

# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Enjoy a Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Lake Cunningham Park in East San Jose

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JULY 4 - JULY 17, 2025 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 14

# Almaden Times

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## Wildfire safety virtual town hall slated for July 10

State Senator Dave Cortese is hosting a virtual town hall on wildfire safety and mitigation on July 10th, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Seth Schalet, CEO of the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, and others will be speaking on actions being taken on the issue of wildfire mitigation. Fire prevention tips on what you can do around your own home to mitigate wildfire risk in your community will be discussed. After the presentation, audience members will be invited to participate in a Q&A with panelists.

A zoom registration link will be sent out to those who RSVP for the event: RSVP LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/45s6ct3f>

For more information, call (408) 723-4154; or email Zach Contini at [Zachary.Contini@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Zachary.Contini@sen.ca.gov).



A panel will be speaking on actions being taken on the issue of wildfire mitigation in the local community.

## Former 49er running back to train and mentor South Bay student athletes

The road to Division I sports isn't for the faint of heart, but for the determined student-athletes with big collegiate dreams, it's a challenge they are willing to embrace.

To help them "go all in," the Almaden Valley Athletic Club (AVAC) is partnering with former 49er Anthony "Boobie" Dixon to launch Team Elite University, an advanced training program for student-athletes ages 10-18. The six-week program kicks off July 8 and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 11:30 am at AVAC's Outdoor Fitness Center.

Dixon played professionally for the San Francisco 49ers and the Buffalo Bills NFL teams. At the collegiate level, he set multiple school rushing records for Mississippi State University. Dixon has an intimate knowledge of the physical and mental dedication required to perform as an elite athlete.

"I'm here to help guide young student-athletes as they work toward their D1 dreams—in addition to running workouts," said Dixon.



AVAC is partnering with former 49er Anthony "Boobie" Dixon to launch elite training program.

"I want to be the type of mentor that I needed at their age and to pass on the wealth of knowledge and first-hand experience I've gained. I love helping the next generation realize what they're capable of and develop the essential life and professional skills that will carry them beyond the field."

Dixon will lead the comprehensive training program that features sport-specific training techniques, strength and conditioning exercises, proper nutrition and recovery strategies, and mental preparation techniques used

by professional athletes for practices and game days.

Weekly Focus Areas Include:

• Introduction to Athletic Training and Injury Prevention

• Building Strength Fundamentals

• Endurance Training

• Flexibility and Mobility

• Sport-Specific Skills

• Integration and Assessment

"We're excited to partner with professional

See DIXON, page 5

## San Jose cancels Almaden Lake Park 4th of July festival

By Annalise Freimarck  
*San José Spotlight*

San Jose resident Cathie Bacosa woke up around midnight last year to a fire ravaging her backyard in the neighborhood she's lived in for 28 years. She thinks it was likely from fireworks. It was July 4, and more than 30,000 people had crowded into the small neighborhood to watch the annual Almaden Lake Park fireworks display near her home.

The fire destroyed Bacosa's kitchen and backyard, forcing her and her family to live in a hotel for five months. She's one of dozens of residents



San Jose officials have canceled Independence Day festivities at Almaden Lake Park due to safety concerns. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

glad local officials have canceled the annual fireworks display this year, despite it being the 10th year of the lakeside festivities. The celebration included an afternoon festival and a nighttime fireworks display.

"I'm very fortunate. My family got out," she told San José Spotlight. "We were safe. Our dog

was safe, but it's the scariest thing that we've ever had to go through in our lives."

Councilmember George Casey, who represents District 10 where the park is located, announced in a communitywide email Monday that San Jose had canceled the festivities due

See CANCELLED, page 5

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## Bill addresses exploitation of individual's name, voice or likeness for commercial purposes

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

State Senator Dave Cortese's bill, which provides swift legal remedies for individuals who have had their privacy rights violated by the unauthorized use, has unanimously passed by the state Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 683, which now goes to the state Assembly floor for a vote, is written to protect a person's name, voice, signature, photograph or likeness for commercial purposes. The bill is intended to address and prevent exploitation, particularly in situations where individuals' personal information or images are used without their consent.

