

SJ Mayor Mahan expressing doubts of Santa Clara County sales tax measure passing  
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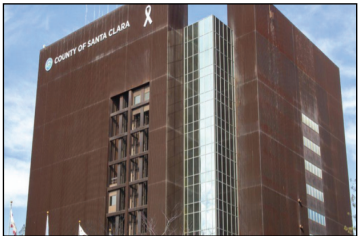
Symphony San Jose presents 24th season-opening program Masquerade on Oct. 4 and 5  
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SEPTEMBER 2025 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 9

# Willow Glen Times

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The Santa Clara County Government Center is located at 70 W. Hedding St. in San Jose. File photo.

## Santa Clara County tax measure wins lawsuit, stays on ballot

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**S**anta Clara County's 11th hour sales tax measure is moving forward — but the fate of its public hospitals might come down to several words.

A judge has ordered county officials to strike President Donald Trump's name from the ballot language as a reason for approving a five-eighths cent sales tax hike for the county hospital system. Superior Court Judge Carol Overton's Friday ruling also requires other edits to language that taxpayer advocates challenged as misleading and biased.

For instance, county leaders agreed to revise a line originally framing the tax as "protecting" against unprecedented Trump administration funding cuts. It will now say the tax would "address" those cuts. The ballot language's mention of Trump will be replaced with "the President."

County leaders are lauding the ruling and argue the new ballot language will look "substantively identical" to the one approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"Let me put it this way — everyone knows who the President of the United States is and who the president is who signed the law that has cut almost a trillion dollars from Medicaid," County Executive James Williams told San José Spotlight.

See **LAWSUIT**, page 9

## Kolam meets compassion

### How a Leland High School student weaves tradition into community service

By William Bellou  
Publisher

**C**reativity, culture and compassion are three words that Leland High School Senior Nainika Srinivasan uses to describe her approach to meeting our community's most pressing needs.



Nainika Srinivasan and Nethra Srinivasan distributing sarees at a women's shelter in India.



Nainika Srinivasan makes kolam-inspired shadow boxes for a fundraiser.

As the founder of the nonprofit Palettes for Change, Nainika channels her creativity and passion to develop initiatives that promote equity and access.

It all began through her work with The NeuroKidz, where she taught neuroscience workshops in an orphanage in India. While guiding students through hands-on lessons, she noticed that many lacked even the most basic school supplies needed to fully engage in learning. "I wanted to help, but I wasn't sure where to start," Nainika said. "So, I started digging deep to find a solution."

Inspiration struck when Nainika began to reflect on the summers she would spend with her grandmother, where she first learned how to create kolams: a traditional art form in which designs are created by drawing curved lines around a series of dots with rice flour to create a pattern. "My grandmother used to tell me that if you learned how to do a kolam, you could solve any kind of problem," Nainika reminisced.

Motivated by this teaching, Nainika began to turn this traditional folk-art form into action.

See **INITIATIVE**, page 5

## Can Silicon Valley express lanes end traffic congestion?

By B. Sakura Cannestra  
San José Spotlight

**S**ilicon Valley's transportation agency wants to increase revenues from its highway express lanes, but advocates say they could save more money by strengthening public transit.

VTA serves as Santa Clara County's public transit operator and congestion management agency, overseeing the county's highways as well as its buses and light rail. As the agency grapples with its multiyear budget deficit, officials are looking to diversify its rev-

enue streams. The board of directors approved an expenditure plan for one segment of express lanes in April, which set aside about \$1 million annually for transit operating costs starting in 2028.

Casey Emoto, VTA chief engineering officer, said the agency has been incrementally installing express lanes on highways across Santa Clara County since 2012, when the agency opened the Highway 237/Interstate 880 express lane interchange.

For most of the highways, the agency is converting existing carpool lanes into express lanes. However, Emoto said they're considering expanding part of Highway 101 to add a second express lane from Dunne Avenue to the San Mateo County border.

"I think there's a lot of benefit to doing it," Emoto told San José Spotlight. "It helps get the money to transit



Silicon Valley commuters clog the highway as people travel between work and home. VTA is converting existing carpool lanes into express lanes in an effort to reduce traffic congestion. File photo.

faster than otherwise."

