

Fallen soldier procession for US Army 2nd Lt. McCollum killed in action in 1944 will arrive in San Jose
SEE PAGE 3



Ninth annual Run for a Cause supports foster youth in Silicon Valley
SEE PAGE 5



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APRIL 25 - MAY 8, 2025 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 9

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"We credit the longevity of Church on the Hill primarily to God's goodness," said **Scott Simmerok**, Lead Pastor, Church on the Hill.

Church on the Hill to celebrate 175th anniversary June 1

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

Drive along Highway 87 near the Curtner exit and you'll invariably see the round, cross-topped building, aptly named Church on the Hill.

What many in the community probably don't realize is that the church has existed in San Jose in one form or another since 1850, quite a remarkable achievement in this age of fast-food and rapid change.

To commemorate its long heritage, Church on the Hill will be celebrating its 175th anniversary on June 1. The Church is just a few months older than the State of California.

During the June 1 church service at 10 a.m., there will be a presentation of videos and testimonies of the church's long history followed by a special celebration with balloons, refreshments and a historic timeline display in relation to San Jose's history.

"We credit the longevity of Church on the Hill primarily to God's goodness towards us, but we also recognize that we stand on the shoulders of so many people who served sacrificially over the last 175 years. On any given Sunday you'll find a young family checking out church for the first time, as well as a greeter who has been serving for almost 70 years," said Scott Simmerok, Lead Pastor. *See CHURCH ON THE HILL, page 2*

The 41st annual Willow Glen Home Tour

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

The 41st Annual Willow Glen Home Tour will take place on two days, Saturday, May 3rd, and Sunday, May 4th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This highly anticipated event offers an exclusive look inside five stunning homes, each showcasing unique architectural styles—from a classic Spanish-style home with an ADU (Auxiliary Dwelling Unit) to a charming brick-front residence to a newly constructed large ranch style and more.



Supporting a Great Cause

All proceeds benefit The San Jose Day Nursery, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing quality childcare while supporting the financial needs of working families.

Boutique Market & Lunch

In addition to the home tour, guests can browse a boutique market at one of the featured homes, where vendors will offer barbecue spices, clothing, home decor, purses, jewelry, and handmade toffee. Take a break and enjoy a box lunch from Zanotto's, available for purchase and perfect for a relaxing afternoon in the backyard.

Tickets & Details

- Ticket Price: \$50 in advance. \$55 the day of event

- Purchase Online: www.willowglenhome-tour.com

- Tickets also available at Bella James and D'Anna's Florist

This annual event highlights the diverse architecture and vibrant community spirit of Willow Glen, drawing visitors from across the Bay Area. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the charm and character of these beautiful homes while supporting a meaningful cause!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.willowglenhomes.com.

American charity donations up 1.9%

Charitable giving not keeping pace with inflationary pressure

Americans increased their total giving by an estimated 1.9% last year, but donations are not keeping pace with inflationary pressure.

With charitable giving actually down year over year after adjusting for inflation, the non-profit organization SmileHub just released its report on the Best Charities for 2025.

To highlight the best charities, SmileHub compared nearly 300,000 charities based on our proprietary SmileHub Rating, which evaluates organizations across five categories: financial health, management overhead, fundraising efficiency, program efficiency and transparency.

Top 20 National Charities

1. Optica

2. Aga Khan Foundation
3. Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
4. Nationwide Children's Hospital
5. American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
6. The US Olympic and Paralympic Endowment
7. Research to Prevent Blindness
8. Volunteers of America National Services
9. Veterans United Foundation
10. MAP International
11. ASTM International
12. MedShare
13. EY Foundation
14. WaterStone
15. Mather Foundation
16. Foundation Housing
17. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
18. Rockefeller Family Fund
19. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)
20. Friends of the Children



Best Charities by Category

- Animals: Friends of the Zoo of Kansas City
- Arts: Maxwell C King Center for the Performing Arts

- Children: Misericordia Foundation
- Community Support: Housing Catalyst
- Disaster Relief: Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Economic Development: Guidestream Charitable Gift Fund
- Education: Cincinnati Museums Foundation
- Environmental Protection: Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail
- Faith & Religious Support: First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Foundation
- Health & Wellness: Abington Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Homeless Support: Sacramento Steps Forward
- International Support: Interweave Solutions
- Reducing Poverty: Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)
- Research: Kacyra Family Foundation
- Rights & Activism: Follow Your Dream Foundation
- Sports & Recreation: TaxSlayer Gator Bowl
- Veterans: Louisiana National Guard Foundation

To view the full report, visit: <https://smilehub.org/blog/best-charities/97>

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SCAN TO RSVP:



Matt Mahan
Mayor of San Jose



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First Baptist Church of San Jose was the first church in the newly incorporated city of San Jose.