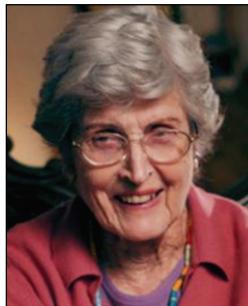
SB 683 is designed to expedite the removal of the unauthorized materials while legal proceedings are ongoing. Specifically, it allows individuals to seek the immediate removal of the materials within two business days.

"SB 683 strengthens existing privacy protections by encouraging individuals to seek a temporary restraining order for the removal of their name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness if it's being used without their consent," said Cortese.

## IN MEMORY Virginia Hammerness May 5, 1932 - May 31, 2025

*Board of Director for New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association; last surviving granddaughter of A.P. Giannini, founder of the Bank of America*

Venice Virginia Margret Giannini Hammerness, died peacefully on Saturday, May 31. She was 93. She had been living in hospice for the last several months with her son, Larry and his wife Sally in Venice, CA. Virginia was the last surviving granddaughter of A.P. Giannini, founder of the Bank of America.



Virginia, a native Californian proud of her heritage, was born May 5, 1932, to Mercedes Anne (Collins) and Lawrence Mario Giannini, in San Mateo, CA. After attending Hollins University in Roanoke, VA, she returned to Northern California to teach at Sonora Elementary School. She cherished her continued connection with many of her former students from that time.

She married Philippe George Hammerness in 1961, after which she devoted herself to raising a family in San Jose. In addition to her son, Larry (Sally), she is survived by son

Philippe (Kelly), grandsons Luke (Nina), William (Cassi) and Tyler (Abigail), as well as four great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Philippe, and sister, Anne McWilliams.

Virginia preferred to be on the move and traveled widely. She particularly enjoyed traveling by car in California, undaunted by distances far from her home in San Jose.

She was a member of the Oregon California Trails Association, a four-wheeling group that drove historic trails up and down the west coast.

Strongly civic minded, she volunteered at the San Jose Historical Museum (now History San Jose) and was a member of The Argonauts Historical Society of San Jose.

They published "A Walk Through the Past: San Jose's Oak Hill Memorial Park" (1998), a history of California's oldest secular cemetery. Virginia served on the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association board and also worked with a group that published their quarterly Quicksilver County Park News. A great lover of animals and nature, she enthusiastically supported charity organizations such as Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Cornell Ornithology Lab, Mono Lake, and the Sierra Club.

Until last year, Virginia served on the board of the A.P. Giannini Foundation. Established by her grandfather in 1945, the Foundation awards grants to California based post-doctoral fellows in pursuit of innovative research in science and medicine.

Her life will be celebrated at St. Christopher Catholic Church in San Jose, California on the 9th of July.

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Times **Local News****Dixon**

*Continued from page 1*  
athlete, Anthony Dixon, to offer student athletes the opportunity to train like pros in AVAC's outdoor fitness center," said Jeff Doty, General Manager at AVAC. "Dixon brings the perfect mix of sports experience, leadership, knowledge, and high energy necessary to keep participants motivated and engaged as they advance through the program. We invite young athletes who want to build their skills, grow as leaders, and strengthen both their bodies and minds to join this exciting program today."

For more information and to register, visit [www.avac.us/TeamEliteUniversity](http://www.avac.us/TeamEliteUniversity) or contact Stacy Barrett at [sbarrett@AVAC.US](mailto:sbarrett@AVAC.US).

## Central Bikeway secures \$14 million in state funding

By William Bellou  
Publisher

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) ambitious project to provide a fully-separated east-west protected bikeway across Santa Clara County is one step closer to existence.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved \$14 million in STIP (State Transporta-



tion Improvement Program) funds on June 27, 2025, to advance VTA's Central Bikeway project.

The funding will allow VTA to complete environmental clearance for the planned ten-mile bikeway, a major step forward for one of Santa Clara County's most ambitious active transportation projects.

The Central Bikeway aims to create a 10-mile, fully separated, low-stress, high-quality, east-west bikeway, connecting Berryessa BART in North San José to the Santa Clara/Sunnyvale border. The alignment will follow El Camino Real in the City of Santa Clara and Hedding Street, The Alameda, Taylor Street, and Mabury Road in San Jose.

The project builds on the 2022 Central Bikeway Feasibility Study, which engaged thousands of community members and identified a preferred alignment based on feasibility, safety, and connectivity.

