



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Danse Macabre
- Modest Mussorgsky*  
Night on Bald Mountain
- Andrew Lloyd Webber*  
Phantom of the Opera
- John Williams*  
Harry Potter




## VTA board approves financing and purchase terms for new headquarters

After a thorough process and economic analysis, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is moving forward with a plan to relocate its headquarters and other satellite offices to one consolidated space in Downtown San Jose at 488 South Almaden Blvd.

Funding approved for the move, through the sale of bonds, will also be applied to facility improvements at all VTA Divisions throughout Santa Clara County focused on our workers and the workplace environment.

The VTA Board of Directors voted to approve the purchase terms for the new building, in a deal that leverages the distressed nature of the current real estate market.

"In an effort to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, we are fortunate to be able to take advantage of the current buyer's market and at the same time help fill in vacant space in Downtown San Jose to shore up the vibrancy of our County's largest city," said Jessie O'Malley Solis, Director of VTA Real Estate and Transit Oriented Development. "Being able to secure more funding for workplace improvements at other VTA locations is paramount in this deal," Solis said.

The current VTA headquarters located at 3331 North First Street was designated by the Board previously to be leased for Transit Oriented Development.

Revenues to the agency from leasing that land could be up to \$1.5 billion over time.





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Times **Community News**

## When we invest in women's health, we all benefit

By County Supervisor Joe Simitian

Women's health is so much more than "just" a women's issue; it's a complex set of issues with widespread impact on families and communities. Despite significant advancements in health care, however, women continue to face unique challenges and barriers that require attention and action.

### Reproductive Health and Rights

At the heart of women's health is the issue of reproductive health care. Access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including family planning services, is essential for women's overall well-being. Yet, these services are frequently under threat and underfunded.

Whether it's choosing a provider, ensuring access to contraception and preventative care, or ensuring the affordability of services, our County recognizes that the ability to access and provide family planning and reproductive health care is essential for the health and well-being of our residents.

Following the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade, I took action to protect access to reproductive health care by authoring a resolution that reconfirmed our County's continued support for reproductive rights and called on Congress to enact national legislation protecting those rights.

Ensuring that women in our County have access to comprehensive health care has long been a priority for me. Most recently, I worked with my colleague Supervisor Cindy Chavez to

make our County's the OB/GYN Urgent Care program, an innovative pilot program we launched for pregnant women during COVID-19, a permanent offering of the Santa Clara Valley Healthcare system.

Back in 2017, when I learned that Planned Parenthood's San Antonio Road site lease was coming to an end, I urged our Board to partner with Planned Parenthood to find a way to continue health care services for our North County patients.

As a result, in 2022, we opened the County's first specialty care clinic and pharmacy in the North County. Located in the Planned Parenthood facility on California Street in Mountain View, the clinic and pharmacy complement the primary care services offered in the area by Planned Parenthood and other local nonprofit partners.

In 2018, when we learned that the MayView Community Health Center, which provides health care to low-income families and individuals throughout northern Santa Clara County, had been operating on reduced hours, I persuaded the Board of Supervisors to take action to provide MayView with emergency stabilization funding. The County's support enabled MayView to hire a full-time ob-gyn and a part-time nurse practitioner, allowing the health center to keep all of its clinics open and preserve accessible and affordable health care for women in the North County.

The following year, our Board allocated almost \$500,000 to replace Title X funding lost as a result of new federal rules that penalized organizations that made referrals to access abortion services.

### Removing Barriers

As policymakers, it is our duty to break down barriers to health care, especially those affect-

ing marginalized communities. I'm glad to have had so many opportunities over the years to advocate for women's health.

To address a gap in critical services for survivors of violence, in 2019, I successfully pushed for the expansion of sexual assault exams to the North County (Stanford Hospital), enabling survivors to undergo the procedures closer to home in their own community.

In 2020, I pushed for funding to support Pink Ribbon Good (PRG) and Cancer CAREPoint in their work with patients receiving cancer treatment at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Our County's support enabled these two organizations to provide a slew of critical services to patients during the height of the COVID pandemic and, in the case of PRG, expand services to patients at other hospitals throughout our County.

### Breast Health Services

Considering the profound importance of preventive care, particularly breast cancer screenings, I recently proposed County officials expand opportunities for breast cancer screening for County residents to ensure early detection of breast cancer, particularly those with dense breast tissue.

A new law went into effect this fall requiring mammography facilities nationwide to notify patients of their breast density in their mammogram reports. This is important because an overwhelming majority of women are unaware of their breast density, yet nearly half of women have dense breast tissue and the risk of breast cancer for women with extremely dense tissue is about five times greater than for those with low breast density.

