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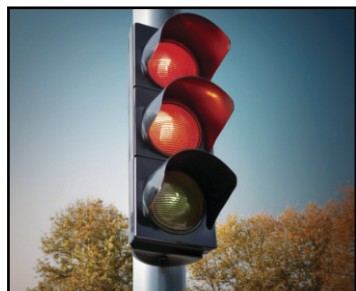


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Red-light camera program created make San Jose's intersections safer

By William Bellou
Publisher

As traffic deaths continue to outpace homicides, San Jose city officials have rolled out the latest program to make the streets safer.

San Jose recently announced the installation of red-light cameras at four of its most hazardous locations as part of a year-long program that elected leaders hope will help achieve their goal of reducing traffic-related fatalities.

With one of the city's most dangerous streets in the backdrop, San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan recalled visiting with the family and attending the funeral of Esias

See RED LIGHTS, page 8

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The legacy of Evergreen Valley College: Local history shared by the Cortese family

Evergreen Valley College recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. State Senator Dave Cortese shared in a speech at the Evergreen Valley College some history about the college and his family's close ties to the Evergreen Valley community.

"Hi, I'm California State Senator Dave Cortese and I'm honored to be joining Evergreen Valley College on your 50th Anniversary.

I probably have enough memories of Evergreen, San Jose to write a couple of books. But I'll keep it brief here.

I first arrived on my family's farm in 1956, the year I was born. The property had just been acquired by my grandfather, Vincent Cortese, Sr.— "Vince". He was a Sicilian

immigrant who came to San Jose in 1910 as a teenager. A few years later, he married my grandmother Rose, also of Sicilian descent.

Like many immigrants, he didn't have much for most of his life. He was a farmworker, not a farmer. That started to change in the late Depression years when local bankers gave him a chance to farm more land and eventually buy some of his own.

By 1956, turning 60, my grandfather was able to purchase the Lantz Ranch, a 90-acre site right next to where Evergreen Valley College stands today. The property stretched on both sides of San Felipe Road.

My parents moved into an old two-bedroom farmhouse on the



Dave Cortese in his teenage years with his grandfather Vince Cortese, a Sicilian immigrant, in their orchard on San Felipe Rd.

prune orchard, across the road from what became the Cortese cherry orchard - and now, the Evergreen Valley College campus. That's where I grew up as a true farm boy, surrounded by chickens, goats, pigeons, horses, cows, calves, beagles, ducks, you name it.

The orchards held prunes, apri-

cots, and walnuts. Scattered among them were peach, almond and even loquat trees. As kids, we'd pick fruit on neighboring properties, including land owned by State Senator Thompson, whose large home once stood where EVC is now. Thompson Creek ran so close to our house

See CORTESE, page 3

Measure A earns support of San Jose mayor, police and DA

By Brandon Pho
San José Spotlight

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, joined by county law enforcement and prosecutors, is backing a last-minute sales tax to protect Santa Clara County's public hospitals from massive federal cuts.

It comes after Mahan — along with the county's Deputy Sheriffs Association and Government Attorneys Association — initially cast doubt and uncertainty about his stance on Measure A, the county's proposed five-eighths cent sales tax increase on the Nov. 4 ballot. Now they're set to announce their support at a news conference later today. Meanwhile, the sheriff and prosecutor unions say they've fundraised a total of \$600,000 to date to campaign in favor of the ballot measure.

The measure would combat President Donald Trump's July approval of sweeping cuts to funds that feed the county's four public hos-



Santa Clara County's public safety unions are coming out in support of local leaders' proposed sales tax known as Measure A after casting initial doubts. County leaders say funds from the measure would help support the public hospital system. Photo by Brandon Pho.

pitals and 15 health clinics. But the proposal has opened a rift in Silicon Valley, with business interests either opposed or neutral on higher taxes and community groups urging against the loss of timely medical care for the region's poorest. Mahan questioned the county's choice to get into the hospital business after the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the measure in August. Meanwhile, the public safety unions questioned

whether the tax measure would leave them to fend off their own county budget cuts without extra help.