Funding for the project has been sporadic, so the lanes are being installed in phases. The next phase includes the interchange between Highways

101 and 85, which Emoto said should be fully functional in the next two years.

The agency is working on a strategic plan for the project, See **TRAFFIC**, page 5

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# California was once a model of transparency

By Dan Walters

California was once a national leader in requiring public officials to conduct their business — really our business — in public.

Beginning with the Ralph M. Brown Act of 1953, which imposed strict limits on secret meetings by local governments, California’s Legislature adopted several “sunshine bills,” as they were dubbed. The Bagley-Keene Act extended the Brown Act’s open meeting requirements to state agencies, while the Public Records Act guaranteed access to all but a few documents state and local agencies maintained.

However, while the Legislature was willing to have the sun shine on others, it largely exempted itself. Thus, “caucuses” could meet behind closed doors to decide the fate of legislation, essentially scripting what would be said in open sessions before voting.

Legislative appropriations committees could — and did — secretly decide which bills would reach the floors of both houses and just announce the winners and losers without explanation.

At one time, legislative secrecy was kept in check, more or less, by having two political parties and a substantial corps of reporters.

Party leaders could reveal what their rivals were cooking up and reporters could penetrate clandestine deal-making through sources.

However, as California became dominated by one party and the Capitol press corps shrank due to upheavals in media industries, secrecy became more entrenched.

A case in point is the current effort by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic legislators to draw new maps for the state’s 53 congressional districts with the aim of capturing enough new seats to offset the Republican gerrymandering of Texas congressional districts. California’s new maps are being drafted in secret, a sharp contrast with the months-long public deliberations four years ago of the state’s redistricting commission, resulting in the current maps.

Apparently, the new maps will be revealed briefly before the Legislature votes to place them on a November special election ballot.



There are no plans to allow them to be modified before adoption.

What’s happening vis-à-vis redistricting is right in line with the Capitol’s penchant for doing the public’s business in private.

Another example, as CalMatters revealed last year, is an unwritten rule that prohibits legislators from actually discussing changes in their bills during committee meetings, essentially rendering such hearings to meaningless charades.

Still another is the massive project to build a new annex to the Capitol itself. The Legislature has exempted the project from the California Environmental Quality Act and refuses to release details on what is being built or its costs, which appear to be massive, despite the state’s chronic multi-billion-dollar budget deficits. It has also required people involved in the project to sign non-disclosure

pledges to keep details secret.

A pending measure, Assembly Bill 1392, would exempt home addresses of public officials and political candidates from being revealed. While touted as a safety measure, it would make it impossible for journalists to determine whether officials actually live in the districts they represent — something that has popped up numerous times.

Legislators also want to make local government activities less transparent.

One measure now pending in the Capitol, Assembly Bill 699, is the latest of several efforts to allow proponents of local bond measures to omit tax consequences from ballot summaries, but rather place them in voter pamphlets, making them less prominent.

Closing the circle that began with passage of the Brown Act in 1953, Senate Bill 707 would make it easier for some local agencies to conduct their meetings via the internet rather than in person, thus making it easier to mute criticism from the public.

While California’s dominant Democrats often accuse President Donald Trump of undermining democracy, their growing desire for secrecy is equally abhorrent.

Dan Walters is a CalMatters columnist.

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(408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO  
WILLIAM BELLOU  
williamb@timesmediainc.com

STAFF WRITERS  
LORRAINE GABBERT,  
SHUBHI ASTHANA,  
ANGELA COPELAND, SNIKITHA BANDA,  
CLAIRE CHEN, KEN DEHART,  
SEAN EASTWOOD, MATTHEW FRAZIER,  
JANE JOHNSON, KEVIN LARSEN

ART DIRECTOR  
JEFF BAHAM  
graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
SANDY BELLOU

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Times
 Community



Nainika Srinivasan and Nethra Srinivasan with kids at an orphanage in India, holding backpacks and school supplies.

