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Night Out
to be held
Aug. 5
SEE PAGE 7



San Jose to
cite and tow
vehicles with
expired tags
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Almaden

Times

AUGUST 1-14, 2025 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 16

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A parade paying tribute to the end of World WWII at last year's Spirit of '45 event at History Park in San Jose.

Spirit of '45 Day

WWII living history event and 1940s
Swing Dance at History park Aug. 16

By William Bellou
Publisher

Take a trip back in time to the 1940s with live big band music, swing dancing, fashion and car shows, a WWII tent city, homecoming parade, food trucks and activities for the whole family at this year's Spirit of '45 Bay Area event celebrating the end of WWII Saturday, August 16 from 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Since this year marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the Spirit of '45 Bay Area celebration will be a special one. On August 14, 1945, the day President Truman announced that the most destructive war in human history was over, spontaneous celebrations broke out around the world.

As the sun goes down, the victory celebration continues as History Park transforms into a USO-style swing dance under the glow of the Electric Light Tower. The sounds of a live big band will have you jump and jive to the music of the 1940s.

Preservation of honor

Since 2007 an alliance of organizations and individuals have been working together to preserve and
See SPIRIT OF '45, page 2

Tillman case on hold pending mental exam

The brother of late NFL star angry his acuity is questioned

By William Bellou
Publisher

Richard Tillman will not face prosecution for allegations of attempting to destroy a post office in Almaden Valley with his car, pending a competency evaluation after his court-appointed attorney raised concerns regarding his mental fitness.

In Santa Clara County Superior Court, Tillman expressed disagreement with the decision to assess his competency and indicated dissatisfaction with his legal representation.

During discussions about bail between Deputy District Attorney Emily Lessard and Judge Hector Ramon, Tillman stated he did not require bail. Ultimately, Judge Ramon ordered that Tillman remain in custody, setting bail at \$135,000 in accordance with the court's schedule for charges including felony arson, vandalism, and possession of explosives. A doctor is scheduled to conduct a mental competency evaluation at Tillman's next court appearance on August 15.



Richard Tillman in the courtroom at the Hall of Justice in San Jose on July 23 for his initial hearing on several charges, including arson. Photo: Yahoo.com

Assistant District Attorney Angela Bernhard commented that the events in court did not alter the office's view that Tillman poses a risk to public safety.

Tillman was arrested on Sunday after authorities responded to a fire at the Almaden post office on Crown Boulevard, which took approximately 90 minutes to extinguish. Firefighters identified Tillman to police officers at the scene.

According to affidavits, Tillman had purchased

fire logs and lighter fluid before the incident and, while livestreaming on YouTube, allegedly backed his car into the building and set fire to the materials inside the vehicle. He reportedly spray-painted "VIVA LA ME" on the post office exterior.

The ongoing investigation involves the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, San Jose police, and local arson investigators.

Richard Tillman is the brother of Pat Tillman, a former NFL player who left professional football to enlist in the military following the September 11 attacks. Pat Tillman served in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he died by friendly fire in 2004.

Richard Tillman has previously been noted for remarks made at his brother's funeral and for posting videos on YouTube under the name Yeshua HaMashiach. In recent years, he has publicly stated religious beliefs and views regarding government, some of which were referenced during the recent court proceedings.

Following the hearing, Tillman's family declined comment but had earlier released a statement acknowledging Richard's long-term mental health challenges and the difficulties encountered in obtaining adequate care and support.

"It's no secret that Richard has been battling severe mental health issues for many years and unfortunately, securing the proper care and support for him has proven incredibly difficult — or rather, impossible. As a result, none of this is as shocking as it should be." --- Tillman Family.

IBM to close Almaden Research Center

Shift workers to help researchers operate efficiently and collaboratively

By William Bellou
Publisher

IBM said it will relocate its researchers and workers to IBM's Silicon Valley Lab at 555 Bailey Rd., near Coyote Valley. The shutdown, according to company officials, is a way for lab employees to operate in a more efficient and collaborative fashion.

"We look forward to bringing all of our IBMers under one roof at our Silicon Valley Lab, working together side-by-side, to drive more collaboration and to continue to deliver new innovations, from artificial intelligence to quantum computing, for our company and clients," an IBM spokesperson said in comments emailed to this news organization.