Church on the Hill

Continued from page 1

“We believe a healthy church creates hope-filled people who offer hope to a city, and what city doesn’t want a little more hope?”

In the beginning...

The origins of Church on the Hill come from humble beginnings.

In 1848, a young preacher named Osgood Wheeler set sail from New Jersey to carry the message of Jesus to the wild and lawless land of California.

After a rigorous trip of riding horseback, canoeing and walking across the Isthmus of Panama, Reverend Wheeler finally arrived at San Francisco later that year where he founded the First Baptist Church of San Francisco. Two years later he moved to Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe.

On May 19, 1850, Reverend Wheeler, along with eight men and women, knelt in a homemade tent, and the First Baptist Church of San Jose was born, the first church in the newly incorporated city of San Jose.

Despite facing fires and storms that destroyed the church building a number of times during several decades, the congregation rebuilt and continued growing.

1906 Earthquake

Even the famous 1906 San Francisco earthquake didn’t deter the flock when the trembler shook the building to its foundation and toppled the spires. Members of the congregation committed to rebuilding the church once again, steadfast in their determination to be a light and support in the community.

First Baptist Church reached an even wider audience in 1925 when it aired its first service over its own radio station, KQW, which later became KCBS of San Francisco.

By the 1960s, the ravages of time had taken their toll on the church building, and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and Fire

Marshall condemned the structure.

After a real estate committee was formed in 1963, First Baptist Church bought the 33-acre Ironwood Golf Course property. In 1970, the entire congregation moved to its new home at 500 Sands Dr, and renamed the church, Church on the Hill.

Since its inception, the church has been focused on preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, ministering to the less-fortunate



community members and throughout the world, and ministering to the spiritual needs of San Joseans, even during the COVID19 pandemic and beyond.

“We believe a healthy church creates hope-filled people who offer hope to a city, and what city doesn’t want a little more hope?” said Simmerok.



HAVE SOME NEWS TO SHARE?



CONTACT US AT
times@timesmediainc.com

A fallen soldier procession for US Army 2nd Lt. Robert T. McCollum killed in action in 1944 will arrive in San Jose April 24 to be laid to rest with full military honors