Initiative

*Continued from page 1*  
 Painting Kolam-inspired coasters and shadow boxes by hand, Nainika founded Palettes for Change and raised funds to help people in need.  
 Her first fundraiser, a summer event in 2023, had a resounding response. “I was so nervous that people would think the kolam designs were just squiggly lines and not something meaningful,” she shared. Kolam coasters have become a favored gift for celebrations like festivals, housewarmings, and even milestone events.  
 Nainika’s work with Palettes for Change has now raised over \$15,000, and helped fund meals, uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies for orphanages in Chennai, Kathmandu and here in San Jose. She has also donated hand-made cards for skilled nursing and pediatric subacute patients as well as blankets and hygiene kits for the unhoused in the Bay Area, and sarees for widows and battered women in India. To date, Palettes for Change has uplifted over 5,000 individuals in communities around the world.  
 Nainika has been recognized for her work, receiving a certificate of Special Congres-

sional Recognition and commendations from Senator Dave Cortese, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, and Mayor Matt Mahan, highlighting her passion and inspiring leadership.  
 The journey wasn’t without its challenges. Experimenting to find the right materials to paint with for her handmade coasters, managing and balancing orders with schoolwork, and expanding outreach tested her resilience. Nainika sees an ever-growing potential in kolam as Palettes for Change continues its work to show how merging traditional design with modern problem-solving creates real-world impact.  
 “I have learned that even the simplest designs have the power to make a big impact in someone’s life,” Nainika reflects. “This initiative has shown me that art has the power to create change in our world.”  
 Nainika hopes to expand the initiative and reach even more disadvantaged groups in our communities. She is determined to carry forward the simple tradition her grandmother taught her, which has grown into a grassroots organization blending culture, creativity, and advocacy.  
 To learn more about Palettes for Change, visit [palettesforchange.org](http://palettesforchange.org) or email [palettesforchange@gmail.com](mailto:palettesforchange@gmail.com).

Traffic

*Continued from page 1*  
 which was reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee and will be presented at a VTA board meeting in October.  
 While interest in the express lanes has increased due to the revenue potential, they’re mainly a congestion management tool. A VTA spokesperson said express lanes decrease travel time by up to 20 minutes during peak congestion.  
 “You’re able to move more people to places they want to get to, and this is people driving solo, carpool, van transit (and) motorcycles,” Emoto told San José Spotlight.  
 Those time savings may be coming at the cost of extra congestion for other commuters. Shams Tanvir, an assistant professor of civil engineering and construction engineering management at Long Beach State University and Mineta Transportation Institute researcher, said express lanes work in theory by discouraging drivers from traveling during peak hours. In practice, most driving commuters can’t choose when to drive, and those who can’t pay the toll are stuck in even worse traffic.  
 Another possible benefit of express lanes is the toll is normally discounted or removed for carpooling drivers. However, Tanvir said the express lane by itself doesn’t

usually encourage people to carpool, and drivers would need another incentive to make the express lanes more practical.  
 “It works by discouraging people to drive by increasing the (toll), and who is going to be affected by that? People who are impacted by their wallet,” Tanvir told San José Spotlight.  
 Harry Neil, who sits on the citizens advisory committee, said he doesn’t buy into express lanes as the right way to improve congestion or a good revenue stream, especially if VTA expands Highway 101. Research shows expanding highways doesn’t reduce traffic, and Neil said greenhouse gas emissions from more traffic go against VTA’s climate goals.  
 He said the funding contribution to public transit isn’t worth the negative climate impacts, especially since funds generated have to be used on the corridor where they’re generated, per state law. To truly have the county’s highway system pay for local transit, he suggested VTA could look into tolling on all highways where there is a reasonable transit alternative.  
 “If we are serious about our impact on the climate, if we are serious about mode-share shifting people out of single occupancy vehicles and onto transit, then we should be putting in all-lane toll lanes where high quality transit exists,” Neil said.

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Times **Community News**



At a recent town hall, San Jose Mayor **Matt Mahan** questioned how Santa Clara County has the capacity to operate such a large health care system. File photo.

