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Almaden Times

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NOV. 21 - DEC. 4, 2025 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 24



Make the nice list — donate blood this holiday season!

Blood donors receive festive long sleeves "Ugly Sweater" t-shirt during November

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

It's the season of giving, and there's no better gift than life-saving blood donations.

Throughout November, all Stanford Blood Center donors will receive a festive, collectible long-sleeve "Ugly Sweater" t-shirt, just in time for the winter celebrations.

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AVCA 4th Annual 'Thankful Together Celebration' – a night of celebrating volunteer honorees

By Michele Dexter
Special to the Times

The Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) hosted its 4th Annual Thankful Together Celebration – a night of celebrating Almaden residents who volunteer, both locally, and throughout San Jose on Nov. 10.

District 10 Councilmember George Casey joined the celebration to personally congratulate the honorees for their service to the community.

This year's honorees are Rob Zaccheo, Bhok Morton, and Jessica Torres (Pioneer High School) and Kirsten Audet (Children's Discovery Museum), the current leaders of the BioSITE program, which for more than 30 years has paired Pioneer student mentors with elementary students to observe and study the science of our local environment.

Also honored are Lee Pauser, with colleagues Amanda Newlove and Steve Cassidy. For many years, Lee has led efforts to help preserve local bird habitats, primarily via building and monitoring cavity nest boxes.

Leisa Johnson, Rudy Johnson and Nancy and
See AVCA, page 8



Above: Nest box volunteers with San Jose Councilmember **George Casey** and AVCA board member **Jane Frommer**. Below: Fishnet Outreach volunteer **Rudy Johnson** with San Jose Councilmember **George Casey** and AVCA board member **Jim Johnson**.



Santa Clara County assessor candidates head to runoff election

By Keith Menconi
San José Spotlight

With all the votes counted in the race for Santa Clara County assessor, the contest is headed for a December runoff between Los Altos Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor and former Saratoga Councilmember Rishi Kumar.

Saratoga Councilmember Yan Zhao and East Side Union High School District Board Member Bryan Do placed third and fourth place, respectively.

The two runoff candidates agree big changes are needed at the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office, including the completion of an ongoing tech modernization and reform measures to reduce assessment and appeals times.

But each also maintains their own background
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Neysa Fligor (left) and **Rishi Kumar** are headed to a Dec. 30 runoff for Santa Clara County assessor.

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is best suited to carry out those reforms.

"I will be the first to tell you that there are things that need to be improved," Fligor, an employee in the assessor's office, told San José Spotlight. "But I also bring a fresh perspective, and when I see that change needs to be made, I'm the first one to say, let's figure out how to do this and do it well."

Since July, Fligor has been serving as assistant assessor for the agency, helping to oversee the office of 250 workers and its \$55 million budget. She first joined the assessor's office in 2024 as a special assistant to the assessor.

In contrast, Kumar has a background as a Silicon Valley tech executive. In the assessor's race, he has positioned himself as a tax hawk with the technical and managerial chops to lead the assessor's office in a new direction.

"We need somebody who is a reformist, somebody who's not an insider, and can reorient the assessor's office to make it work for the people," Kumar told San José Spotlight.

The race was sparked over the summer by the retirement of longtime County Assessor Larry Stone, who held the role for 30 years. The winner will finish out Stone's term through the end of 2026, but will then need to run again for a full four-year term.

Whoever emerges victorious will take the helm of an office responsible for assessing

the property values that make up the county's more than \$700 billion real estate and business property rolls. Such assessments have profound implications for property owners as well as the county's prospects for gathering property tax revenue.

Fligor has secured Stone's endorsement, along with a bevy of South Bay establishment politicians, including Congressmember Sam Liccardo, Assemblymember Marc Berman and District 4 County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg. Kumar has racked up endorsements from local elected officials, including former Assemblymembers Kansen Chu and Nora Campos, as well as Cupertino Mayor Liang Fang.