Environmental clearance is expected to begin in early 2026, with additional phases of design and construction pending future funding. If total funding of \$213 million is secured, the project could open in 2033.

**Cancelled**

*Continued from page 1*  
to safety concerns — and won't utilize the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds as an alternative location.

Casey said emergency officials had a difficult time responding to calls last year due to the crowd and hundreds of cars blocking the streets, including a hillside fire that took three hours to put out and burned between 5 and 10 acres.

"There are no fiscally responsible options to mitigate the safety concerns this year," Casey said in the email. "Holding a safe event for attendees and surrounding neighbors is of paramount importance and guided our decision to postpone the event while we work to identify a more suitable venue."

San Jose Police Department deferred comment

to Casey's office. Casey was not available for comment.

A San Jose Fire Department spokesperson said they didn't have additional comments beyond what Casey's email said.

The annual festival and fireworks also brought foot traffic to local nearby businesses, including Vanshu 24x7 Liquor Store in the Old Almaden Plaza.

Owner Sumit Maan said his liquor store always gets an Independence Day boost as people flock to the area to celebrate. He's worried about the dip in business he may see due to this year's cancellation, but said safety must be the priority. He'd like to see it come back to Almaden Lake Park in the future if the event can be better contained.

"If the San Jose Police Department and other communities participate and they're managed good, then we will be happy," Maan told San José

Spotlight.

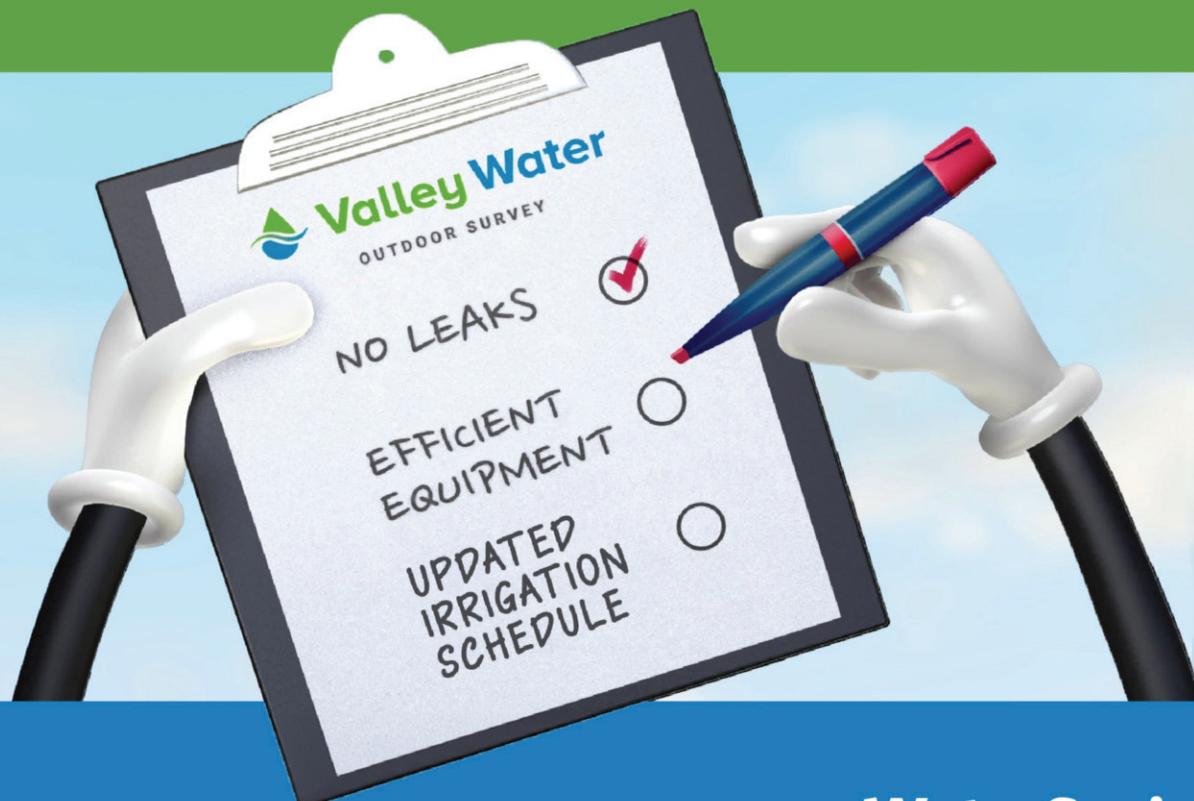
"The last couple of years, we saw there is no good management (of the event)."