IBM's Almaden Research Center, that produced numerous cutting-edge scientific and technical breakthroughs, is slated to close and shift its workers to its Silicon Valley Lab shown above, company officials confirmed. File photo.

The Almaden lab is part of a 700-acre site that IBM owns, according to real estate documents. The merger of the lab sites could be completed sometime in 2026 or by the end of this year.

"This is primarily a site consolidation, which will take place over the next six to nine months," the IBM spokesperson said. "We do not expect significant workforce impacts."

IBM Silicon Valley Lab occupies a parcel that totals 200 acres, a Santa Clara County property database shows.

Numerous residential subdivisions are located next to or near the western and southern boundaries of the IBM Almaden lab site. The northern and eastern sections of the property border is designated open space.

"We are currently exploring options for the Almaden space," the IBM spokesperson said.

See IBM, page 6

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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Spirit of '45

Continued from page 1
honor the legacy of the men and women of America's WWII generation so that their values and achievements will continue to inspire future generations - especially the youth of our nation. The 14-acre History Park is home to the largest Spirit of '45 events in the Country, where it was founded.

New Home Front gallery exhibit

On Saturday, August 9th, "V" for Victory in the Valley: World War II Stories will open in the McKay Gallery in the Pasetta House at History Park. The exhibit will be open for special extended hours from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. during Spirit of '45.

The new exhibit brings the Home Front experience to life through the stories of San José families that contributed to the war effort, such as Captain Samuel L. Washington's service as a Tuskegee Airman, Edith Smith a Civil Air Patrol Cadet, Marilyn

Larson of the Pulpaneck Navy WAVES, and Kristena Nelson De Luz, a Dietician in the Army Medical Corps.

The exhibit displays all of their uniforms, along with artifacts from History San José's collection, including a Civil Defense helmet, a riveter (just like the Rosies used!), a Navy Ships cookie tin, a ration book, and an Army blanket with 187 patches from World War II service members. "V" for Victory in the Valley: World War II Stories will be on view through October on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 3:45 p.m.

To participate in the full slate of History San José's WWII commemorative activities, view the "V" for Victory in the Valley: World War II Stories exhibit during Spirit of '45 Living History Day on Saturday, August 16. The exhibit will be open for special extended hours from 2pm to 6pm during Spirit of '45.

Tickets are on sale now -- Veterans and Rosies receive free admission. To learn more about the event, and purchase tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/scesw4nu>.



Kristena Nelson De Luz (above), a dietician in the Army Medical Corps, and Captain Samuel L. Washington, a Tuskegee Airman are part of the new Home Front exhibit at History Park.



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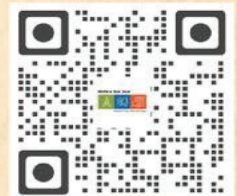
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Meet and Greet

Spirit of '45 is a program of the Digital Clubhouse Network, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization

Times **Community News**

Pet lovers demand leadership change at San Jose animal shelter

By Annalise Freimarck
San José Spotlight

After two years of trying, Lisa Picho finally got the call to work at the San Jose Animal Care Center. She was thrilled to start as an animal care attendant in March. But she said she quickly felt ill-equipped due to a lack of training.

She narrowly avoided a dog attack. She cleaned food and water dishes contaminated by ringworm without proper protection and witnessed experienced coworkers using harsh cleaning chemicals in kennels without proper dilution.

Then one day she noticed two ringworm-infected kittens locked in a small area without food or water during a heat advisory. She told her managers, who she said brushed it off. She emailed them too, but didn't hear back. When she returned for her next shift in June, management fired her for performance issues they'd never mentioned before, she said.

"They do not like to be questioned or made to look bad," Picho told San José Spotlight. "When I brought up something that was very important to prevent deaths, they just fired me right away."

Picho's experience is not an outlier.

San José Spotlight spoke to multiple former employees and volunteers, some who wished

to remain anonymous due to fear of repercussions, who relayed stories of poor leadership, mismanagement and retaliation. The stories, which span multiple years and are backed by numerous documents, show a pattern of management putting worker safety at risk and endangering hundreds of shelter animals.