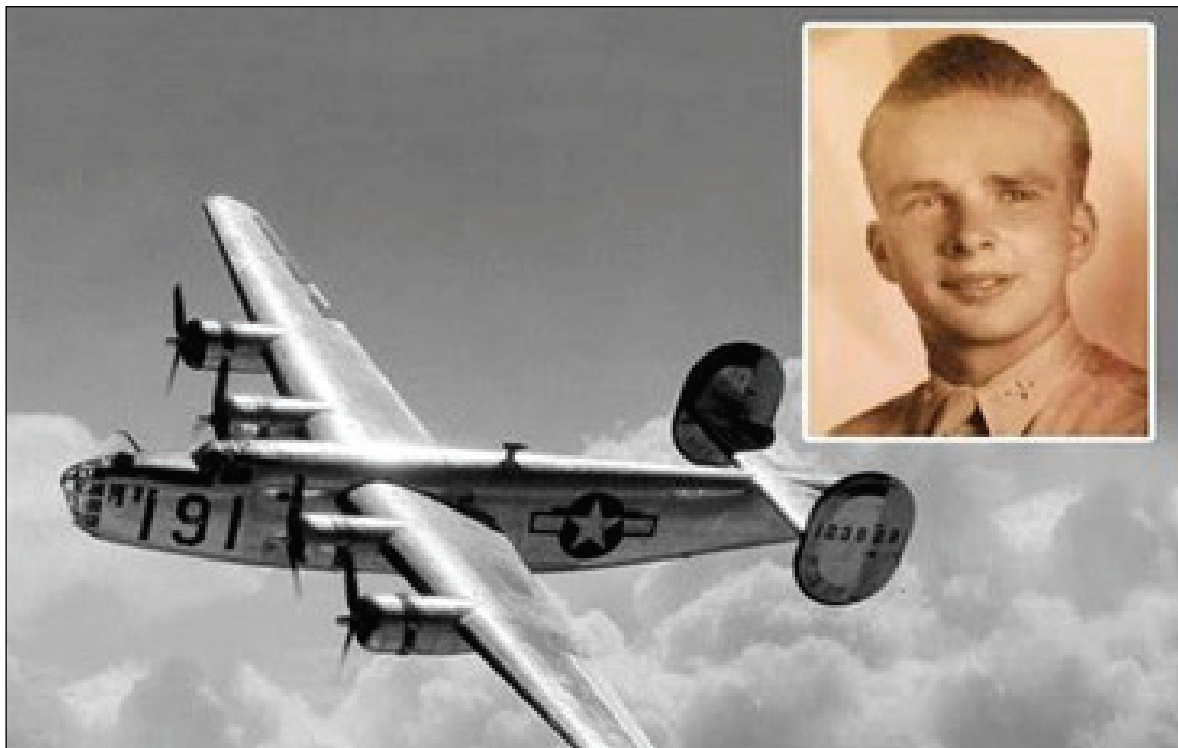
A fallen soldier procession for United States Army 2nd Lt. Robert T. McCollum will take place on Thursday, April 24.

McCollum, who was killed in action on June 20, 1944, has been identified and is finally returning home. His remains will be laid to rest with full military honors among family and community on May 3.

Lt. McCollum, a native of Ohio, served in the U.S. Army Air Forces with the 565th Bombardment Squadron, 389th Bombardment Group. On June 20, 1944, he was the bombardier aboard a B-24 Liberator (serial number 42-100351) during a bombing mission targeting enemy facilities in Politz, Germany.

While flying over the Baltic Sea near Langeland Island, Denmark, McCollum's aircraft collided with another B-24 in the formation and spiraled into the sea. Of the ten crew members on board, two survived, were captured, and later returned to U.S. custody. The remaining eight, including Lt. McCollum, were declared missing in action.

In 2019, Danish divers discovered a WWII-era aircraft wreck in the area where



Lt. McCollum's plane was lost. After the site was cleared of unexploded ordnance, teams from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the University of Delaware, and the Royal Danish Navy conducted an underwater survey. Human remains and other significant evidence were recovered, ultimately leading to the identification of

Lt. McCollum through forensic and circumstantial evidence.

We now have the solemn honor of welcoming Lt. McCollum home. We ask the community to join us in lining the procession route with American flags as we pay tribute to this fallen hero. His flight is expected to arrive at San Jose International



Airport at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Procession Route from San Jose International Airport:

- Airport to 87 South
- From 87, exit Curtner Road and turn left

- Oak Hill Funeral home - 300 Curtner Ave San Jose, CA 95125

Community members are encouraged to gather along the sidewalks in San Jose, especially near the route and the entrance to the funeral home, to show support and gratitude.

Please bring flags and help us give 2nd Lt. McCollum the welcome he deserves.

Oak Hill Chapel
300 Curtner Ave
San Jose, CA 95125

Planeside Honors will remain private for family.

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Korbin 'Van Cliburn of today' to perform live in concert for Steinway Society – The Bay Area Saturday, May 31

Russian-American concert pianist Alexander Yevgenyevich Korbin is often referred to as the “Van Cliburn of today.”

Korbin will perform live in concert for Steinway Society - The Bay Area on Saturday, May 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m. at the Visual and Performing Arts Center in Cupertino, CA.

To meet the needs of a diverse community of patrons, Steinway Society also offers a recorded option to enjoy the concert on-demand for 48 hours.