San Jose is still hosting other fireworks shows on July 4, including one with a waterfront view at Lake Cunningham Park on the East Side. Other cities, including Sunnyvale, are experimenting with drone shows that limit fire risk.

Michael Ross, a lead communications volunteer with neighborhood group Almaden Valley Community Association, said it's a shame the show had to be canceled because he enjoyed it every year. But he understands the risks outweigh the benefits.

"The fact that it's not going to be held is disappointing, as I'm sure it is to many people," Ross told San José Spotlight. "Everybody likes fireworks, especially good ones, big ones — not wildfire-starting fireworks."

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Times Local News

# Celebrate 4th of July at San Jose Gurdwara with a free 'Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social' 7-10 p.m.

By Kirpal Atwal  
Special to the Times

San Jose Gurdwara, located in the Evergreen foothills, is again hosting the annual free ice cream social in celebration of our great country!

The annual event Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social will take place Friday, July 4th from 7-10 p.m. San Jose Gurdwara is located at: 3636 Gurdwara Ave in San Jose.

San Jose Gurdwara has many events which are always free to attend, and they provide delicious complementary food for everyone. The Evergreen Valley community is of the same family of mankind, expressing love for all people of all races, and all backgrounds.

The 4th of July is a very important day for Sikhs. Sikh Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have deep pride as they help set up for this and other events. The 4th of July is a very special day for them as they appreciate our freedom. We understand that and take pride in singing American patriotic songs and carrying the American flag with honor.

Important historical days help educate everyone about patriotism and how each culture contributes unique gifts which weave the beautiful tapestry of our country. Understanding others, combined with embracing diversity, brings strength to all to overcome any stereotypes we may harbor.

**Equality**

The American Sikhs believe in equality between all people with regard to cultures, race, religion as well as between men and women too. The Sikhs were one of the first cultures in history to honor and embrace equality between men and women. The truth is, America is such a grand place to live that all one has to do is just grasp the opportunities and figure out how to make things work for each unique situation.

**Freedom!**

What is so wonderful about America is that it is a diverse country and a place where people accept one another regardless of race, creed, color or religion. We also know that Independence Day is important, because without fighting for our country we would have no freedom!

The sky is the limit in how one can achieve goals and live life to the fullest in this beautiful, and very special place.

Thank you, Evergreen Community for accepting the Sikh Americans as your friends. Please visit our place on the hill where we serve complimentary vegetarian food 365 days of the year. Also, Sikhs never try to proselytize (change others religion or push them towards ours called Sikhism) instead we honor and respect all religions and treat everyone as brother and sister.