Those qualms have apparently subsided after conversations with county leaders.

"Passing this temporary, stopgap measure means we don't have to choose between providing health care for San Jose families and prosecuting crime," Mahan said in a statement

See MEASURE A, page 8

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Times Local News

Cortese

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that it's a small miracle none of us kids tumbled off its steep banks. An old wooden bridge let us cross the creek to the west side of the ranch, where a reservoir stored water for irrigating the orchards.

Our drinking water came from a well— which was not always the cleanest. My parents had four more children over the next five years. Seven of us in a two-bedroom farmhouse made for cozy living, so eventually, they built a larger two-story home across San Felipe Road. But that original old farmhouse holds my most precious memories.

By age 6 or 7, I had already joined the ranks of farmworkers, picking prunes each summer. Kids were expected to pitch in alongside family members and migrant workers. Prunes didn't require ladders, so it was relatively safe— aside from the scorching August heat. When I grew big enough to carry a ladder, I graduated to picking apricots, cherries, and other crops.

Evergreen had only one K-8 school back then—Evergreen School. Classes started a week later than urban San Jose schools to give kids like me and migrant farmworker families time to finish the prune harvest.

I kept working on the ranch through high school and even after heading off to UC Davis. I'd still get called back to help, especially with the cattle ranching we ran on the valley floor and in the Mt. Hamilton Range—a family tradition my brother Tom continues today.

At 14, I took on my first independent job running a 200-acre red oat hay operation on White Road, just three miles from where EVC stands



Dave Corese's grandfather **Vince, Sr.** purchased the Lantz Ranch, a 90-acre site right next to where Evergreen Valley College stands today. The property stretched on both sides of San Felipe Road. Pictured is **Vincent and Rose Cortese**.

today. I drove farm trucks under an agricultural exemption—two years before I was old enough for a license. The hay fed our own livestock and was sold to ranchers in the area.

The farm's legacy grew as my grandfather passed the orchards down to his sons—my father and uncles—who formed Cortese Bros. The farm originally produced apricots and prunes, but over time, we replaced the apricot trees with Bing cherries.

That's when our first fruit stand appeared, a little white roadside shack painted with bright red cherries. As production grew, Cortese Bros built a large barn near what's now the college entrance. Later, it expanded into the Cortese Bros

Fruit Barn—a place locals still remember fondly.

We sold fresh cherries, produce, even baked pies, pumpkins, and Christmas trees. Schoolchildren visited on field trips for train rides and other fun.

From the 1950s, when my family farmed 1,700 acres across the valley, to today, San Jose has transformed beyond recognition. In just a couple of decades, much of the farmland disappeared under development. By 1980, most of the valley's agriculture was gone.

We kept the Evergreen cherry orchard going until 2001, but when the city and water district stopped supplying agricultural water, the trees slowly withered.

In 1987, the City of San Jose took our well fields by eminent domain to create an industrial park east of EVC. Sadly, that land still sits empty today. The community lost its orchard and never got the jobs.

I remember asking the city council to preserve two rows of cherry trees along San Felipe Road instead of building a sound wall. They chose the wall. Today, that's what you see, another subdivision, another sound wall and no sign of the orchard.

Still, a few landmarks of old Evergreen remain: the eucalyptus trees, the oaks, Thompson Creek, and my old Evergreen School. These may mean little to newcomers, but to me, they're pieces of home.

Evergreen Valley College itself has become a treasure for this community. I even took classes here in the summer of 1977 to graduate early from UC Davis. This beautiful campus honors Evergreen's history. It's built on land that once held orchards, near where John J. Montgomery

made historic flights, and adjacent to fields where Cesar Chavez once worked before launching the United Farm Workers.

Today, EVC trains nurses, craftspeople, and prepares students for success at CSU, UC, and private universities. It offers a world-class education close to home—affordable, accessible, and debt-free for many. It's a hub for festivals, town halls, and a gateway to trails and parks.