THE PROGRAM

Beethoven, Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 7

1. Allegro molto e con brio
2. Largo, con gran espressione
3. Allegro

4. Rondo: Poco allegretto e grazioso

Brahms, Drei Intermezzi, Op. 117

1. Andante moderato (E-flat Major)
2. Andante non troppo e con molta espressione (B-flat Minor)
3. Andante con moto (C-sharp Minor)

Chopin, Four Mazurkas, Op. 24

1. Lento (G Minor)
2. Allegro non troppo (C Major)
3. Moderato con anima (A-flat Major)
4. Moderato (B-flat Minor)



Alexander Korbin per-
forms for
*Steinway
Society - The
Bay Area* pre-
miere at the
Visual and
Performing
Arts Center in
Cupertino on
May 31,
2025. Photo
courtesy of
the artist.

Chopin, Fantaisie in F Minor, Op. 49
Chopin, Berceuse in D-flat Major, Op. 57
Chopin, Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60
Chopin, Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61

TICKETS

Prices listed include all fees; Single Tickets: \$53 to \$78 (General Admission: \$78/\$68/\$58; Senior & student: \$73/\$63/\$53; Student Rush at the door: \$20). Recorded Tickets: \$26.75 per household (unlimited viewing for 48 hours after release)

Tickets: <https://steinwaysociety.com>

Box Office: 408.300.5635

Email: office@steinwaysociety.com

Alexander Korbin: Called the “Van Cliburn of today” by the BBC, Alexander Korbin has been praised for brilliant technique, musicality, and his emotional engagement with the audience. Korbin won the Gold medal at the 2005 Cliburn International Piano Competition,

and has taken top prizes at the Busoni, Hamamatsu, and Scottish International Piano Competitions. He has performed with renowned orchestras and in major concert halls world-wide.

Korbin began his studies at age five and is now a dedicated teacher and passionate about his contributions to education both in the U.S. and abroad. He is on the faculty of the renowned Eastman School of Music. Previously he was named the L. Rexford Distinguished Chair in Piano at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University, and from 2013 until 2017 he was a member of the celebrated Artist Faculty of New York University’s Steinhardt School. In 2020, he became co-director of Hiiumaa Homecoming Festival in Estonia.

Korbin frequently serves as a jury member for international competitions, including The Van Cliburn, Busoni, Hamamatsu, Blüthner, and Neuhaus.

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Times **Local News**

9th Annual Foster 5K Race + Kids Dash

Run for a Cause supports foster youth in Silicon Valley

By William Bellou
Publisher

The 9th Annual Foster5K + Kids Dash, a cornerstone event in Silicon Valley dedicated to championing the cause of foster kids in Santa Clara County, will be held on Sunday, April 27 at Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave. in San Jose.

This year's event promises to be bigger and more impactful than ever, featuring both in-person and virtual participation options to expand our reach and support for foster kids. The start time is 9 a.m. (Kids Dash Start Time: 10:00 a.m.) To register for the Foster5K event, visit foster5k.org or get involved as a volunteer by emailing info@foster5k.org

foster5k.org

This event continues to stand as a beacon of hope demonstrating our community's resilience and commitment to supporting foster kids. All proceeds support Child Advocates of Silicon Valley (CASV) and its Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program, making a direct impact on the lives of foster youth in Santa Clara County.

Building on last year's success, the Foster5K features a chip-timed race and a Kids Dash, making the event enjoyable for walkers, joggers and serious runners of all ages. In 2024, we saw unprecedented community support with 400 participants coming together to make a difference in the lives of foster kids.



The 9th Annual Foster5K + Kids Dash, a cornerstone event in Silicon Valley dedicated to championing the cause of foster kids in Santa Clara County, will be held on Sunday, April 27 at Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave. in San Jose.

The Kids Dash

The Kids Dash is a fun-filled event designed just for kids which is an untimed fun run featuring an 800M Big Kids Dash for youth ages 6-10 and a 250M Little Kids Dash for children ages 5 and under.

The Kids Dash focuses on fun, movement and participation. Whether sprinting, jogging or skipping to the finish line, every child is a winner and receives the same medal as 5K participants plus a special goodie bag in this celebratory run!

bratory run!