**Message from President Bob Dhillon**

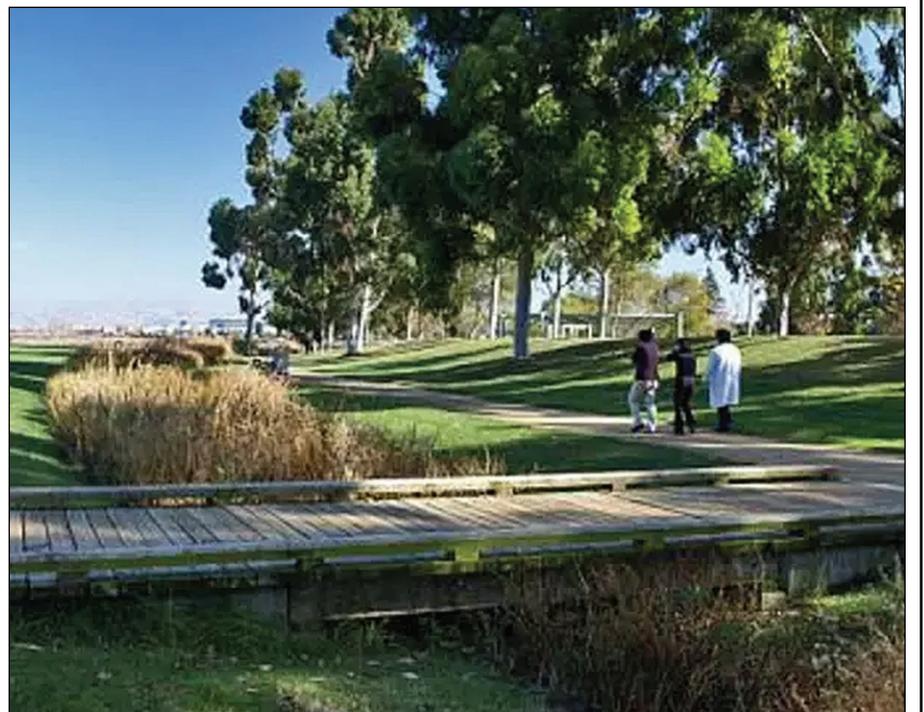


Our Gurdwara is a community center as well as a place of worship. We have many events of this kind each year and want you to know you're always welcome. Our beautiful children's playground is open to the public.

It is very heartwarming to meet and see the community come up to greet each other during the 4th of July event each year. Although we do not use fireworks, our loca-

tion allows the community to see such displays in the beautiful valley below while enjoying delicious, tasty treats. The children can go back for seconds if they wish to.

Thank you, Evergreen Community, for your friendship and camaraderie. For more information on the Under the Moonlight 4th of July Ice Cream Social go to the San Jose Gurdwara website and you can get our app there too: sanjosegurdwara.org



Sunnyvale's Baylands Park uniquely blends naturally preserved wetland areas with a traditional community park's picnic and playground features. Baylands Park provides over 70 acres of developed parkland, offering active recreation, pathways, and picnic areas for families and large groups.

## Report: Unwind in 2024's Most Relaxed U.S. Cities

In a world full of stress, which U.S. cities offer the ideal environment for some R&R?

To mark National Relaxation Day on Aug. 15, LawnStarter ranked 2024's Most Relaxed Cities.

We compared the 500 biggest U.S. cities based on 8 categories. More specifically, we factored in housing affordability, the average length of a workday, depression

rates, and access to mental health providers, among 43 total stress-related metrics.

Here are the top 10 (chill) cities in the ranking below.

Rank	City/State	Score
1	Newton, MA	67.64
2	Sunnyvale, CA	67.18
3	Santa Clara, CA	65.31
4	Milpitas, CA	65.10
5	Naperville, IL	64.89
6	Cambridge, MA	64.45
7	San Ramon, CA	64.33
8	Carmel, IN	64.16
9	Redwood City, CA	63.99
10	San Mateo, CA	63.95

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## Times Feature

# Silicon Valley faces challenges as its population gets older

By Brandon Pho  
San José Spotlight

Silicon Valley's demographics are shifting as birth rates in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties have dropped by 34% over the last 33 years, while residents 65 and up have grown by 28% since 2013. File photo.

Although Silicon Valley has a reputation for attracting young, tech-savvy workers, the cycle may no longer be true as statistics point toward older adults shifting the dynamic and the area being ill-equipped for the looming change.

Fewer births and longer life expectancies will have Americans age 65 and up outnumbering children by 2030, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But local leaders warn the boom will happen much sooner in Silicon Valley. Birth rates in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties have dropped by 34% over the last 33 years, while residents 65 and up have grown by 28% since 2013, according to this year's annual report on economic and demographic trends known as the Silicon Valley Index. Yet the region is failing to address its future and needed changes to housing, long-term adult care and mobility as the population grows



older.

"It's happening around the country, but it's going to happen much sooner here — and more dramatically — than around the rest of the country," Joe Simitian, former District 5 Santa Clara County supervisor, told San José Spotlight. "That generates a whole cascade of things on a 'to do' list that we should be working on now."

Housing is going to become a major challenge. Older adults are staying put and younger people are leaving the area, which has one of the highest housing costs in the nation. It spells a future of fewer working-age people, such as caregivers and health care workers, who can't afford to live in the valley and will have to commute from outside the region making immediate, ongoing care difficult.

The more people age and their incomes become fixed, the less likely they'll move

out of homes with lower tax rates, according to Joint Venture Silicon Valley CEO Russell Hancock, who oversees the study of regional economic and demographic trends every year.

"That locks (older) people into their houses," Hancock told San José Spotlight. "The elderly are actually stuck in that house which is probably too big and that introduces inefficiency in a region that needs efficiency — we need all those extra rooms."