Fligor's vote lead is matched by an even larger funding advantage. So far, she has raised more than \$298,000 through donations and loans, according to recent campaign filings. Kumar has raised roughly \$22,000. He said he has turned down some donations from special interest groups to maintain his campaign's independence.

Fligor — a lawyer who previously worked for both HP and Santa Clara County — has criticized Kumar's credentials, pointing out that, unlike her, he lacks an official certification as a property tax appraiser. All California assessors are required by law to obtain the state-issued certification within one year of taking office.

"It demonstrates that I already know the



work in the office," Fligor said. "I'll be able to hit the ground running on day one."

Kumar said he wouldn't have trouble obtaining the certification. Regardless, Kumar made the case that his own experience is best suited for the challenges presently facing the assessor's office. In particular, he argues his years of experience in the tech sector as a C-suite executive have given him the right mix of skills to shepherd forward the intricate process of transferring the assessor's office onto a new computer system. The long-awaited modernization project got underway after the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of the new system in June.

"We need somebody who understands modernization," he said. "When I was part of IBM, we did modernization. I was a hands on guy ... I was living and breathing that world for almost 10 years."

During the campaign, Kumar has also highlighted his various efforts to block fee and tax hikes over the course of his career in local government. Most recently that has included the No on Measure A Tax Committee, which Kumar chaired. Santa Clara County voters on Nov. 4 passed Measure A — a five-eighth cent sales tax increase intended to fill a major federal funding gap — with 57% of tallied votes cast in its favor.

Kumar has attempted to carry his tax-skeptical politics into his platform for assessor as well. His signature campaign initiative is a plan to sponsor a state ballot measure to completely eliminate property taxes for many homeowners aged 60 and over.

The plan has sparked considerable pushback. Fligor calls this campaign strategy "irresponsible," noting the county assessor has no direct authority to set tax policy. But Kumar argues the assessor's prominent role in local politics offers a prime opportunity to push for the reform.

While Fligor's vote lead in the November election is formidable, the runoff campaign remains competitive, Melinda Jackson, a San Jose State University political science professor, said.

"A county assessor race does not get a lot of attention," Jackson said. "It will be starting fresh with a new electorate in December."

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Gearing up for the holiday season

By **Bill Schroh, Jr.**
*President & CEO
History San José*

Happy November everyone! As we gear up for this Holiday season, I am on an emotional roller coaster! October began with the high of History San José hosting our Annual Valley of Heart's Delight Fundraiser which not only raises funds for the museum but is also a celebration of the history and culture of San Jose.

More than 200 people joined us under the Light Tower of History Park as we celebrated three San Jose luminaries, San José Jazz Executive Director Brendan Rawson and Community Engagement Leaders Marianne and Carl Salas for their incredible work both onstage and behind the scenes helping to create the fellowship and community in San Jose we all strive for and love! During the event I shared some exciting news about the Sakauye Farmhouse, and



**History
San José**
Bill Schroh, Jr.
President & CEO

I am happy to finally be able to share it with all of you!

In partnership with San Jose City Councilmember Rosemary Kamei, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, and the Preservation Action Council San Jose, I am thrilled to announce that we have reached our first fundraising milestone to be able to move the Sakauye Farmhouse to History Park! The house is no longer in danger of being demolished, yet there still is much work to be done once the Sakauye Farmhouse has arrived at History Park! Now the second phase of fundraising begins for the restoration of the Farmhouse. Please support our restoration efforts so that we can prepare the home for use as a gallery, event space, and classroom. I will keep you informed on the progress of the move!

San José Roots took place on November 1st at San Pedro Square Market with thanks to our sponsors, the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, Betty Duong, and StarOne Credit Union. Once again History San José, along with our community partners at Mosaic America and many more, hosted tours of



our historic downtown buildings, cultural performances, poetry readings, and community booths that highlighted the vibrant cultural heritage of our city. During this festival we incorporate as many different traditions as possible to show how diverse our shared community really is. This blending of cultures has made us the amazing region we are today.