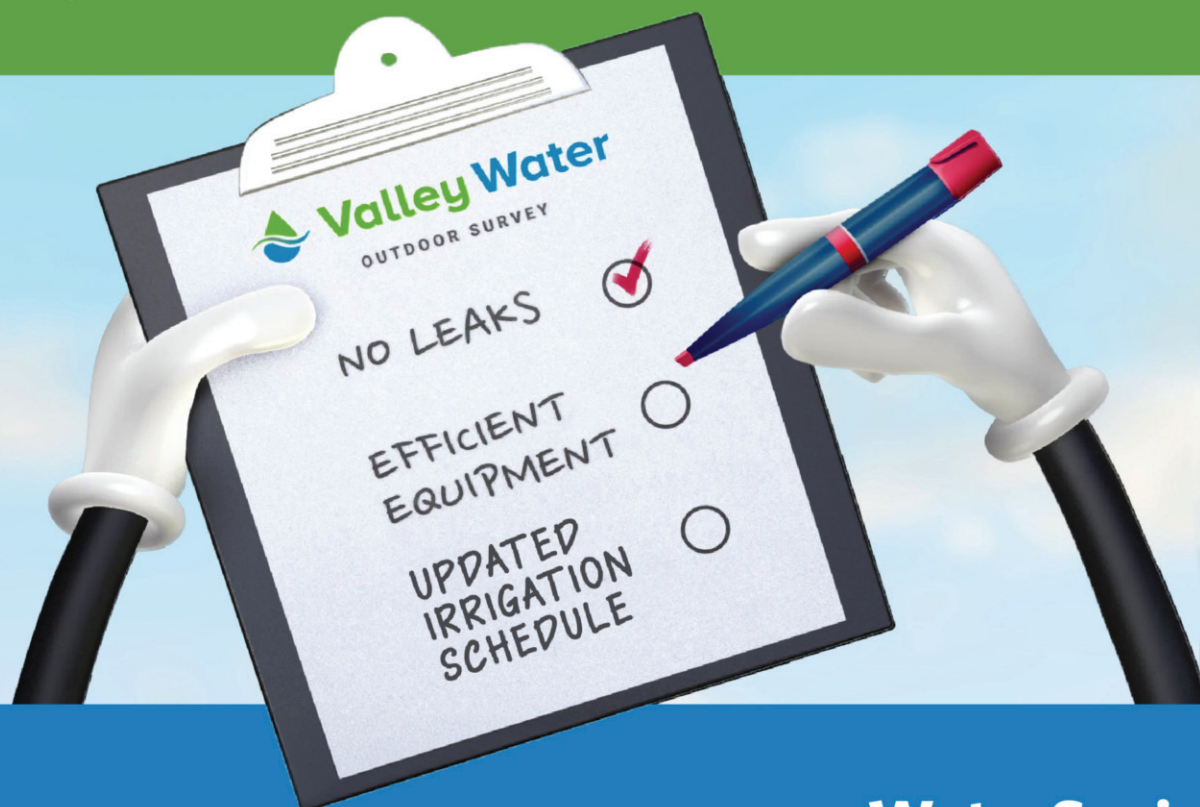
"We've been building the Foster5K since before the pandemic and want it to be an enjoyable experience for the whole family," said Foster5K founder, Debbie Crouse. "The Kids Dash is all about fun, inclusion and inspiring the next generation of runners. It's a perfect complement to the timed race."

After the Kids Dash, families and runners can enjoy the post-race party which includes a celebra-

tion packed with DJ beats, top runner prizes, cool raffle prizes, and family-oriented activities bringing the whole community together.

By participating in Foster5K you're not just running or walking; you're partying for a cause, all while championing the incredible kids in foster care who are supported by Child Advocates of Silicon Valley's (CASV) Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program.

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Times **Local News**

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The Almaden Senior Association Members are a diverse group of enthusiastic active adults 50+ who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures. Join us today. Meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

Membership offers opportunities to enjoy...

- Exercise Classes for all levels & abilities.
- Lunch events with entertainment run by members of the association.
- Trips to local and not so local places of interest.

Stop by the front desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application. Currently Membership is free. Membership includes a copy of our newsletter and offers you discounts on classes through San Jose PRNS.

Events and Trips:

Cirque Du Soleil, ECHO, April 26, 12pm, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

We have a limited number of tickets to the latest Cirque Du Soleil show ECHO under the big top at the fairgrounds. Tickets are in section 203 and are \$90, cash or check. A 20% discount over individual tickets. Tickets are on sale in the ACC lobby, MWF 8-10am. Call Rich at 408-219-8641 for more information.