## Elder boom

During Simitian's 12 years as county supervisor, his office explored ideas to support the region's future older adult boom. That included adult day care, which gave caregivers respite during the day and helped older adults remain in their homes over costlier living facilities. He studied support programs for caregivers through training. His office even doled out funding to refurbish homes and community centers to make them age-friendly.

"But unfortunately, the county budget situation is not as robust as it once was," Simitian said.

A widening structural financial deficit could put the county's critical social safety net services on the chopping block. The county's largest funding source for its public health care services could vanish if Congress follows through on proposed spending cuts to Medicaid. This could put more social services on the back-burner as officials grapple with absorbing the county's

worst fiscal crisis since the pandemic.

Taylor Taylor, chair of the Santa Clara County Senior Care Commission, said it's difficult for his panel to make real progress when it doesn't have the ability to provide more input on budget decisions regarding elder care and services for the aging population. He said the commission should have a more active role in weighing in on staffing levels for older adult protective services and senior nutrition programs.

"You schedule speakers, hear presentations and present recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. It's an indirect route," Taylor told San José Spotlight. "There should be a fiduciary layer to the work — we don't have to be necessarily assigned a budget, but the commission should be able to make decisions on budgeting. Without that, there's really no teeth."

## Mobility challenges

At a more local level, efforts to increase older adult mobility have become disjointed. Cities who initially shrugged off the obligation to help fund elderly ride-share services are now starting their own different costlier shuttles.

One of Simitian's and Taylor's biggest strides was championing the 2017 rollout of the county's Reach Your Destination Easily (RYDE) program, a curb-to-curb transportation and local trip planning service for adults 65 and up. It predominantly serves the West Valley — Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga. The service recently expanded into parts of San Jose and Morgan Hill. Taylor said the program has applied for another round of funding to help expand into Gilroy.

But RYDE faced challenges getting communities to buy in. One reason was that RYDE didn't have an app. Cities that helped launch the program through seed money ended up launching their own, according to Taylor, whose Saratoga-based nonprofit Successful Aging Solutions & Community Consulting oversaw the service for the county.

"These shuttle programs are much more expensive," he said. "We asked these cities for \$20,000 to \$30,000 to help support RYDE, when Cupertino a year or two after spent \$2 million to start their shuttle program."



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### Senior Safari is back this summer.

Visitors ages 50 and up are invited to visit San Jose's iconic Happy Hollow Park & Zoo for free on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from May to October. The next date is Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Get some fresh air and exercise as you enjoy free admission, free parking, early entry to the park, the zoo, animal meet and greets and much more. To get in free, you must arrive between 9 and 10 am.

### Summer Concert Series 2025:

ACC's staff is again presenting music in the park on Thursdays in July. Each Thursday, enjoy the sounds of local bands at Greystone Park at Camden Ave and Mount Carmel Dr, from 6:30 to 8pm. Here are each week's bands...

- July 10<sup>th</sup> — Misspent Youth
- July 17<sup>th</sup> — Identity Problem
- July 24<sup>th</sup> — House Rockers
- July 31<sup>st</sup> — The Iconics

Bring your blanket, chairs, food and experience a wonderful evening of music and fun. The Almaden Senior Association is sponsoring the band The Iconics on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Reminder: alcohol is not allowed in the park.

**Almaden Senior Association**  
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Times **Feature**

# Big Sur named California's top spot for a 'micro-retirement'

*Big Sur Named California's Top Spot for a 'Micro-Retirement'*

Not everyone is waiting until 65 to hit pause on work. A growing number of Americans are stepping off the career treadmill earlier, though not permanently. The New York Times calls it a micro-retirement.

It's not about dropping out. It's about stepping back - intentionally - for a few months or more, to rest, reflect, or pursue something outside of the usual 9-to-5. For some, it's a break after burnout. For others, it's a planned gap between roles, a chance to travel, recover from stress, or finally try that thing they've always wanted to do.

Unlike sabbaticals or short vacations, a micro-retirement has a different feel. It's a personal reset, not tied to productivity or paychecks. And increasingly, people are choosing very specific places to do it.

Careerminds, a global outplacement and career development firm, surveyed 3,007 workers to find out where they'd most like to spend their micro-retirement. The



results show a strong lean toward places that offer calm, nature, and room to breathe.