### SJ Mayor Mahan expressing doubts of Santa Clara County sales tax measure passing

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Santa Clara County's decision to raise sales taxes will most likely result in a showdown between centrist San Jose Mayor for California's most progressive Board of Supervisors.

Although Mahan has yet to state his position on Santa Clara County's proposed five-eighths cent sales tax increase measure, which county supervisors are asking voters to approve in the Nov. 4 special election. They argue the general tax increase will help keep California's second largest public health care system alive amid massive federal spending cuts.

The question remains, can county leaders work through their differences with Mahan and secure his support asking vot-

ers to approve increasing taxing to provide annual revenues of more than \$300 million through 2031.

Mahan may soon express his own ideas of how the funds should be spent, if at all. He has made it clear in the past that Santa Clara County leaders aren't doing enough to help his city solve its homelessness, mental health and substance use crisis.

Mahan has argued that San Jose spends more than surrounding cities on the homelessness issue. He is unhappy about the County ending a program that allowed police to respond to mental health emergencies, and he is expressing doubts that the county can effectively run the county's four public hospitals and 15 health clinics.

"I personally don't know that the county can run four public hospitals. Our county's got almost as many public health public hospital beds under management as the county of Los Angeles," Mahan said at an Aug. 8 town hall with District 2 Supervisor Betty Duong. "I don't know if that's sustainable."

Michael Elliott, executive director of nonprofit Valley Health Foundation, said he is "optimistic Mahan can come to their corner." "Public safety is obviously important to the mayor, so closing a hospital is an unacceptable risk to public safety."


Three of the county's four hospitals are located in San Jose, including the county's level I and II trauma centers.

Anti-tax organizers in Silicon Valley are planning a major campaign against the county measure.

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# Cars in the Park

## The largest annual antique and classic auto show in the West

"A Living History Day" at History San Jose Sept. 13

The largest annual antique and classic auto show in the West will take place Saturday, September 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 25th annual Cars in the Park presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club and History San José will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event fills History Park (Kelley Park, 693 Phelan Ave, San José, CA) with 200 period-correct through 1949 vehicles, fire equipment, bicycles, and motorcycles of all makes.

**Requirements for entering an antique or classic vehicle**

There is no registration nor fee required to enter a vehicle. Just bring your antique vehicle to the gate at History Park. All vehicles permitted on the grounds of History Park, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. existed between the late 1800s



through 1949 and are period-correct. No vehicle that doesn't meet these requirements will be allowed on the grounds of History Park during the show.

The featured vehicles this year are Race Cars and Speedsters through 1931.

Also located on the grounds will be the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association. There will be antique crafts demonstrated and antique collectibles displayed. The Silicon Gulch Dixieland Band will provide music. Listen to The

Tonic Trio Singers singing songs from the '20s and '30s. See toy trains operated, take a trolley ride and see blacksmith demonstrations. Take a photo with an antique auto at the Associated Oil Company Service Station. Activities are provided for kids. Food will be available from food trucks. Ice cream is available at O'Brien's Ice Cream Parlor.

Dennis Mattish, author of six books on the history of auto racing in Northern and Central California will be on hand to give a presentation in the theater on racing in the Bay Area.

Mike Hennessy, owner of Hennessy Automotive and host of The Car Guy Channel will be the announcer for the popular Model T Put-together event.

Please note there is NO alcohol and NO BBQs allowed inside the Park. Dogs on leashes are allowed. These are Park rules and must be followed.

### Event activity schedule

12:00 Music by the Silicon Gulch Dixieland Band

1.00 Presentation: Bay Area Auto Racing

2:00 The Tonic Trio Singers

2:30 Model T Put-Together

3:30 Drawing for Door Prizes

### Fees:

Adults: \$ 10, Seniors: \$ 8, Children (6 to 12) & HSJ members: \$5. Participants & Children under 6: Free. Adjacent City Parking: \$10.

# Symphony San Jose presents 24th season-opening program Masquerade on Oct. 4 and 5

Symphony San Jose's 24th season-opening program invites the public into a world of fantasy and wild imagination. Don your mask and immerse yourself in the music and beauty of three iconic masterpieces.