Broadway San Jose, San Jose Center for the performing arts

SIX: Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2pm: The story of the SIX wives of Henry VIII.
Moulin Rouge: Saturday, July 19, 2025, 2pm: With its splendor, romance, glitz and grandeur.
MJ: Saturday, August 2, 2025, 2pm: The music of Michael Jackson comes to San Jose.

To buy tickets, contact Donna Smith at dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net or 408.266.4938

Celebrate Older Americans Month: Almaden Community Center

Join the Almaden Community Center in collaboration with the Almaden Senior Association for a Barbeque Bash in celebration of Older American's Month. Come for a BBQ with hot dogs, chips and cold lemonade. The Almaden Senior Association will serve ice cream with toppings. Music by Blue Sky Musical Group.

\$8 members, \$16 non-members. Register online at <https://www.siregistration.com> using number 251.4.2002. Or... register for this event and for a free membership at the Almaden Community Center front desk. Call 408-268-1133 for more information.

Almaden Senior Association
at the Almaden Community Center
6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120
<https://almadenseniors.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/almadenseniors>



Above: Evergreen Valley College dedicated three new, recently opened buildings on campus, including: the Student Services Complex, General Education and Engineering Building and Nursing Extension during a ceremony held on April 9th, which featured leaders from the Tamien Nation dedicating the College's main entryway as Tamien Way. Below: The design responds to the natural surroundings of San José, drawing inspiration from the rolling hills and Bay Area flora.

Evergreen Valley College dedicates three new recently opened buildings on campus

By William Bellou
Publisher

Evergreen Valley College dedicated three new, recently opened buildings on campus, including: the Student Services Complex, General Education and Engineering Building and Nursing Extension during a ceremony held on April 9th.

A naming ceremony featured leaders from the Tamien Nation dedicating the College's main entryway as Tamien Way.

San José-Evergreen Community College District created a unique new Student Services Complex as an inclusive and welcoming gateway to Evergreen Valley College, commonly referred to as EVC.

The EVC design team set a new standard in architectural design for the campus and reinforces the college's commitment to its students. This dynamic new structure, strategically located as the primary entry point to the campus, redefines the college's visual identity and transforms the on-campus experience for students.

Design inspiration

The design responds to the natural surroundings of San José, drawing inspiration from the rolling hills and Bay Area flora, with thoughtful considerations for solar orientation and outdoor circulation. The building's organic, curved massing contrasts with verti-

cal fins on the façade, which not only add tonal texture but also provide much-needed shade from the harsh western sun.

A distinctive canopy hovers over the central plaza, glowing at night and guiding visitors along the new entry road. Inside, the main student services lobby features a social stair that becomes a key wayfinding element, orienting students as they navigate the space for the first time. At the heart of the building, a curved glass oculus opens to the sky and the plaza below, offering a visual connection to the outdoors. Through these design elements, Evergreen Valley College's Student Services Complex fosters an environment where students can engage, learn, and feel a sense of belonging from the moment they arrive.

The new 74,000 SF Student Services Complex features two interconnected buildings – Student Services and Administration – bridged together to foster stronger connections between students and administrative staff. The Student Services wing consolidates essential program spaces and services aimed at promoting student success, including a queue-less service model, financial aid, admissions and records, expanded health and counseling services, lactation room, meditation room, administrative offices, and a dedicated veterans' services area. Informal student engagement zones and multi-purpose/flexible rooms encourage collaboration and social interaction, while a versatile event space with a rooftop patio offers an ideal venue for community gatherings.

Thoughtfully designed wayfinding elements, such as color-coded side walls at the entrances to different departments, guide visitors with ease throughout the space. Designed to achieve LEED Silver certification, the building's façade incorporates high performance design through strategically placed vertical fins that respond to solar exposure.