### #1 Hilo, Hawaii

Topping the list, Hilo is more than just scenic - it's serene. Waterfalls, black sand beaches, and a rich local culture make it easy to slow down and breathe differently. You don't just visit Hilo; you settle into it.

### #2 Kauai, Hawaii

Coming in second, Kauai offers raw, unfiltered beauty. The pace here is unhurried, the landscape lush, and the days often spent in quiet awe, on cliffside trails or tucked away on Hanalei Bay.

### #3 Delray Beach, Florida

This South Florida favorite blends easy beach living with a creative buzz. In third place, it's ideal for those who want sunshine, yes, but also a bit of stimulation — art galleries, live music, and that walkable charm of Pineapple Grove.

### #4 Big Sur, California

You don't come to Big Sur to be busy. You come to listen to the ocean, to the wind through the redwoods, to your thoughts. For many, it's the perfect place to clear mental clutter and just be.

### #5 Paia, Hawaii

This Maui gem is a mix of surf town and soulful retreat. It's colorful, artistic, and unpretentious. Many respondents saw Paia as a place to create, journal, or simply exist

without a schedule.

Five other locations in California were named among the best in the country to micro-retire in:

### #9 Carmel-by-the-Sea

Carmel-by-the-Sea invites micro-retirees into a fairytale world of artistic charm and coastal beauty. Strolling the white sands of Carmel Beach, exploring the storybook lanes, and engaging with the vibrant arts community create a lifestyle centered on peace, creativity, and inspiration.

### #14 Laguna Beach

Laguna Beach's vibrant arts scene, coves, and tide pools create an inspiring backdrop for micro-retirement. Daily life includes oceanfront walks in Heisler Park, visiting the Laguna Art Museum, and savoring the steady, creative pulse of this coastal community.

### #18 Ojai

Ojai's pink-hued sunsets and strong wellness culture make it an ideal micro-retirement destination. Micro-retirees find calm strolling the Ojai Valley Trail, rejuvenating at local spas, and participating in a community that naturally nurtures mindfulness and creativity.

### #23 Nevada City

Nevada City offers micro-retirees a blend of historic charm, forested serenity, and vibrant culture. Days are filled with strolls along Broad Street, evenings at the Nevada Theatre, and peaceful hikes on the Deer Creek Tribute Trail, all fostering a life of quiet engagement.

### #35 Joshua Tree (See next page)

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- Consider lighting around your cameras.

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- All information is confidential. Registration is voluntary and there is no cost associated with registration.

<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/security-camera-registration>

Times **Feature**



Joshua Tree's vast desert landscapes and creative energy offer micro-retirees a place for deep reflection and renewal. Life here unfolds through meditative hikes in Joshua Tree National Park, quiet afternoons among eclectic art installations, and nights under starlit skies.

**What People Want From Their Time Off**

The survey also explored what people would prioritize during a micro-retirement, and the results show it's not just about hammocks and hikes. For many, this time is deeply purposeful:

- 26% said their top goal would be travel and exploration, while
- 23% cited health and wellness, and
- 21% simply want rest and recovery.

Other responses included

learning new skills (12%), creative projects like writing or art (7%), volunteering (6%), and starting a business or passion project (5%).

Others saw it as a chance to grow or give back - 12% wanted to learn something new, 7% were eager to dive into creative projects, and a smaller group (6%) said they'd volunteer. Just 5% were looking to start a business or pursue a long-held passion project.

**How Long Would They Step Away?**

Turns out, people aren't thinking small. Only 16% said they'd opt for a break under a month. Most envisioned something more substantial: nearly a quarter would take 1-3 months, another 24% would stretch it to 4-6 months, and, notably, 24% said they'd step away for a year or more if they could. This isn't about squeezing in a breather - it's about real time to reset.

**What's Holding People Back**

Of course, it's not all daydreams and open calendars. The biggest obstacle by far is money. Half of the respondents said financial stability is the main thing stopping them. Losing health coverage was another major concern (17%), along with fears of career

damage from resume gaps (10%) or losing purpose and daily structure (10%). And while we often romanticize a solo break, 9% admitted they'd worry about feeling isolated during such a stretch.

**How Would They Pay for It?**

- 55% say they'd rely on personal savings.
- 19% would take on freelance or part-time work during their time off.