As the proud representative of Evergreen Valley College in the California State Senate, I will continue my commitment to strengthening opportunities for every student and supporting the educators and staff who make that possible.

During my time in the Senate, I've helped secure a million-dollar planning grant for this District to expand its facilities and programs— investing in the future of our students and ensuring that Evergreen remains a cornerstone of educational excellence in our community.

We are also advancing policies to support students and educators at all levels. That includes SB 33, to provide direct cash assistance to twelfth-grade students experiencing homelessness. It also includes SB 550, establishing San Jose's first-ever public law school - a transformative step for educational access and equity in our region.

We're helping homeless college students stay enrolled and graduate through SB 685, closing financial aid gaps to meet their basic needs. And with SB 743, we're addressing long-standing inequities in K-12 school funding to ensure every student has a fair chance to succeed.

These efforts reflect our shared belief that every student deserves access to a high-quality

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Times Local News

Retired East San Jose advocate Rose Amador leaves lasting legacy

By Joyce Chu
San José Spotlight

When Rose Amador took over as the director of San Jose nonprofit ConXión to Community 43 years ago, it was a flailing organization on the brink of shutting down.

Through Amador's grit and determination, the organization survived budget deficits, a housing market crash, the pandemic and current grant cuts. Her steady hand helped the nonprofit pivot through each wave of change to become a perennial cornerstone for immigrants and at-risk youth.

"We're always changing to the needs of the community," Amador told San José Spotlight.

When ConXión began nearly 50 years ago, it was called Center for Training and Careers. It offered educational programs and job opportunities for the disenfranchised, including immigrants and formerly incarcerated people. Amador expanded the day worker center by installing showers and laundry facilities for those looking to be connected to contractors for temporary work.

After seeing a need for at-risk students to receive guidance, ConXión began after-school mentoring programs to schools in East San Jose — Overfelt and Yerba Buena high schools and Bridges Academy.

Now after four-plus decades, Amador has passed the baton to her successor Lori Ramos-Chavez, who joined the organization nearly 30 years ago as development director and was promoted to chief operating officer.



Rose Amador is retiring from being the director at nonprofit ConXión to Community after 43 years of service. Photo by Joyce Chu.

"(Amador) was my mentor coming in... she allowed me to grow," Ramos-Chavez told San José Spotlight. "She's very determined. When she sets her mind on something, she gets it done, she gets it accomplished."

Early advocacy

Amador and her family moved to Santa Clara from Pennsylvania when she was 12 years old. Her father Monico C. Amador, a community advocate and World War II veteran, started organizations and helped Hispanic and Chicano candidates on the campaign trail.

From a young age, Rose Amador accompanied her family to community functions. When she was a teenager, her father drove the family to Delano to meet labor leader Cesar Chavez. She didn't realize his importance at the time, since it was the early stages of the labor movement. But she understood her roots.

Amador surrounded herself with opportunities for civic engagement. In college, she became involved with MECHA, or Chicano

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Suzanne and Dom Cortese, Senator Dave Cortese's parents.