The new FDA mandate will help women make better decisions about additional medical screenings or care they may need. It's essentially what we did here in California more than

a decade ago with Senate Bill 1538, legislation I authored (as a member of the California State Senate) to improve breast cancer detection in women with dense breast tissue.

In 2023, at my behest, our Board declared our County's support for the Find It Early Act, federal legislation (currently pending in Congress) that would require insurance plans to cover diagnostic tests without additional cost to the patient due to insurance co-pays or deductibles.

Let's continue to advocate for policies that support women's health, educate our communities, and ensure that all women have access to the care they require at every stage of life. Let's work together to eliminate health disparities, protect reproductive rights, and ensure that every woman has access to the care she needs.

To all the women reading this: I urge you to take charge of your health today. We often hear of women taking care of themselves last, missing a sign or symptom because they were busy taking care of others. Schedule your mammogram — and encourage others in your life to do the same. Listen to your heart, and call 911 if you are experiencing a stroke or heart attack. It could be the action that saves yours — or a loved one's — life.

*Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District which includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, portions of San Jose and unincorporated communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. Stay up to date on news and events happening in District Five by signing up for Supervisor Simitian's monthly newsletter: [district5.sccgov.org/newsletter](mailto:district5.sccgov.org/newsletter).*



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All shook up for very important ways you can prepare for earthquakes in 2024. See PAGE 6

A community walk voted among top 150 nature walks to start 2024. See PAGE 9

win their fourth City Championship

Board of Supervisors provided a one-time match to fund some facility renovations, including one for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. County Superior for facility proposed the grant.

The County's support enabled Camp Via West to address necessary infrastructure needs. The Camp used County funding for the development of a newly renovated sports field, which also includes ADA-compliant bleachers, storage for sports equipment, and a concession stand. See CAMP, page 2

public meeting for city Course Redevlopment

# THANK YOU

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We appreciate your continued support of our local journalism.

## Top Santa Clara County education leader sues

By Vicente Vera  
*San José Spotlight*

Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Mary Ann Dewan has filed a lawsuit against the county Board of Education after trustees voted to fire her in closed session.

Trustees last week voted 4-2 behind closed doors to terminate Dewan's contract "without cause upon 30 days written notice." But Dewan has come back swinging as she seeks to claw her way back to the position in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, alleging the board had no authority to fire her because she was appointed. She claims she is

Santa Clara County Office of Education Superintendent **Mary Ann Dewan** at the Feb. 21, 2024 board meeting. Photo by *Brandon Pho*.



not technically employed by the Santa Clara County Office of Education — but rather she is a constitutional officer.

Dewan, an education columnist for San José Spotlight, is represented by San Jose-based law firm Lathrop GPM, and is asking the Santa Clara County Superior Court to make a judicial declaration to determine how the case should proceed.

The lawsuit states that, "(Board of Education trustees) had no authority to terminate the Superintendent with or without cause under the law, the 2022 Agreement or the September 2018 Agreement and any such termination is null and void and of no legal effect."

But Area 4 Trustee Joseph Di Salvo said the contractual agreement allows for Dewan to be terminated without cause. He was among the four who voted to fire Dewan.

Dewan voluntarily entered into the employment agreement with the Santa Clara County Office of Education as superintendent of schools on Sept. 19, 2018, and Di Salvo said the agreement clearly states Dewan can be let go upon 30 days notice.

Steven A. Ellenberg with Lathrop GPM said the employment agreement is not valid because Dewan was not employed by the board of education.

"It's not an employment relationship. The superintendent is by law, a constitutional officer, separate and apart from the board of education, which is separately established and has its own limited roles," Ellenberg told San José Spotlight. "For example, the governor appoints judges all the time, but they're not his employees and he doesn't have the right to fire them."

Board President Maimona Afzal Berta said trustees followed proper procedure when deciding on Oct. 2 to terminate Dewan's contract.

"The Santa Clara County Board of Education's process relating to Dr. Mary Ann Dewan's employment is consistent with past practice over many decades by the board relating to superintendent employment decisions at the Santa Clara County Board of Education," Berta told San José Spotlight.

Dewan has been on administrative leave since Oct. 3, but her attorneys argue the board has no right to place Dewan on administrative leave since such an action is not within the terms of the 2018 contractual agreement.

Area 2 Trustee Tara Sreekrishnan, who voted against ousting Dewan, said the decision to fire her behind closed doors has eroded trust in the community.

"There was a lack of transparency and public input in this decision, and this lawsuit only underscores that the board has still not held a public hearing to address these concerns. Ignoring the voices of those we serve completely undermines the accountability we are entrusted to uphold," Sreekrishnan told San José Spotlight.

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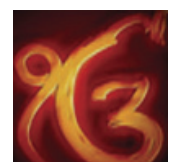
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