An online petition that's gained more than 3,200 signatures over the past month is driving community outrage over ongoing shelter problems. The petition calls for San Jose to create an emergency leadership contract to ensure effective oversight of existing management and better leadership hiring. The city opened the position for deputy director of animal care and services June 24.

San Jose Public Works Director Matt Loesch will oversee the shelter until the position is filled, while Kiska Icard and Dr. Elizabeth Kather will remain in their respective roles as division manager and medical director.

Loesch said the shelter is improving and has implemented recommendations listed in a 2024 audit, which found the facility consistently housed about 200 animals above its maximum capacity of 510. Completed recommendations, according to a May neighborhood presentation and city staff, include an updated outreach strategy during kitten season, finalized euthanasia policies, a review of the shelter facility's condition and increased outreach to veterinarians for vaccination certificates.

The city also increased animal care services' annual budget from \$15.4 million in fiscal year 2024-25 to \$17.2 million in fiscal year 2025-26.

"(Some) of the petition's demands align directly with the audit's findings," Loesch told San José Spotlight. "Since the petition began, we launched a nationwide recruitment for a new deputy direc-



A dog at the San Jose Animal Care Center sits in his kennel without food or water on July 11, 2025, which reached a high of 92 degrees. The shelter does have air conditioning. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

tor to oversee the animal care and services division — we look forward to renewed community partnerships that will come with that new leader."

Kit O'Doherty, director of Partners in Animal Care & Compassion and animal shelter volunteer for 22 years, said the shelter's issues stem from upper management. She said as the lead of a rescue who interacts with the San Jose shelter, she's seen careless management when it comes to issues including dogs covered in feces, untrained staff handling potentially dangerous animals and unnecessary euthanasias even after the audit.

O'Doherty said she's frustrated at how long it's taken the city to address the problems because the situation calls for a complete overhaul.

"It came down to just having complete incompetence at the leadership level at the shelter," she told San José Spotlight. "The city is well aware

of this, and yet it's taken three years of turning over every stone we as activists and advocates can possibly think of to get to a place where we are finally have an (opening) for the director position."

Mismanagement and lack of training

Residents began questioning the shelter's leadership a few years ago when management changed to former Deputy Director Jay Terrado, who left last year and was granted disability retirement last month. Icard became division manager after serving as a management analyst for the Monterey County Behavioral Health Department according to her LinkedIn profile, and Kather became medical director in 2022, according to Transparent California.

Former staff and volunteers said management ignored moldy and corroded pet food, often failed to file incident reports for employee injuries and verbally abused staff. Past employees also said there was little training for daily tasks and emergencies, adding they often paid for pet supplies out of their own pockets.

Terrado and Kather did not respond to requests for comment. Icard was unavailable for comment. City officials said management roles are filled through rigorous recruitment processes with multiple interviews, but declined to comment on specific hiring processes, citing employee privacy rights.

The community wrath reached a fevered pitch after Lola, a sick dog at the shelter, died this May.

Courtney Ferro was the animal care attendant who found Lola. She was working the night shift around 9 p.m., caring for neonatal kittens, when she left the room and heard a weird beeping noise. She poked her head into the room where the noise was coming from and noticed Lola slumped over in her kennel. When Ferro inves-

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tigated, she found Lola had tangled herself in a slip leash and IV cord and was strangling herself.

Ferro quickly unwrapped Lola with the help of another employee and reached out to management because she wasn't trained to handle medical emergencies — there was no medical staff on site. Ferro said it took over an hour to get authorization to take Lola to the vet because management didn't respond. By the time she got the OK, it was too late. Lola had died.

Traumatized, Ferro quit soon after the incident. She said Lola should never have been left unsupervised with an IV cord and leash in her kennel. She said one of her coworkers told a manager about the beeping noise a few hours earlier and was instructed to turn the machine off without further investigation.

Ferro filed a whistleblower report with the city and recently received a letter from the city manager's office stating the incident had been resolved without explanation, according to documents obtained by San José Spotlight.

"Animals are being treated badly and low-level staff are being treated badly," Ferro told San José Spotlight. "It's great that we have low-level staff and volunteers who care for the animals and try to make things better, but it's management who needs to actually make the changes that are needed, and they just don't care."

Loesch did not comment on Lola's death.