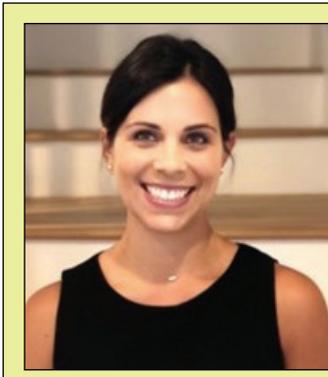
Others mentioned family support (11%), severance packages (8%), or employer-funded sabbaticals (7%).

**Will They Do It?**

The idea is gaining traction, but not everyone's ready to jump. Just under one in five (19%) say they're very likely to take a micro-retirement in the next five years, with another 18% saying it's somewhat likely. A quarter of people are on the fence. And 29% say it's very unlikely, citing, once again, the realities of income, insurance, and job security.

"Micro-retirement isn't about quitting. It's about taking the space to reimagine what life could look like - before burnout forces the issue. These cities reflect what people are yearning for: peace, beauty, and time that feels well-spent," says Raymond Lee, President of CareerMinds.

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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.

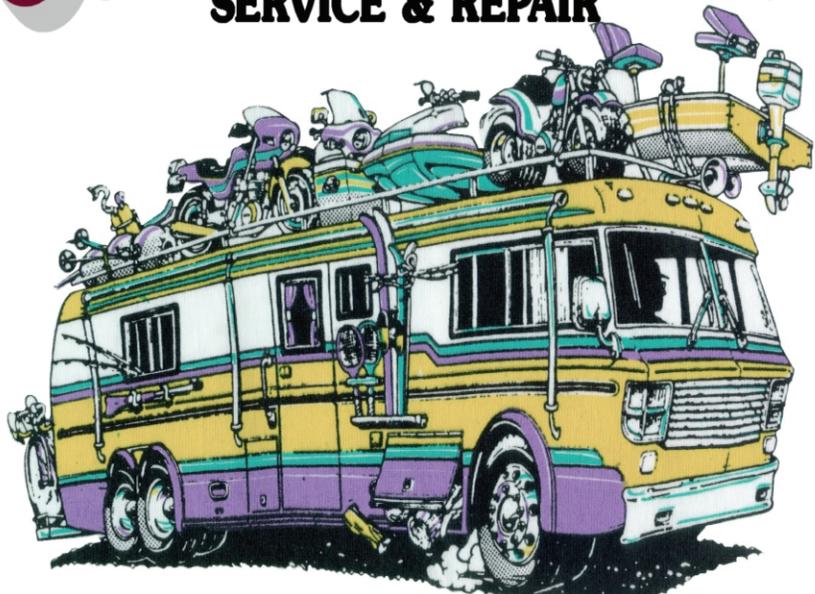
G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead.  
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Times **Feature**

### Two exhibitions planned for July 11 opening at San José Museum of Art

By Sean Eastwood  
*Times staff writer*

Two interesting exhibitions are opening July 11 at the San José Museum of Art.

Pao Houa Her's practice engages with the legacies, potentials, and aesthetics of landscape and portrait photography traditions through works that examine the complex intertwining of desire, homeland, and artifice.



**Pao Houa Her: The Imaginative Landscape** (detail, above) is the first survey of Her's practice. Spanning nearly 20 years of work, it connects California agricultural landscapes to the jungles of Laos, poppy fields in Minnesota, and beyond.

Though specific to her own Hmong American experience, *The Imaginative Landscape* explores constructions of homeland

that resonate across diasporas.

**Young bay mud** (detail, below)—a scientific term for ecologically rich and water-saturated deposits that are less than ten thousand years old—underlies much of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Inspired by the ways young bay mud shapes our experience of and interaction



with the region, this exhibition highlights artists with local ties who are using mud to explore ecological entanglement and belonging in the Bay Area. These artists invoke indigenous, ancestral, sensorial, and multispecies knowledge to propose alternative ways of relating to our immediate environment.

*Editor's note: San José Museum of Art is located at: 110 South Market St, San José CA 95113 msamay@sjmusart.org | cell 415.722.0555. Free admission for youth, students, and teachers with ID. SJMA's new hours Thu 4–9pm, Fri 11am–9pm, and Sat–Sun 11am–6pm.*

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