Times **Local News**



Logan Lord of Almaden named to 2024-2025 Dean's List at Oregon Institute of Technology

Logan Lord of Almaden Valley has been named to the 2024-2025 Winter Term Dean's List at Oregon Institute of Technology. Lord studies Electrical Engineering at Oregon Tech. He is a graduate of Branham High School. Inclusion on the list requires a 3.30 to 3.69 grade-point average. **About Oregon Institute of Technology** Founded in Klamath Falls in 1947, Oregon Institute of Technology is the premier polytechnic institution in Oregon. Offering bachelor's, master's, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Oregon Tech has programs in engineering, health technologies, business, technology, communication, and applied sciences. Visit www.oit.edu to learn more about Oregon Institute of Technology.

San José Police Department arrests fire captain on drug charges

Earlier this week, the San José Fire Department (SJFD) notified the San José Police Department (SYPD) of several controlled substances in their custody that had been potentially damaged or tampered with. Preliminary findings indicated that these medications may have been tampered with, and on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, police officers identified SJFD Captain Mark Moalem as a suspect. Detectives obtained and executed a warrant for his arrest and Moalem was booked into the Santa Clara County Jail for burglary at one fire station, child endangerment, and narcotics violations.

"Lives depend on our firefighters' ability to administer medical care during emergencies which is why we take theft of controlled substances extremely seriously," said Mayor Matt Mahan. "I'm grateful to our City Manager and Police Chief for acting quickly and decisively by opening an investigation and holding those responsible accountable. I'll continue monitoring the situation and look forward to procedural changes that ensure this never happens again." "I will not tolerate criminal behavior," said City Manager Jennifer Maguire. "The allegations are deeply concerning and represent a serious breach of public trust. I want to be unequivocal: any conduct that endangers community safety or undermines the integrity of our public institution will be addressed with the utmost seriousness." This is an ongoing investigation. The Fire Department has conducted an audit of their controlled

substances. It is suspected that drugs may have been removed from up to an additional 16 fire stations and tampered with. Anyone who may have information regarding this investigation to contact the San José Police Department at 408-277-4521. **San Jose special election likely headed to June runoff** By William Bellou Publisher Chavez-Lopez, executive director of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley, is holding on to her lead for the San Jose City Council District 3 special elec-



Gabby Chavez-Lopez, executive director of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley, at her election night party on April 8, 2025. *Photo by Vicente Vera.* tion, but it's not enough of the vote to secure an election win. Chavez-Lopez holds 29% of the vote. Matthew Quevedo, the mayor's deputy chief of staff, is in second place by one vote or 22.18% and Planning Commission Chair Anthony Tordillos is trailing in third at 22.17%. The top two vote-getters will head to the June 24 runoff election. If the trend holds, it will trigger an automatic recount under county election rules.



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Times News

Be careful if offered a 'free roof inspection'

BB Scam Tracker often receives reports of shady “free” roof inspections. Homeowners should know how to recognize these cons and always hire businesses they can trust especially after storms hit the Bay Area.

How the scam works

You receive a call, or someone shows up at the door claiming to represent a roofing company that is working in your

area. (Sometimes con artists use the names of legitimate companies, so always check BBB.org first to learn the real address, phone number, and name of the real company).

The fake “roofer” offers a free inspection or an on-the-spot roof repair. Why, you ask? The person may claim that their company is working on a neighbor’s home and is offering inspections to those living nearby, or they just happened to notice your damaged roof. But if you ask questions about where the business is located or how their services work - if you’re not dealing with an honest company, you’ll most likely be met with vague answers. If you are speaking on the phone to a con artist, they may hang up if pressed for more details.

If you accept the free inspection from a con artist, the dishonest “inspector” shows up at your house. If they don’t find enough wear and tear to merit a whole new roof, they may fabricate it, by tearing off shingles to mimic wind damage (so pay attention and watch what they do). Or they may show you pictures of someone else’s damaged roof. Don’t hire a company that does this! Repairs from such a dishonest business are not likely to be high quality.

“They did not allow my dad to say no. When he told them he was out of money, they coached him through how to take out a HELOC, move money from his 401K & his pension, said a victim’s son. “They stood over his shoulder coaching him through moving money so he could pay them more. They never provided a legitimate business name, card, email or scope of service proposal or invoice. Dad just kept paying them every time they asked for more. He felt like he couldn’t say no.”