Symphony San Jose will present the 2025-26 Season-Opening Program *Masquerade* Saturday, October 4 at 7:30pm and Sunday October 5, at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

Anna Clyne's dazzling and dynamic *Masquerade* captures the spirit of celebration and revelry. Commissioned by the British Broadcasting Corporation, *Masquerade* is a single-movement 5-minute orchestral



composition by the British-born composer, first performed September 7, 2013

San Jose-born, world-renown pianist Jon Nakamatsu appears in Sergei Rachmaninoff's ravishing *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* with a tour-de-force performance of the composer's final and perhaps most significant work for piano and orchestra. (1934)

Hector Berlioz's most famous composition, *Symphonie Fantastique* (Fantastic Symphony), is a spellbinding quasi-autobiographical musical journey through love, delirium, and supernatural visions. This vibrant tapestry of sound depicting the composer's descent into madness by unrequited love was nothing short of revolutionary when it premiered in 1830 – and still holds the power to thrill and surprise today.

Music Notes occur one hour prior to the

concert in the main auditorium and includes an informative discussion, fun facts, insights, and interviews with featured guests. Music Notes is free of charge to concert ticket holders. It is designed to deepen audiences' appreciation of the music to be featured during the performance.

### THE PROGRAM:

Anna Clyne: *Masquerade*

Sergei Rachmaninoff: *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*

Hector Berlioz: *Symphonie Fantastique*

### ARTISTS

Conductor: Nathan Aspinall

Piano: Jon Nakamatsu

Symphony San Jose

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**SINGLE TICKET PRICES:** \$35 to \$115 (City and handling fees may apply.)

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Email: [jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org](mailto:jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org) ; Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5 p.m. **SPECIAL DISCOUNTED YOUTH TICKETS:** SoundCheck Pass: \$25 for a season pass to all eight regular season concerts on Saturday nights. Available for ages 17 to 25. Call 408.286.2600 for additional information. SoundCheck Pass subscribers are eligible to purchase one "companion" ticket (no age limit) for just \$25 per concert. Call the Box Office for additional information and reservations. 408.286.2600 or email: [Development@symphonysanjose.org](mailto:Development@symphonysanjose.org)

Convenient, inexpensive parking is available at a city-owned garage one-and-a-half blocks from the theater at San Carlos Street with entrances on Second and Third streets.

**SPECIAL OPENING-NIGHT EVENT:** *Masquerade Fantastique* begins with a red-carpet welcome and an exclusive VIP pre-concert reception with distinguished guests from San Jose's government, business, and media communities. The historic California Theatre will provide the perfect backdrop as you enjoy fine wine, delicious food, and live entertainment.



Jon Nakamatsu



Nathan Aspinall



Times **Feature**

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## Season opener for Opera San Jose

Opera San José will open its 2025-26 season with Mozart's lighthearted and comedic "Cosi Fan Tutte," Sept. 14–28, 2025 at the California Theatre. Seen here in OSJ's 2017 production (from L to R) are **Colin Ramsey, Cassandra Zoe Velasco, Amanda Kingston, and David Blalock**. The new production allows the audience to choose the ending at every performance. In this dazzling new take, director Alek Shrader keeps all the wit, romance, and razor-sharp humor of Mozart's beloved comedy—but hands the fate of its lovers over to the crowd.



*The Almaden Senior Association is 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.*

### 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, September 25th. 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.

### Casino Trip, Graton Casino, Tuesday Sep 16, 2025:

Come Join the Almaden Senior Association at **GRATON CASINO**. Travel by charter bus from the Almaden Community Center to Graton Casino for a day of gaming, food and fun. Depart the Almaden Community Center, 8am Return around 6:30pm. \$50 Cash or Check. You get \$20 in free play. Contact Rich at 408-219-8641 for more information.

### Walt Disney Family Museum/Pier 39, Thursday, October 16, 2025:

Take a bus trip to the Walt Disney Family Museum, at the Presidio, San Francisco. Enjoy learning about the life of Walt Disney and his journey from birth to his first drawings, cartoons, films and the creation of Disneyland. Many static and interactive displays to see and enjoy. Then on to Pier 39 for lunch and shopping on your own before returning home. Depart ACC 8:15am. Return around 4:30pm. \$70 Cash or Check. Contact Rich at 408-219-8641 for more information.