The incident caught the attention of Mayor Matt Mahan, who called for the 2024 audit. Mahan said the new deputy director could mitigate the issues that have plagued the shelter for years.

"My hope is they'll bring new energy and strong oversight to a shelter already filled with dedicated staff and volunteers who work every day to care for our furry friends," he said in a letter to the community. "This won't be the last change we make at (the shelter), but it's an important one. And it wouldn't be happening without friends of the shelter speaking up and demanding better."

History of retaliation

The problems extend beyond mismanagement.

Multiple employees told San José Spotlight about a toxic work culture that encourages retaliation against staff who raise concerns, including a former animal care attendant.

The employee, who worked there for roughly four years, said they were reprimanded for taking sick shelter kittens to the vet without approval. But that was minor compared to a 2023 incident involving a feral cat.

They told San José Spotlight an untrained employee forgot to shut the kennel door on the cat, who got out. They sustained more than 20 puncture wounds in both hands getting the cat back in the kennel, leaving them with minimal hand mobility and permanent muscle damage and tendonitis.

The former employee said management revealed they were under investigation for the incident to see if they had purposefully injured themselves. They went to the union with a complaint following the incident and consistent verbal abuse, and a month later, in December 2023, were fired with no solid explanation.

"Management did not take care of their employees," the former employee told San José Spotlight. "Anytime we did bring up a concern or address a concern, we would get in trouble for it, or they would be like, 'Shut up. Just do your job, we don't need to hear it.'"

Medical care

Things haven't been much better in the medical department.

Rachel, a former registered veterinary technician who asked to only use her first name over concerns of retaliation, worked at the shelter for



Two kittens with eye infections at the San Jose Animal Care Center. Photo courtesy a former employee.

about five months in 2023. She said medical treatment was inhumane, with cats often dying of preventable flea anemia or a contagious disease because infected cats weren't euthanized. She added sick cats were often spayed or neutered despite the danger to their health.

"What would end up happening was the cats would just die in their kennels. It was really awful," she told San José Spotlight. "People would find cats dead in the kennel all the time. Like, it was daily."

Rachel said she brought it to the city's attention, who she felt took it seriously.

Then she received an email from management stating she was off the schedule until further notice. She asked the city to look into why, and management said it was because she took an extremely sick cat to a rescue. Rachel, who left shortly after, said that wasn't true and wants management replaced.

Loesch did not respond to questions about retaliation.

Community trust

The shelter's history has eroded trust with residents, especially among the rescue community.

The 2024 audit found 40% of rescues reported a positive experience working with the San Jose shelter, and about 44% said they received sufficient information to take an animal into their rescue. And while adoptions for dogs and cats went up from 1,468 in 2020-21 to 4,517 in 2023-24, pets taken into rescues went down from 4,776 to 1,286.

O'Doherty signed onto an open letter 36 rescue groups submitted to the city in January. The letter cited the death of a healthy dog named Rufus last December. He was left unsupervised in his kennel anesthetized, following a routine neutering. Rufus' necropsy listed his cause of death as undetermined, according to the letter.

O'Doherty said the lack of training and protocol led to Rufus' death, which emotionally affected staff and volunteers.

"Everybody's shooting from the hip," O'Doherty said. "It's the wild west in that shelter, and it's not just the animals that pay the price. It's the human beings."

Loesch said the shelter has addressed some community concerns, including kitten intake processes and public education. He said the petition and activist work reflect how much the community cares, a commitment shelter staff share.

"We invite every petitioner to become part of the solution: foster, volunteer or adopt," he told San José Spotlight. "We extend our thanks to the 300 volunteers, rescue transfer partners and adopters who have helped us deliver better outcomes for 7,000 animals last year."

Ferro said new management is the key to fixing the shelter — it's a top-down problem.

"It would definitely be a step in the right direction," she said. "They have caused some damage that is going to take a lot of time to come back from."



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San Jose to cite and tow vehicles with expired tags

August 7 deadline fast approaching

By Joyce Chu
San José Spotlight

San Jose plans to clamp down on vehicles with expired tags, which will affect thousands of homeless residents across the city.

Starting Aug. 17, vehicles with a registration more than six months out of date may be immediately towed without warning. This crackdown on expired registration will hit homeless people living in their vehicles. The city has more than 2,000 lived-in vehicles, and about 36% have expired registration.