How to avoid roofing scams

1. Beware of unsolicited offers. Many scams begin with a contractor who “just happens to be in the area” and notices



your roof or home appears to need repairs from the outside. Roofing scams typically increase in frequency after a powerful storm, so stay alert. Legitimate roofers may also be in the area, so be savvy enough to check BBB.org and do your homework before hiring.

2. Get your insurance company to inspect your roof, and/or get a second opinion. Filing a claim with your insurance company goes on your record and could affect future claims or your continued coverage. Before signing any paperwork or contracts with a roofing company, you can have your insurance company come out for an inspection to verify the need for repairs or replacements. You can also call another reputable roofing company to take a look.

3. Research roofing companies before you hire. Look at a company’s business rating on BBB.org. Keep a close eye on previous reviews and any complaints other consumers might have had. Doing your own research is one of the best ways to know if a roofing company is reputable or just a cover for a scam.

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- Know how to download your camera footage
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- Focus and mount your video on key points of entry or concern
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- Complete the registration form through sjpd.org or scan the QR code below.
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<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/security-camera-registration>

Times **Feature**

'Transforming My Lawn, Transforming Our Future'

By Jim Beall

Valley Water Board of Directors, District 4

About 12 years ago, my wife and I decided to take on a project that would change not only our yard but also the way we think about water conservation. We removed our traditional lawn and replaced it with native plants.

My wife had a wonderful eye for design, and together we created a beautiful, sustainable landscape. The difference was immediate—I noticed it on our water bill, and I knew we'd made the right choice. Even our neighbor was inspired and decided to take out their lawn, too. It was a reminder that small changes can have a big impact.

Water conservation is a way of life for us. It's not just about saving water—it's about saving money, protecting the environment, and fighting climate change. By conserving water, we avoid the need for expensive, large-scale projects that could raise water rates. When you conserve, you directly benefit, and you also help keep future costs down for everyone.

Inside our home, we also made upgrades like installing WaterSense-labeled products, which improved efficiency and saved money. There are so many opportunities to make a difference, from retrofitting your home to transforming your yard.

Programs like Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program make it easier than ever to start. Valley Water rebates of up to \$3,000 per residential property (even more in cost-share areas) are available for replacing lawns, upgrading irrigation systems, and even installing rainwater capture systems. Plus, by



converting your yard, you support local businesses like landscapers, nurseries and others in the community. It's a win for your wallet, your property value, and our planet.

If you're curious about starting your lawn transformation, I encourage you to participate in the annual Growing Natives Garden Tour, an initiative that highlights yards transformed with California native plants. You can spend a beautiful weekend exploring inspiring landscapes and learning about sustainable gardening practices.

Transforming my yard all those years ago was one of the best decisions I've made, and I'm proud to see others embracing this change. Together, we can make water conservation a way of life. Let's protect our resources, our environment, and our future—one yard at a time.

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G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead. The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

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Workers complete \$117M Coyote Creek flood control project

By William Bellou
Publisher

Eight years ago this week, after a series of atmospheric river storms, Coyote Creek flooded, forcing the evacuation of 14,000 people in neighborhoods around downtown San Jose and causing \$100 million in damage in a torrent of muddy water. On Thursday, the Santa Clara Valley Water District finished a project aimed at reducing the chances of serious flooding in the area in the future.

The \$117 million project from the district, a government agency based in San Jose, constructed flood walls and other features along 8,500 feet of Coyote Creek in a 4-mile stretch of the waterway between Interstate 280 and Old Oakland Road in some of the areas that suffered the worst.

“This neighborhood was flooded,” said Shiloh Ballard, a water district board member, at a ceremony to mark the occasion near William Street Park. “There was water in people’s homes. It was up to people’s knees. The entire community rallied afterward to clean up.

There were dumpsters, and everybody was carting trash. Trash and mud were everywhere. It’s not 100% risk free now, but we are minimizing the risk of it happening again.”

The flood, on Feb. 21, 2017, was the worst Coyote Creek flood since 1997. City officials and water district leaders blamed each other afterward, with city leaders saying the water district didn’t provide clear enough warning of the impending flood beforehand, and water district leaders saying the National Weather Service warnings were straightforward days earlier, but the city was too slow to order evacuations.



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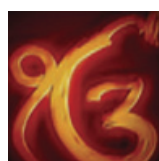


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