### Diwali event, Sunday October 26, 2025: SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate Diwali, Festival of Lights with a menu of traditional Indian fare and entertainment of classical and modern dances. October 26, 2025, 12noon to 3pm. Price \$25 for members, \$28 for non-members. Tickets will go on sale in late September. Contact Narender at 408-623-3106 or Bharat at 408-930-7244 for more information.

For these events and trips, sign up MWF from 8 to 10am in the Almaden Community Center Lobby. Payments are cash or check only, sorry no refunds.

**Almaden Senior Association**  
 at the Almaden Community Center  
 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120  
<https://almadenseniors.org>  
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Times **Community News**



## New executive director excited for this year's Christmas in the Park

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

Christmas in the Park's new executive director is excited and optimistic about his favorite most beloved event held annually in San Jose.

Ted Lopez is the new nonprofit's executive director after former director Debbie Degutis announced her resignation.

Lopez, a fourth-generation San Josean, says one of his family's annual holiday traditions is to take a photo under the massive tree at Plaza de Cesar Chavez, and he is looking forward to another photo there making sure it remains there for future generations. "We need to save Christmas. That's the way I look at it," Lopez said.

Lopez has some innovative ideas to promote the annual event and take on the many challenges confronting the organization. He's using his experience working in sales for several sports teams including

the San Francisco Giants and the Jacksonville Jaguars where he was vice president of ticketing.

"I'm coming in with a new approach," said Lopez.

Lopez said he is bringing back Christmas in the Park's reindeer mascot, Blinky, and promoting the launch of a new online merchandise store at [christmasinthepark.myshopify.com](http://christmasinthepark.myshopify.com).

"Every time someone buys a Blinky-branded dog bandanna or a Christmas in the Park hoodie dress, the nonprofit makes a little money, and the meter measuring holiday spirit goes up a notch," Lopez explained.

Lopez' main challenge this year is to attract more Silicon Valley companies as sponsors and open up sponsorships of positions at Christmas in the Park where students or interns can get hands-on experience in programming and robotics, improving the animatronic displays while training for careers.

More than 800,000 people walk through Plaza de Cesar Chavez Christmas In the Park displays each year, or visit the illuminated drive-thru, which is becoming a very popular venue.

Christmas in the park opens this year on November 28 — the opening date also for Blinky's Drive-Thru.

\*\*\*\*\*



### Have a fun day at Graton Casino

Date: Tues, September 16, 2025


Arrive: 7:30 am

Depart: 8:00 am

Return: 6:30 pm (estimated)

Cost: \$50.00 Cash or Check

Receive: \$20 Slot or \$15 Match Play



Sign up M,W,F 8-10 am in the lobby of the  
Almaden Community Center

If you have questions, contact,  
Rich @ 408-219-8641 or Donna @ 408-266-4938

Play slots

Relax & eat

Table games

\*\*\*\*\*

## Lawsuit

*Continued from page 1*

"The fact that it says the president instead of President Trump — I don't think anyone will be confused about what's going on and why we're in the situation we're in."

Yet over the last three days both sides have been splitting hairs over phrasing — in some cases over single words — balancing the need to explain the tax measure's purpose with concerns about prejudicing voters.

"It sort of boggles the mind," Overton said in court Wednesday. "I know there are very educated and diligent people in this county ... but in our profession we wordsmith all the time. Is that the way most of the public sees things?"

Chris Robell, a San Mateo County resident who has sued to stop various tax and bond measures across the Bay Area, is a co-plaintiff in the lawsuit alongside Santa Clara County residents. He said the revisions are a step in the right direction, but

the language is still biased.

"The ballot question is argumentative and full of reasons to vote 'Yes.' What they're putting on the question is too similar to what is on their argument in favor," Robell told San José Spotlight. "I believe this thing should state very simply, 'Shall the taxpayers of Santa Clara County adopt a .625% sales tax increase measure for general fund purposes?'"