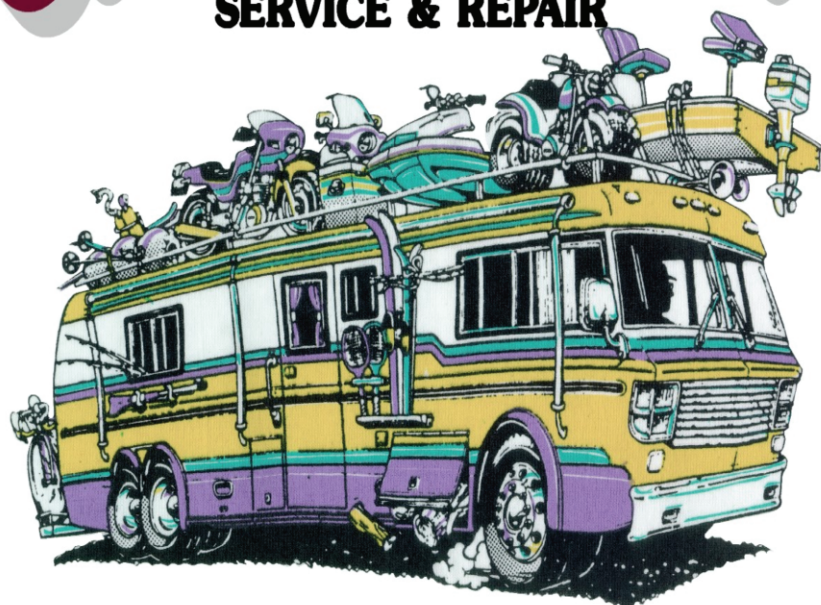
In contrast to the highs of our many fall events, the month is ending with seeing the senseless injury of one of the most important symbols of the United States: the White House. Seeing the East Wing of the White House destroyed without the historic preservation community's involvement makes me stop

and think, what might be next? This will only make me work harder to make sure something like this does not happen in San Jose without the historic preservation community's input!

Our history and heritage needs to be preserved, protected, and celebrated, not erased, distorted, or destroyed! The History San José Team will continue the fight to save and preserve important historic buildings in San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. One of the key pillars of History San José is the preservation of historic buildings, and as many of you know, it's one of the reasons History Park was created! I hope you will join us to support this worthy cause.

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Times **Local News**

Political newcomer has entered District 9 San Jose city council race

By **Keith Menconi**
San José Spotlight

Next year's June primary election is still seven months out, but the battle lines are already taking shape in the District 9 San Jose City Council race.

A relative newcomer to San Jose politics is stepping in to a crowded field that includes a well-established City Hall staffer.

Lifelong District 9 resident Genny Altwer, a licensed marriage and family therapist and former police hostage negotiator, is making the case that her professional background and outsider status will position her well to represent the district, which covers southwest San Jose.

"I think that our neighbors and our neighborhoods deserve to have someone on council who gets it," Altwer, 45, told San José Spotlight. "They deserve to have someone who is getting results and not utilizing excuses."

With Altwer's campaign announcement, so far five candidates have filed paperwork for the June 2 primary election. The other candidates are Mauni Jalali, Gordon Chesterfor, Mike Hennessy and Scott Hughes.

Hughes has served for the past seven years

as chief of staff for the district's longtime councilmember, Vice Mayor Pam Foley. Foley, who has endorsed Hughes, will term out at the close of 2026 after eight years in office.

Altwer has taken a somewhat unconventional career path for a potential San Jose elected official. After earning a degree in criminal justice from San Jose State University, she served for 13 years as a sworn officer with the San Mateo Police Department. During that time, her assignments saw her carrying out hostage negotiations and working as a detective investigating sexual assault cases.