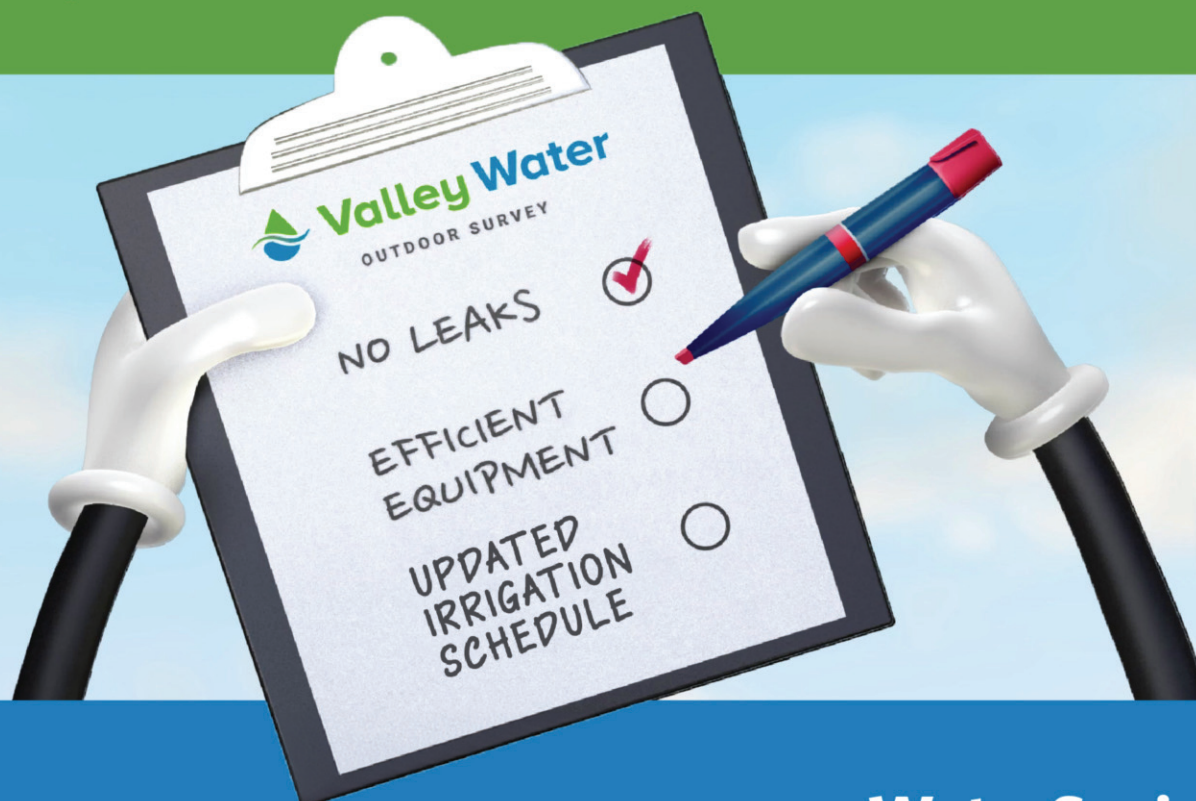
Cortese

Continued from previous page
education, no matter what their zip code, their background, or their means.

Community colleges like EVC are, I believe, the most important part of California's public education system today.

I love Evergreen Valley College. And I'll always love Evergreen."

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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. The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net 408-778-3567

Times Local News

Amador

Continued from page 4

Student Movement of Aztlán, a group focused on Chicano unity and empowerment. After getting her associate degree in Chicano studies at De Anza College, she earned a degree in business administration from St. Mary's College of California.

She went on to serve as chairperson for the San Jose Chicano Employment Committee, which filed lawsuits against the city to get more Chicano police and firefighters hired. She was also a member of the American G.I. Forum, founded in 1948, to combat discrimination against Latino veterans.

Throughout the decades Amador evolved in an environment where women were not considered for top positions. She took on leadership roles during a time when women in management were rare, often mistaken as a secretary.

"My dad was always like, 'You could do this, you could do that,'" Amador said. "I always had that attitude."

When Amador became director of ConXión, she was in her 30s and had never before written a grant proposal. But her confidence gave Amador the ability to do anything. She credits that mindset to her father who, while

only having a seventh grade education, became a regional director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Her confidence enabled her to make radical changes. Amador knew ConXión needed a staffing overhaul, so she hired women to fill roles. She mentored and brought them into positions of leadership, including Ramos-Chavez.

"In those days, it was really difficult for women," Amador said. "It's because we always had to speak up to be heard over the guys ... one of the things I did was get rid of the good-old-boy system."

In 2014, Amador was recognized as a woman of influence by Silicon Valley Business Journal. Alette Lundeberg, retired director of CalWORKS, has known Amador for decades and worked alongside her to train the underemployed and to uplift people out of poverty.