“It’s going to be horrible, these people (will) have no place to go,” Rudy Ortega, who lives in Columbus Park where dozens of RVs are encamped, told San José Spotlight. “These people are going to be forced into encampments they don’t want to be in.”

California law requires a vehicle to have up-to-date registration if it’s driven or parked on public roads, but enforcement hasn’t been a priority due to the city transportation department’s small parking compliance unit. There are at least 4,200 vehicles with tags six months or more past expiration, a city analysis of 2022-2023 California Department of Motor Vehicles data found.

Six parking enforcement officers will patrol the streets and ticket or tow vehicles with expired registration. The team will be comprised of three new officers and three officers shifted from other programs. In addition, the city is planning to bring four officers to ticket RVs that have been parked for an extended time on streets in lesser impacted areas, with the intention to get them to move elsewhere. The cost for both programs is expected to be just more than



RVs and vehicles parked with expired tags in San Jose could be immediately towed starting Aug. 7. File photo.

\$1 million this fiscal year, with ongoing costs of \$1.1 million, taken from the general fund. Revenues from citations are expected to bring in approximately \$55,000 this fiscal year and \$125,000 in future years.

“We’ve always thought that the (transportation department should) not be punitive. We strive for compliance,” Colin Heyne, spokesperson for the city transportation department, told San José Spotlight. “But we and the councilmembers and the mayor have gotten lots and lots of complaints about expired registration.”

Heyne said the plan is to ticket vehicles with tags that are six months to a year expired, and tow vehicles with expired registrations of more than a year, though it depends on factors like the condition of the vehicle.

“We want to get the registration fee in part because it pays for safety improvements on our streets,” Heyne said. “So it helps improve the streets for everybody.”

Heyne said the city won’t tow a vehicle if someone is inside. Instead, workers will contact the police department for assistance to vacate the vehicle before removing it. The department has no plan to coordinate with the housing department or nonprofits to offer services for people who could be displaced, he added.

Ortega is living in a pop-up camper and has a car with tags

that expired more than a year ago. He can’t update his registration because the car can’t pass a smog test, and he doesn’t have the money to fix it. He said his life would be upended if his car gets towed.

“I wouldn’t be able to work. I would then have no money to survive,” Ortega said.

The planned enforcement of vehicle tags comes as San Jose expands a program to ban lived-in vehicles on designated streets across the city. Last year, the city instituted temporary RV bans across 30 highly impacted zones through the \$1.6 million pilot program known as Oversized and Lived-In Vehicle Enforcement (OLIVE). The city plans to enforce the ban across 50 more sites this fiscal year at a cost of \$1.9 million. The new tow-away zones are concentrated in District 7 and near San Jose Mineta International Airport.

The pilot program added a supportive enforcement feature. San Jose will ticket lived-in vehicles parked in lower-priority sites to encourage residents to move.

“We have to be smart and strategic with limited resources, and we feel this move, along with our expanded enforcement of oversized and lived-in vehicles, will address some of the most common parking-related complaints we hear,” John Ristow, director of the transportation department, said in a statement.

Homeless advocate Gail Osmer, who works with people living in their RVs, said sweeps and temporary tow-away zones simply move people from one neighborhood to another.

“What a waste of money,” Osmer told San José Spotlight. “Not a lot of people have been going out and offering them any kind of services.”

The city has two safe parking sites, one on Berryessa Road and another at the VTA Santa Teresa light rail station, where people can park their RVs without fear of getting swept. The combined 128 spaces across both sites isn’t enough for the more than 2,000 people living in their vehicles.

“We need at least four, five more (safe parking) sites,” Osmer said.