Robell said he wouldn't have as much of an issue with the measure, known as Measure A, if it was a special tax.

"It's a general tax. Is health care really the nature of the measure?" Robell said.

"They can and probably will spend the money on other things, such as unfunded pension liabilities and raises."

County elections officials will implement the ordered changes and proceed with ballot printing, translation and proofreading.

"Since we have not yet gone to print on ballots, voter guides or related materials, there is no need to reprint as long as any court ordered changes are timely," Michael Borja, spokesperson for the Santa

Clara County Registrar of Voters, told San José Spotlight.

The county is looking at \$1.5 billion in health care and social safety net program losses over the next few years after Congress passed H.R. 1, otherwise known as Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill." Meanwhile, the costs of the county's public hospital system — California's second largest — continue to grow. County leaders have said this is not a loss they can budget through, and higher taxes alone won't solve the issue.

But a lawsuit from leaders of the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association and Libertarian Party said the county unlawfully placed the measure on the ballot. They argue the federal cuts don't constitute an emergency allowing for a sales tax vote on a non-general election year.

Overton's ruling disagreed — though all sides in court acknowledged a lack of legislative clarity in California on the definition of an "emergency."

Opponents say the measure reads as if the tax revenue is restricted to the county health care system. In reality, the pro-

posed tax is a general tax which requires a lower approval threshold — a simple majority — and is easier to pass. It also gives the county more spending discretion. A special tax, which would restrict the spending of revenue, requires a higher approval threshold or a two-thirds supermajority.

Michael Elliott, executive director of nonprofit Valley Health Foundation, which was set up to fundraise and lobby for the county health care system, is chairing the campaign committee in support of the county ballot measure. He said the ruling doesn't change Measure A's objective.

"Trump supporters and defenders of the so-called 'Big Beautiful Bill' fought to remove Trump's name from the ballot question because they know Santa Clara County voters reject the Trump agenda and strongly support public health," Elliott said in a statement in reaction to the ruling. "We will not let the Big Beautiful Bill — or those who defend it — stand in the way of public health and the care our community relies on."



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## Times In Memory



### Kristina "Tina" Louise Rinella

June 17, 1949 - May 14, 2025

Willow Glen resident

Kristina "Tina" Rinella, 75, of Willow Glen, CA, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2025.

She was a lifelong resident of the San Jose area and a 1967 graduate of Willow Glen High School.

Tina is survived by her husband, Stephen Moore; her son, Wesley Rinella II and his wife, Mary; and grandchildren Vida, Vin, and Valen Rinella.

Tina will be remembered for her warmth, humor, and love of family.

A Celebration of Life was held earlier this month.

tucky's Catholic schools.

After graduation, she went to work for AT&T; First in Cincinnati, then New Jersey, New York City, and finally climbed the corporate ladder transferring to CA as a network design analyst and global sales representative.

After retirement from AT&T, she represented an exclusive line of ladies clothing. She took those skills to the Career Closet where, with the help of her clients, she dressed women for success as they tried to re-enter the work force.

She dedicated her time, talent, and treasure to Stone Church of Willow Glen where



she served on a variety of boards, committees, and governing bodies. She also sang in the church choir.

She enjoyed golf and was once the Handicap Champion at The Villages Golf and Country Club. She also loved her beach house in Aptos and traveling with her husband Michael, which were sources of great pleasure. She also loved The Villages where she resided for twenty-eight years.

Maureen was an elegant lady and a beautiful soul who will be missed by family and friends alike. Any donations should be made in Maureen Ryan's name to the Career Closet and/or Sacred Heart Community Center. A very special thanks for the love and care of Tam Votothe.

### Maureen E. Ryan

July 14, 1947 - July 6, 2025

Stone Church Board Member

Maureen was born in Fort Thomas, Kentucky to Elmer and Betty Veneman. She was educated through college in Ken-

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**Willow Glen Times**



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A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam.

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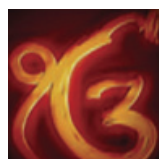


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The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or

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