"I'm blown away that she stayed so long. That's a really long time to be in the battle," Lundeberg told San José Spotlight. "I think her endurance is because she's driven by that true belief in her bones for social and economic justice."

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Times **Local News**

Santa Clara County prepares for human trafficking uptick

By Joyce Chu

San José Spotlight

As Santa Clara County prepares for a potential increase in human trafficking at major sporting events next year, security planning may be challenging with personnel stretched thin due to federal cuts.

The U.S. Department of Justice through the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provides grant funding to combat human trafficking, but the monies expired last month. Applications to renew funding are not available at present. The grant covered funding for advocates, training for trauma-informed interviewing and overtime, hampers the county's ability to fund operations during the sporting events, according to attorney Bryan Slater, who oversees human trafficking prosecutors in the District Attorney's office.

"We do not currently have dedicated funding to cover overtime for investigations or extended operations that would be needed," Slater said at the Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Commission meeting last month. "Our heavy reliance on this grant funding jeopardizes continuity of staffing ... it creates a turnover at critical moments such as now."

Santa Clara has two major sporting events happening in the first half of 2026, including Super Bowl 60 in February and FIFA World Cup starting in June at the Levi's Stadium. In March, San Jose State University will host March Madness — the NCAA West Regional Men's Basketball tournament at the SAP Center.

Sharan Dhanoa, director of South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking, is worried about officer burnout. There could also be a shortage of emergency housing for survivors as tourists fill up hotels. But she said the coalition is well-equipped with expertise on combating human trafficking, having coordinated services during the Super Bowl in 2016.

"Having three events brings challenges that I'm not sure any jurisdiction could be prepared for," Dhanoa told San José Spotlight. "Our human



Santa Clara County law enforcement agencies are preparing for an increase in human trafficking during major upcoming sports events in 2026. File photo.

trafficking protocol for law enforcement is very survivor informed. It really does prioritize connecting survivors to services. And so those are the things that I feel very good about."

Though research is inconclusive on whether there is a rise of human trafficking incidents during major sporting events, Dhanoa said there is often a flood of advertisements for people selling sex.

"Our core messaging is that sporting events don't cause trafficking, but economics drives exploitation," Dhanoa said.

Josh Singleton, commander at the Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Task Force, said they have been rolling out training for law enforcement through written material and site training. They are also on the lookout for industries where labor exploitation is more likely to happen, such as hospitality.

"Our number one goal is to provide resources to victims of human trafficking," Singleton told San José Spotlight.

On Oct. 1, the task force in partnership with the San Jose Police Department's Special Victims Unit uncovered a trafficking operation at a hotel. They arrested three people, cited two sex buyers and connected six survivors with services, according to the police department spokesperson.

"In the months ahead, (the Special Victims Unit) will continue with targeted undercover operations against traffickers and sex buyers, increased monitoring of online exploitation,

See *TRAFICKING*, page 10

Music, History and Community Upcoming Events for October

3 p.m. Saturday, October 18
Winchester Orchestra – Myths and Monsters: A Halloween Concert

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De Anza Visual & Performing Arts Center, Cupertino

2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 26
Mission Chamber Orchestra – New Horizons
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Red lights

Continued from page 1

Amaru Ramos-Berhane, an 11-year-old boy killed on his scooter last year in South San Jose.

"I promised them that it was with his memory that I would fight for safer streets for our city," Mahan said. "Today, I am remembering Esias, (and) as you know, I believe that public safety is the most fundamental responsibility of our government. I'm devastated that this city wasn't safe enough for Esias, but I hope that with the announcement today, this intersection and others like it will be safer for other San Jose children, children who simply want to hang out with their friends, ride their scooters and feel safe in their neighborhood. "Traffic safety has become a priority in San Jose.

Nearly a decade ago, San Jose became a Vision Zero city, establishing a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities. The city's Vision Zero task force aimed to reduce fatal and severe injuries by 30% by 2030 and eliminate them by 2040.