Then she executed a dramatic career pivot. After observing her law enforcement colleagues struggle with mental health challenges, she decided to pursue a career as a therapist, earning a master's degree in psychology. She runs her own therapy practice in San Jose, where she specializes in treating post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, especially among first responders and essential workers, she said.

"My background has been spent solving problems, and I do that with compassion and accountability, which is what I think the residents of San Jose want," she said.

Altwer, who lives in the Pinehurst neighborhood with her husband and two daughters, serves on San Jose's Appeals Hearing Board, which adjudicates code enforcement cases. She also serves as a board member of the Branham High School Parent Teacher Association.

In making the case for his candidacy, Hughes has highlighted his accomplishments



Genny Altwer climbed the ranks of the San Mateo Police Department and is a licensed marriage and family therapist. Now the political newcomer has entered the District 9 San Jose City Council race. Photo courtesy Ed Caldwell.

over his tenure in City Hall. That includes his work supporting the redevelopment of Cambrian Park Plaza and the transformation of hotels into transitional housing for homeless people.

In contrast, Altwer argued she will bring a much needed pair of fresh eyes to local governance.

"I think anyone who has served in City Hall for that amount of time is going to have the lens that they see problems through," Altwer said. "My lens is just different being out here in the community and raising my family here and having a business here."

Hughes did not respond to a request for comment.

Laying out her campaign platform, Altwer expressed broad support for Mayor Matt Mahan's policy agenda, including his efforts to boost housing affordability, improve public safety and reduce homelessness.

"I think what's driving me to run for this position is that I've seen the progress that

(Mahan) has made, and it's inspired me, because I think he needs a partner like me on city council to keep moving his policies forward," Altwer said.

On the housing front, Altwer said she would support new housing development "where it makes sense," such as along transit corridors and in job-dense areas of the city, such as downtown.

In addition, she pledged to work to address the San Jose Police Department's long-standing officer shortage by boosting recruitment and retention efforts.

She also expressed support for the mayor's "Responsibility to Shelter" initiative, which has stiffened penalties for homeless people sleeping on the streets. That includes the possibility of jail time for those who repeatedly reject the city's offers of shelter.

"I think that compassion also means that we have to help get people off our streets and not leave them there," Altwer said.

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San Jose officials approve temporary tobacco shop ban

By Keith Menconi

San José Spotlight

The San Jose City Council has enacted a temporary moratorium blocking the establishment of new tobacco shops throughout the city as officials draw up a long-term plan to regulate such businesses.

Councilmembers voted unanimously last week to halt the issuance of new licenses for local tobacco businesses, including retailers, smoke shops and smoking lounges. The 45-day ban can be extended for up to two years, according to a city memo. It's a response to complaints that some local shops have become avenues for the illicit sale of controlled substances, including to minors.

Councilmember Peter Ortiz, who introduced the moratorium, said these problems have taken a disproportionate toll on his own District 5, which encompasses the predominantly Latino neighborhoods of East San Jose. The district includes an especially high concentration of smoke shops — nearly seven per square mile, according to a countywide assessment conducted earlier this year. That's twice as high as the rest of Santa Clara County.

"In too many cases, students can walk past two to three smoke shops on their way home



Critics say the high density of tobacco retailers in East San Jose has jeopardized the health of residents in the predominantly Latino neighborhood. *Photo by Keith Menconi.*

from class," Ortiz said at the meeting. "When harmful products are sold without oversight, it's these same communities already facing historic disinvestment that bear the highest consequences."

Related Stories

The temporary licensing pause gives the city time to review existing tobacco regulations and consider how they might be strengthened to end illegal sales and unpermitted operations, according to city officials. The updated rules could increase fines for infractions. In addition, they might also introduce density controls to limit how many smoke shops are permitted in a single city district.

Other elected leaders echoed Ortiz's call for urgent action, including Mayor Matt Mahan, who said boosting the city's enforcement efforts will also be key to reigning in bad actors.

"At the end of the day, unless we ensure consistent application of the rules and actual consequences ... it's very hard to change behavior," Mahan said.