Mahan wants city workers to have AI tools

Mayor would like 1,000 to be up to speed on ChatGPT

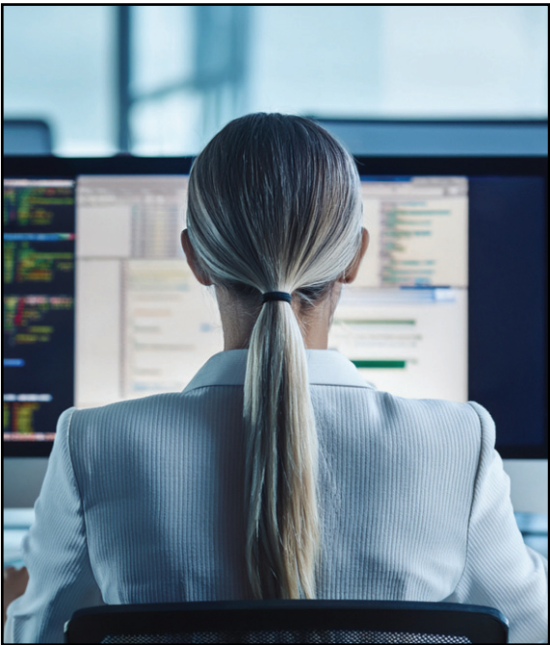
By William Bellou
Publisher

Before San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan attends a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new business, his staff consults ChatGPT to assist in drafting talking points.

“Elected officials engage in substantial public speaking,” noted Mahan, whose recent schedule has included events ranging from restaurant and semiconductor startup openings to a festival highlighting lowriding car culture. While some politicians may hesitate to disclose chatbot assistance in speechwriting or budget preparation—such as drafting a \$5.6 billion fiscal plan—Mahan aims to set a transparent example. He is encouraging many of the nearly 7,000 government employees serving Silicon Valley’s largest city to adopt artificial intelligence technologies.

According to Mahan, integrating AI tools can streamline repetitive tasks and enable the city to provide more effective service to its approximately one million residents. Although he is not alone in advocating for an “AI-first” strategy among public and private sector leaders, some organizations have found that implementing these technologies can introduce additional challenges or errors.

The mayor would like 1,000 employees, about 15% of its workforce—to be trained in AI applications by next year. These will include responding to pothole complaints, optimizing bus routes, and employing vehicle-tracking surveillance cameras to aid law enforcement efforts.



“Our approach encourages experimentation, transparency, identification of issues, collective problem-sharing among agencies, and collaboration with vendors and internal teams to resolve them,” Mahan explained. “Adopting new technologies always entails some challenges.”

Andrea Arjona Amador, head of electric mobility programs at the city’s transportation department, was among the first to utilize these tools. She leveraged ChatGPT to secure a \$12 million grant for electric vehicle chargers by creating a customized AI agent to organize correspondence related to various grant proposals and manage critical deadlines, streamlining the preparation of a 20-page application.

To date, San Jose has invested over \$35,000 in acquiring 89 ChatGPT licenses—each valued at \$400—for municipal staff, according to sources.



The Almaden lab was an innovation hub which undertook countless endeavors.

IBM

Continued from page 1

The pending consolidation marks the end of decades of cutting-edge achievements at Almaden Research Center, which is nestled in the Santa Teresa hills.

“IBM has been spearheading the development of breakthrough technologies in Silicon Valley for over 60 years,” the company spokesperson said.

The Almaden lab was an innovation hub whose breakthroughs involved countless endeavors.

Artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cybersecurity, machine learning, cloud technologies and data storage are among the major scientific advances that the complex produced.

Over nearly 40 years since the IBM Almaden lab opened in 1986, the site’s researchers have invented the first ink-jet printer prototype, the world’s smallest disk drive, the first disk drive, and encryption for DVD and Blu-ray

devices.

In 2014, William Moerner, a researcher at the Almaden site, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Moerner’s work paved the way for the creation of optical storage technologies that many experts see as the foundation for the modern tech industry.

Research at the Almaden lab also led to the creation of a computer chip called TrueNorth that mimics how the human brain works. The chip was so cutting edge that it was accepted into the Computer History Museum.

IBM’s tradition of tech innovation in San Jose stretches back to a time when Silicon Valley wasn’t even known by that name. In 1952, IBM established its first West Coast lab at a South San Jose site on Cottle Road. That lab’s achievements included the creation of the first magnetic disk drive device.

Those IBM sites at and near Cottle Road are now dotted with new suburban homes and apartments as well as a Costco retail warehouse.

Times Feature

Study: California among top 10 U.S. states where teacher-to-student ratio is lowest

The research by e-learning platform, eLearning Industry, recently analyzed data from the National Center for Education Statistics database on public school enrollment and teacher staffing to identify the states with the lowest teacher-to-student ratios across America.