Between 2020 and 2024, the city reported 273 traffic-related fatalities. This year, the city has recorded 26 deaths thus far, marking a 34% decrease from the same point last year.

"Behind our data points are real people: parents, children, friends, neighbors, grandparents, all whose lives were cut short," Vice Mayor Pam Foley said. "But the next five years could be very different."

The red light cameras will be deployed at the intersections of Leigh Avenue and Park-

moor Avenue, Monterey Road and Branham Lane, Keyes Street and S. Third Street, and South Bascom Avenue and Camden Avenue.

City officials highlighted the safety improvements that red-light cameras have made in other cities, citing Chicago's reduction in injury crashes at intersections with cameras, which decreased by 39%, as well as a 56% decrease in "T-bone" crashes and a 52% decrease in overall crashes between 2005 and 2023.

District 2 resident Tuan Tu said that on his commute to Fremont, the introduction of red-light cameras had also made a noticeable difference.

"It got a lot better there and a lot of other intersections in that city," Tu said. "Having some in San Jose is an improvement for us."

The cameras will start with a 60-day warning period on Oct. 13.

Drivers will not receive citations until Dec. 12 at the earliest.

The red-light camera pilot is not the only safety measure the city could implement, as San Jose could soon add 33 speed-safety cameras along priority corridors.

City officials had initially planned to roll out that program this year, but the project faces financial hurdles as a result of the Trump administration withholding grant money initially intended for the program.

"We are asking the Trump administration to depoliticize public safety and the grants for safer roads, for our police department, for our airport — the types of grants we need to keep our city moving forward," Mahan said. "We are looking at alternative funding mechanisms that would not require federal funding."

Measure A

Continued from page 1

shared by the public safety unions. "No community should have to make that choice, and by stepping up together we can ensure Santa Clara County residents don't."

District Attorney Jeff Rosen — who has historically clashed with the county for asking his department to make cuts while expanding the public hospital system — said Measure A will help stave off risks to his office.

"As district attorney, one of my top priorities has been vigorously — and fairly — prosecuting violent and property crime cases to help victims and hold perpetrators accountable," Rosen said in the statement. "My office has pioneered the use of community prosecutors to focus on quality-of-life crimes and keeping neighborhoods and small businesses safer. Now, budget cuts put our progress, and safety, at risk. Measure A will protect these efforts and that is why I urge everyone to vote Yes on Measure A."

Max Zarzana, president of the Government Attorneys Association which represents county prosecutors and public defenders in labor talks, said his

union supported Measure A from the beginning.

"But we still had questions for the county about how they would use this money — not just for hospitals but for all the necessary county services, including those which provide public safety," Zarzana told San José Spotlight. "But recently, the county has taken a lot of steps to assure all of us that yes, this is a general fund tax and will be spent on all services including to protect public safety."

For example, Zarzana said the county has agreed to unfreeze eight prosecutor positions in Rosen's office, freeing up the ability to fill them.

"We supported Measure A, questioned how the money will be spent, got our answer and now we still support it," Zarzana said.

A county official confirmed the conversations described by the public safety unions, but said no formal spending plan has been agreed upon.

Mahan's office declined to comment on the announcement directly. Mahan has previously called on the county to invest more in San Jose's interim shelters. Congressman Sam Liccardo in August stated publicly that the city was negotiating its support for Measure A in conversations with the county.

Meanwhile, business interests are split over the measure. The Silicon Valley GOP and the Silicon Valley Biz PAC — a political group that fundraises in support of pro-business candidates and endorsed Mahan's reelection in 2024 — have denounced the San Jose Chamber of Commerce's decision to remain neutral on the measure. The chamber in an email last week explained it heard compelling arguments on both sides of the tax question.

Reacting to the new endorsements, County Executive James Williams said Measure A needs all the support it can get.