A group of councilmembers — including Ortiz, Domingo Candelas, Pamela Campos, George Casey and David Cohen — first proposed the moratorium in May. In making their case for the measure, they warned the city has seen a rise in the number of complaints about unlicensed tobacco businesses in recent years.

Santa Clara County officials support San Jose's latest effort to clamp down on tobacco products. In a letter sent to councilmembers, County Executive James Williams applauded the moratorium and urged city officials to consider even stricter regulations.

"While the City's current tobacco policies provide protections in certain settings, impor-

tant gaps persist that put residents at risk," Williams wrote.

San Jose has been tightening regulations on tobacco retailers for years. In 2022, the city banned the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes to discourage their use by young people. Last year officials introduced a permitting system intended to more closely monitor shops for the sale of illicit drugs.

The city has tracked rising incidents of illegal sales from local storefronts of prohibited items, like flavored tobacco, synthetic cannabis products and nitrous oxide used for recreational consumption, often referred to as "whippets."

Of the 101 businesses that have sparked complaints from residents related to such illicit sales, 30 were operating without a tobacco retail license, Deputy Code Enforcement Director Rachel Roberts told councilmembers.

Councilmembers also voted unanimously Tuesday to join other jurisdictions in banning the sale of nitrous oxide products marketed for recreational use. Supporters of the ban point to the negative health risks of the inhalable narcotic and warn that the disposable canisters used to distribute nitrous oxide gas are often left on the ground, contributing to the city's litter problem.

It's illegal to sell nitrous oxide for recreational use in California. However, because the substance has legitimate uses as well, including for medical and dental treatments, products that contain the gas exist in a legal gray area that critics say offers opportunities for widespread abuse.



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Winter rain is here - be alert, be flood safe

By **Shiloh Ballard**
Valley Water Board Director, District 2

As we enter the rainy season, I want to highlight an important seasonal reminder: flood risk is real, and preparation matters. Flooding can happen even in years that seem dry. Sudden storms or back-to-back weather systems can overwhelm creeks and cause damage with little warning.

Earlier this year, Valley Water shared an update on the progress of Phase 1 of the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project. This work includes over 8,500 feet of floodwalls between Old Oakland Road and Interstate 280, designed to help manage higher water flows during storms and releases from Anderson Dam. While this infrastructure is a major step forward, it's just part of a broader effort to reduce flood risk in our community.

Across the country, we've seen how intense weather events and flooding can strike with little warning and catch communities off guard. Valley Water works year-round to reduce flood risks and respond to emergencies by coordinating with part-

ner agencies to protect lives and property, but we all need to take steps to be ready.

Parts of Santa Clara County are susceptible to flooding every year, with any chance of storms. While Valley Water's flood protection projects have improved flood protection for more than 100,000 parcels, there are still about 66,000 parcels that are in the FEMA flood zone. I invite you to visit Valley Water's flood preparedness portal, valleywater.org/floodready, to find out if your Santa

Clara County home or business is in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). If your property is in an area shown on FEMA's flood maps, you are at high risk for flooding during a 1 percent flood event, or a flood that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Also, whether you are in a FEMA SFHA or not, one of the most effective steps you can take to stay safe is signing up for emergency alerts at AlertSCC.com. These alerts provide real-time updates during all sorts of emergencies and give you time to respond. Have every member of your household register today.

Finally, if a storm is coming and you are in an area at high risk, you can use sandbags to protect your home or business. Valley Water offers free, filled sandbags for residents of Santa Clara County from November 1 through April 15 of each year. You can locate the nearest location of free filled sandbags and learn how to stack sandbags properly at valleywater.org/floodready.

Let's start getting ready now and make sure we are alert and flood safe together.