California ranks third with 46 teachers per 1,000 students. Despite having 5,930,473 students and 271,586 teachers, California's ratio remains among the lowest in the nation.

Looking at the study, a spokesperson at eLearning Industry commented:

"According to the study, California faces the third-most significant challenges in teacher-to-student ratios.

"The data suggests that this state may need to focus on teacher recruitment, retention, and resource allocation to improve educational outcomes. These findings present important considerations for policymakers and education administrators looking to address staffing challenges."

The study was conducted by eLearning

Industry, a trusted platform that provides expert content and tailored marketing solutions to help eLearning platforms, HR software companies, and corporate training pro-viders grow and engage their target audience.

The study analyzed data from the National Center for Education Statistics database on public school enrollment and teacher staffing to identify the states with the lowest teacher-to-student ratios across America.

Top 10 U.S. States with Lowest Teacher-to-Student Ratios		
State	Teachers per 1,000 Students	Rank
Arizona	44	1
Utah	45	2
California	46	3
Oregon	54	4
Florida	54.6	5
Alaska	54.8	6
Alabama	56	7
Idaho	57.1	8
Louisiana	57.2	9
Washington	58	10

National Night Out to be held Aug. 5

By William Bellou
Publisher

More than 38 million neighbors across more than 16 thousand communities around the nation will participate in National Night Out held on August 5.

The event is an annual community building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood spirit to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

National Night Out is a crime prevention event that is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San Jose Police Department.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- Heighten crime prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention efforts
- Build connections within the community and get to know your neighbors

On Tuesday, August 5,

neighborhoods participating in National Night Out throughout San José are asked to join in a city-wide effort to strengthen their community through various gatherings. Light up your street by turning on outside lights and spending the evening with your community and local police department. It is an evening full of crime prevention tips, community member messages, music, giveaways, and fun.

For questions or event information contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133.



The event is an annual community building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood spirit.

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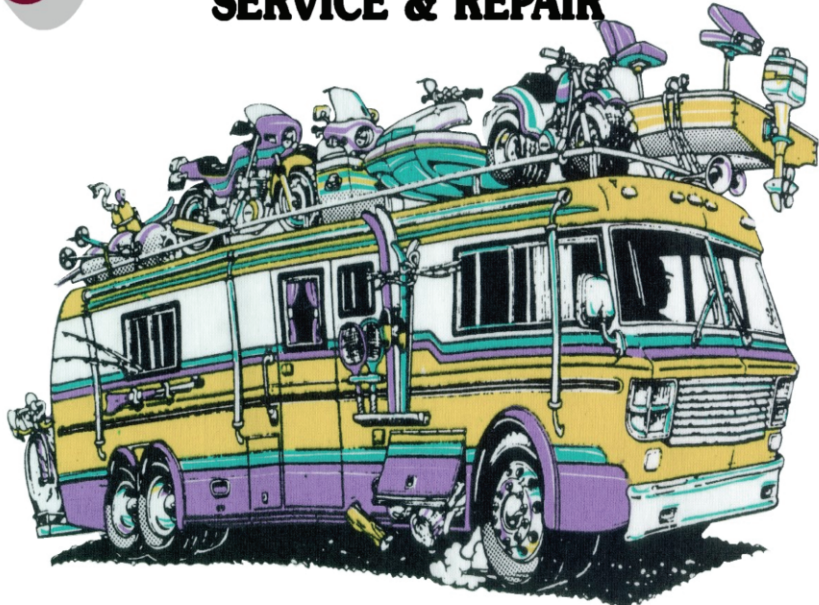
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WATERWISE

Resilient beauties: curating a stunning garden with California's native plants for clay soil

By Matthew Frazier

California is home to a remarkable array of native plants that not only adapt well to the challenges posed by clay soil but also contribute to sustainable landscaping practices. For gardeners eager to embrace this approach, here are exemplary plant choices that demonstrate resilience and beauty.

Shrubs:

California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*): This evergreen shrub makes a vibrant addition to any garden with its grey-green foliage and aromatic leaves. Thriving in the harsh conditions of clay and alkaline soils, its drought tolerance makes it a reliable choice for these environments. California sagebrush also attracts pollinators, providing an added benefit to your landscape.

Coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis*): Known for its toughness and wild charm, coyote brush is another evergreen shrub that flourishes in clay soils. It produces small, fluffy flower clusters in late summer, which provide food for a variety of birds and insects. Its ability to establish quickly makes it an excellent choice for erosion control and habitat enhancement.

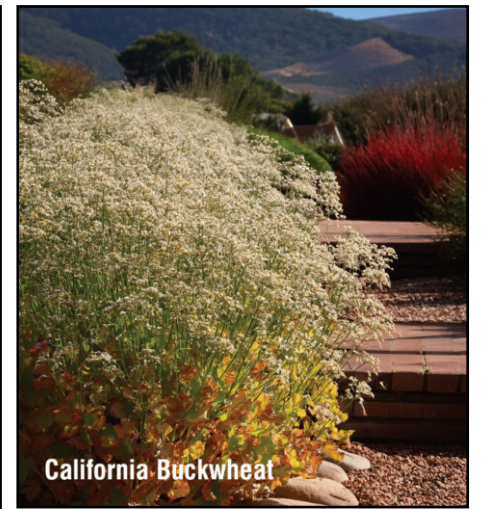
Ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.): This genus offers an impressive variety of species that boast exquisite blooms in shades of blue, purple, and white, making them a favorite among gardeners. Many ceanothus varieties are well-suited to clay, providing not just color but also drought resilience. Their unique flowers attract a multitude of pollinators, enhancing the ecological value of your garden.

California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*): This perennial is an outstanding choice for clay environments, characterized by its delicate clusters of tiny flowers in various hues ranging from creamy white to pink. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, California buckwheat is an ecological powerhouse, providing vital support for native pollinators and helping with soil stability.

Other Options:

California Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*): This stunning shrub or small tree bursts into life with clusters of vibrant pink flowers in early spring, which contrast beautifully against its heart-shaped leaves. An adaptable species, redbud thrives in clay soils, offering year-round interest with its attractive branching structure.

Orange Bush Monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*): A perennial delight, this monkeyflower dazzles with its vibrant orange blooms, typically appearing in spring and continuing through summer. It's well-adapted to clay conditions and attracts various



California Buckwheat



Water Wise
 Matthew Frazier,
 Certified Water
 Manager

hummingbirds, making it both a visual and ecological asset.

California Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*): This perennial herb features strongly fragrant, velvety leaves and clusters of tubular, pale blue flowers. Known for its medicinal properties, yerba santa thrives in clay, offering both beauty and practical applications in herbal remedies.

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*): Toyon is an evergreen shrub or small tree known for

its striking clusters of red berries that appear in winter, providing food for wildlife. This tough plant thrives in clay soils and is an excellent choice for creating a hearty and vibrant landscape.

Coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.): Including the popular "Cheyenne Spirit," these colorful perennials flourish in a variety of conditions, including clay soils. Their daisy-like blooms not only add charm to the garden but are also known for attracting butterflies and other beneficial insects.

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.): Coreopsis, with its cheerful yellow blooms, is a pleasant addition to any garden. These drought-tolerant plants thrive in clay, providing vibrant color while also being hardy enough to withstand varying conditions.

Important Considerations:

Soil Amendment: While these native plants are well-adapted to clays, incorporating organic matter like compost into your soil can immensely improve its drainage and enhance plant vitality. This simple step provides a healthier growing environment.

Specific Cultivars: It's essential to conduct research on specific cultivars, especially within the Manzanita family, as some are better suited to clay than others. Choosing the right variety can mean the difference between a flourishing garden and one that struggles.

Drainage: Proper drainage is crucial in clay soils to prevent root rot and other moisture-related issues. Implementing strategies such as raised beds or amending organic matter can also help protect your investment in these stunning native plants.

By thoughtfully selecting and nurturing the right native plants, you can cultivate a thriving, sustainable garden that celebrates the rich biodiversity of California while effectively addressing the challenges presented by clay soil. Happy planting!

If you have a question or suggestion for this column, email KitchenFraiser@hotmail.com

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practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatak" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

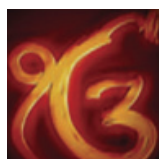


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