"Federal budget cuts exceeding \$1 billion per year not only threaten the County's ability to provide life-saving care at our hospitals and health clinics but jeopardize the delivery of many critical services that are important to our community, including mental health treatment, homelessness prevention and public safety," Williams told San Jose Spotlight. "While we face very difficult budget decisions ahead, we will continue to take every conceivable action to preserve these critical services and protect the health and safety of our entire community."





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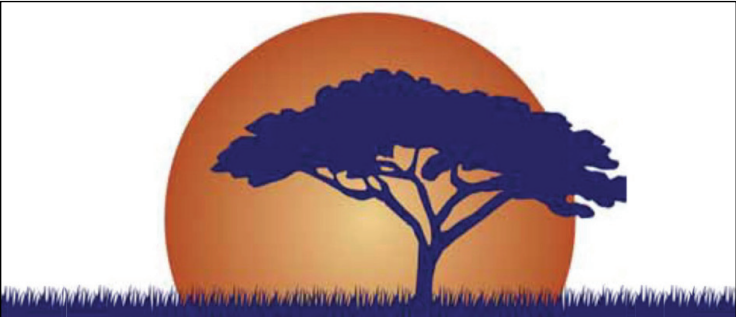
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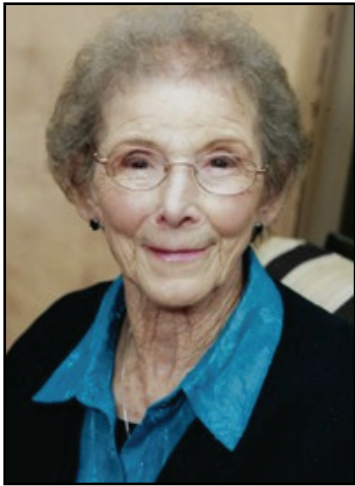
Mary Frances Conte

September 16, 1921 -
August 29, 2025
Resident of San Jose

Mary Frances (Votano) Conte passed away gently and peacefully in her home on August 29, 2025, just 2 ½ weeks shy of her 104th Birthday. Her last days were filled with the love of so many family members and friends who were able to visit her, pray with her, and prepare her spirit for eternal life.

Mary was a native of San Jose, who grew up when the region was world renowned as the “Valley of Heart’s Delight,” a name coined to describe the fragrant Santa Clara Valley floor, blanketed with apricot, cherry, and prune orchards. Mary, along with her siblings, joined her family in some of those orchards, picking prunes and cutting apricots during harvest seasons. Mary attended Grant Grammar School and San Jose High School. While in High School, she met her future husband, Dominic Conte, at a rival baseball game she attended against Santa Clara High.

Mary Votano married Dominic Conte on March 27, 1943. Soon after their marriage, Dominic deployed to the war in the Pacific. Following Dominics’ return from the war, he and Mary bought a surplus housing barracks in Stockton. Together, they disassembled it by hand and transported the lumber via the old roads to the lot that would become their



family home.

On March 27, 2019, Dominic and Mary celebrated 76 years of marriage. They had an extraordinary relationship, defined by love, respect, compromise, and their common love for having fun.

Mary worked as a young woman for two local candy makers, Schurra’s Candies, and Pulleys Candies before moving into food services at Campbell Unified School District’s, Leigh High School. After her retirement, Mary continued her life of service by volunteering at Martha’s Kitchen, a food outreach program through Sacred Heart Church in San Jose.

When both Dominic and Mary semi-retired, they began their many travels. They travelled through the US multiple times, exploring and discovering new routes and new sites

on every trip. After seeing much of our country, they ventured abroad, experiencing life in Europe, China, Canada, and Saudia Arabia. Of course, Italy was where their heart landed: and where they connected with members of both their families.

Mary is survived by sons Richard (Sharron) and Fran (Erin); three loving grandchildren, Mario (Holly), Anthony (Ana), Natalie (Josh), six beautiful great grandchildren; Nicholas, Dominic, Rosie, Violet, Gabriel and Beau; and a host of multiple generations of faithfully devoted nieces and nephews. Mary is preceded in death by her husband Dominic Conte, mother Rose Votano, brothers Benny and Rocky, and sisters Rose, Micky, and Angie.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude and recognition to both our parents’ caregivers, Esper Reyes, Karen Pagute, Jade Mayer, and Kristine Pagute. Spanning the course of 10 years, they were devoted to our mother and treated her with the most tender and loving care. It was their meticulous care that added years to our mother’s life, giving us many more beautiful memories with her.