Valley Water Report
By **Shiloh Ballard**
VWB Director, District 2

San José Mineta International Airport first commercial airport in California to offer fully autonomous rides

Waymo launches at SJC as part of Bay Area expansion

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

San José Mineta International Airport (SJC) is now serving Waymo's public passengers, making SJC the first commercial, international airport in California — and the second in the world — to welcome fully autonomous ride-hailing to its terminals.

This roll-out is part of Waymo's Bay Area expansion, as the company begins serving San José and the broader SF Bay service area.

The initial Waymo service area will primarily serve Central San José (including Santana Row and Westfield Valley Fair, the Rosemary Gardens, Newhall, College Park and Cory neighborhoods) and Waymo intends to expand to include downtown and more of the City over time.

Passengers traveling through the official Airport of Silicon Valley can hail a Waymo autonomous vehicle via the Waymo app upon landing. The vehicle will arrive at one of SJC's two Ground Transportation Centers — in Terminal A or B — to dispatch the passenger to the destination of their choice within



the San Francisco Bay Area service area.

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Times **Local News**

Waymo

Continued from previous page
biggest sporting events of 2026, we're helping deliver the most technologically advanced Super Bowl and World Cup experience ever. When travelers land at SJC next year, they won't just be arriving in California — they'll be stepping into the future of mobility and entertain-

ment."

"SJC will play a critical part in serving the region during the upcoming holiday travel season and major sporting events in 2026, and Waymo is an ideal mode of transportation to help visitors move around the area smoothly and safely," said SJC Director of Aviation Mookie Patel. "Waymo's presence at SJC speaks to the ease and simplicity of the Airport's design and layout and the

local infrastructure that supports Waymo's technology."

The Airport's two fixed-base operators, as well as several corporate aviation tenants, serve the business aviation needs of Silicon Valley; corporate and general aviation traffic represents more than a quarter of aircraft operations at SJC. For more information and to connect with SJC on social media, visit flysanjose.com.



Pioneer High School BioSITE program team with San Jose Councilmember **George Casey** and AVCA board member **Gary Hector**

AVCA

Continued from page 1

Troy Stenstrom are also being honored, who have each spent countless hours over many years to help the local charity Fishnet Outreach provide food to people in need. In addition, Leisa enjoys volunteering to help Park Rangers and maintenance staff in Santa Clara County parks with various maintenance projects, as well as volunteering with Hospice of the Valley to spend

(AVCA) is a nonpartisan, volunteer-led organization dedicated to helping residents understand and engage with the neighborhood issues that impact everyday life. Through open, educational forums and respectful dialogue, we connect residents with local leaders, subject-matter experts, and diverse viewpoints

Editor's note: More details and photos about the honoree groups will be provided in a future article in the Almaden Times newspaper.

time visiting with those in their final weeks and days of life.

This annual event was well attended, and guests expressed appreciation for opportunity to meet the honorees and learn about what they do. They also said they enjoyed the refreshments over and above the normal meeting refreshments.

The Almaden Valley Community Association



Community and Fishnet Outreach volunteer **Leisa Johnson** with San Jose Councilmember **George Casey** and AVCA President **Michele Dexter**.

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Happy Hollow Foundation is dedicated to preserving and enhancing Happy Hollow Park & Zoo so that it remains a community asset that is highly valued and accessible to all. Scan the QR code to learn more!

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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

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- Focus and mount your video on key points of entry or concern
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<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/security-camera-registration>

Times **Local News**

Equine businesses concerned about possible future zoning changes in unincorporated Santa Clara County

By William Bellou
Publisher

Dana De Frates owns 15 horses at De Frates Horsemanship, an equestrian business where she and her husband operate in Gilroy. She said she's worried about possible zoning changes.

It's a 10-acre piece of land that Dana De Frates and her husband Jason call their "little patch of heaven." The couple moved from Half Moon Bay to Gilroy eight years ago.

De Frates' purchased land zoned for agricultural use in unincorporated Santa Clara County for their business De Frates Horsemanship whose mission is to educate people on how to become better horse owners.

Riders bring their equines from across the Bay Area to learn new skills, get advice on caring for their animals or rekindle the sense of childlike wonder they experienced with a new horse at the De Frates ranch.



Anxiety and uncertainty are mounting among the De Frates family and other equine business owners in southern Santa Clara County, as officials re-evaluate what types of development and operations are permitted in rural and agricultural zones in unincorporated areas. Many horse enthusiasts are particularly troubled by a draft proposal that would change rural zoning codes, seemingly removing horses from the definition of livestock and no longer allowing stables in the "ag exclusive" zone.

"My initial response was panic," said De Frates, whose business is situated in the area affected by the proposed changes.

Santa Clara County officials state that the amendments aim to standardize, clarify, and streamline current regulations; bolster

agricultural viability and land preservation; and uphold the region's rural character. Businesses properly permitted under the existing code would be able to continue operating, while the county considers an "amnesty program" for those needing to come into compliance.

Still, although De Frates has adhered to all guidelines and regulations, she remains concerned about her future. County authorities have indicated that any new or expanded property uses must comply with the revised zoning codes, potentially affecting her plans to offer breeding services, retire horses, and create a world-class training facility.

"I'm disappointed at the prospect of losing these opportunities—it feels like a let-

down for our government to restrict me," De Frates shared. "I want to make a positive impact, help others, bring happiness, and foster meaningful connections between people and their horses."

Tyler Flippo, owner of Coyote Canyon Ranch in Morgan Hill, fears that the changes could jeopardize his entire business. He boards 50 to 60 horses and farms 200 acres in the Coyote Valley, including hay production for another venture. Flippo recounted trying to obtain a permit ten years ago when he founded the ranch but found the \$10,000 price tag prohibitive—a common issue among southern Santa Clara County operators who work without permits due to high fees.

"We're caught in a difficult situation: we want to comply with the law, but the process is unattainable, leaving us cornered," Flippo explained.

Over the past month, the county has hosted several meetings to collect feedback on the proposal. Martha McNeil, director of the nonprofit DreamPower Horsemanship, attended multiple sessions and observed widespread confusion surrounding the issue.

"There are many unintended consequences I don't think county officials anticipated," McNeil commented.

Most equine businesses acknowledge the value of preserving agricultural lands but remain apprehensive about unexpected outcomes that could threaten both their livelihoods and their community.



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After we leave the nursery, we will travel a short distance to the Grizzly Rock Café where you will have a buffet lunch of tri-tip steak, chicken, vegetables, potatoes, salad, rolls and iced tea. Coffee, soda, beer, wine and dessert will be available to purchase, cash preferred.

We will return to Almaden Community Center around 4:30pm.

Tickets are on sale, 8am to 10am M/W/F in the Almaden Community Center lobby.
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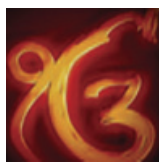
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Times **Local News****Rep. Panetta co-leads bipartisan, bicameral effort to prevent future government shutdowns**

By Sean Eastwood
Time staff writer

U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta, a member of the House Ways and Means and Budget Committees, and House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (TX-19) have introduced a bill to

prevent future government shutdowns. The Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2025 is a bipartisan bill that would force Congress to stay in Washington, D.C. until they reach an agreement on a budget. Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by U.S. Senator James Lank-

ford (R-OK).

"As I've seen throughout my limited time in Congress, and as our nation has seen this past month, federal government shutdowns hurt working families," said Rep. Panetta. "The Prevent Government Shutdowns Act would prevent either party from walking away from the negotiating table and ensure that Congress works together to fund our government. It's a commonsensical and straightforward piece of bipartisan legis-

lation that, unfortunately, is needed at times like this to ensure that Congress does its job."

Upon a lapse in government funding, the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act would implement an automatic continuing resolution (CR), on rolling 14-day periods, based on the most current spending levels enacted in the previous fiscal year. This would prevent a shutdown and continue critical services and operations.

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