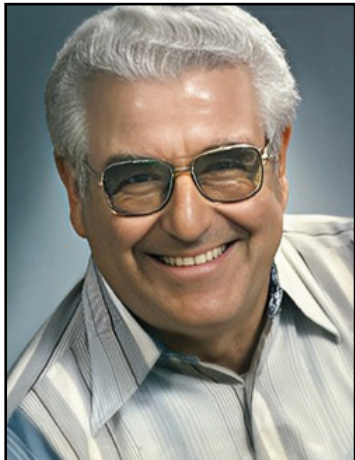
Funeral Services will be held on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Christopher Catholic Church, 2278 Booksin Ave., San Jose, CA 95125. Internment for family and those who wish to attend will be at 12:30pm. at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, 490 Lincoln St., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

William Ulleseit

1930-2025
Evergreen Valley

Bill Ulleseit passed away October 5, 2025, after a short battle with cancer. His gregarious and generous nature will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

Bill was born in Englewood, New Jersey on April 26, 1930, but moved with his family to Los Angeles when he was two. In 1939, he and his parents went to Germany to visit his paternal grandmother, who was terminally ill. He spent the war years stranded in Germany, separated from his parents. He was reunited with his mother in 1946 and later with his father. In 1947 he and his parents relocated to San Jose, where Bill lived until his death. He married his beloved late wife Loreita (Medeiros)



in 1953.

Bill worked as a machinist and later as a power plant engineer. He retired as Chief Engineer from Valley Medical Center in San Jose. He was very passionate about all things steam powered, especially steam locomotives.

He was an avid builder of live steam models of all kinds. In the 1960s he ran a Lionel and American Flyer repair shop out of his basement, as well as Precision Manufacturing Company, a custom design and machine shop. In 1969, he led the rebuilding of steam locomotive #2 of the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad in Los Gatos, where he volunteered as Chief Engineer for almost forty years.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Frances (Rosenthal) Ulleseit and his wife Loreita. He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law.

The family would like to thank Oakmont of Silver Creek for their compassionate care of Bill for the last three years.

A funeral service was held Thursday, October 16, 2025.

Trafficking

Continued from page 7

and close coordination with community-based advocates to ensure survivors receive immediate and long-term support,” the SJPD spokesperson told San José Spotlight. “On game day, rapid-response teams will remain on standby to respond to incidents in real time.”

With the San Jose police department having the highest vacancy rate since 2012, the spokesperson said they will reassign officers from other divisions to the special unit to tackle human trafficking. The police department has secured grant funding that will be unaffected by federal and state cuts to cover overtime and specialized training.

The Santa Clara Police Department is also working with the task force to prepare for the sporting events.

“We have a comprehensive public safety steering committee responsible for various planning areas, which

includes a dedicated anti-trafficking sub-committee,” SCPD Lt. Eric Lagergren told San José Spotlight.

County officials are looking for ways to funnel more resources to organizations working to tackle human trafficking despite the tight budget, District 2 Supervisor Betty Duong, who sits on the Human Trafficking Commission, told San José Spotlight.

One of those ways is to get Measure A passed during the special elections this November, she said, which will help fund county-owned hospitals by temporarily increasing the general sales tax by 0.625%.

“We are at an inflection point right now where we are challenged budgetarily because of the impacts of H.R.1,” Duong told San José Spotlight. “But if we don’t fill that health system gap (through Measure A), we have to pull from (the general fund). So then now we have a smaller pot of money that we then have to stretch to cover both public safety and health.”

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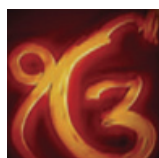
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