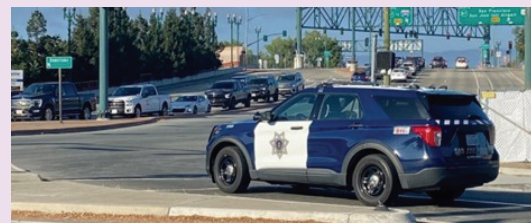


Poll gauges support for San Jose mayor running for governor
SEE PAGE 4



Reported crime figures in San Jose continued to decline in 2025, according to the FBI
SEE PAGE 8



Almaden Times

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JAN. 30 - FEB. 12, 2026 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 3



Focus on agriculture

Applications open for the local national award-winning agricultural program

By Sean Eastwood

Times Media staff writer

The national award-winning program, Focus Agriculture, is now being launched in Santa Clara County. The program is designed for community leaders to learn about local agriculture through once-a-month, daylong seminars, held over a period of five months.

Speakers presenting to the class will include farmers, marketing professionals, conservationists, researchers, elected officials, etc. The session topics are:

■ Overview/History/Current Issues

- Small Farms & Wineries
- Day on the Farm
- Land Conservation
- New Technology

Up to 20 people will be selected for the inaugural Focus Agriculture – Santa Clara County program. The original program started in Santa Cruz County and alumni include U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta; Dominican Hospital President/CEO Nan Mickiewicz; Cabrillo College President Matthew Wetstein; and California State Senator John Laird. Plus, many business leaders, non-profit executives and community volunteers.

See AGRICULTURE, page 7

State of the City address is Feb. 7

By William Bellou

Publisher

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan will deliver his State of the City address downtown on Feb. 7, timed to the Super Bowl LX festivities for maximum attention.

Mahan is expected to highlight San Jose's progress in areas such as homelessness, public safety, and collaboration with Santa Clara County, the San Jose Sharks, and PG&E—relationships that have improved significantly since he took office.

The event features a morning service project downtown, with activities like painting the old Greyhound Bus station and improving Guadalupe River Park trails.



Mayor Matt Mahan is expected to highlight San Jose's progress in areas such as homelessness, public safety, and collaboration with Santa Clara County.

At noon, Mahan's speech will take place on the San Pedro Square entertainment stage, leveraging existing infrastructure to save costs. He also intends to address ongoing challenges, particularly housing affordability, citing issues like rising construction costs.

With national attention on the South Bay during Super Bowl weekend, Mahan wants to underscore San Jose's leadership and achievements, encouraging residents to take pride in their city.

Construction of \$8.7M wild animal 'Safe Passage' across Highway 101 set for 2028

By Sean Eastwood

Times Media staff reporter

A design contract has been approved for a new wildlife crossing in Coyote Valley.

Conservationists and transportation planners expect that construction on the project could begin by 2028, which if approved will provide infrastructure for safe passage for animals across Highway 101, Monterey Road and Union Pacific rail lines in southern Santa Clara County.

On Jan. 8, the board of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority approved an \$8.7 million contract with HDR Engineering to begin the initial stages of design and planning for the passage, known as the U.S. 101/Monterey Road Wildlife Crossings Project.

The crossing will be located where Fisher



A new wildlife crossing to help mountain lions, American badger, California ground squirrels, black-tailed deer, northwestern pond turtles, California tiger salamanders, California red-legged frogs and bobcats cross Coyote Valley via Monterey Rd. to avoid traffic collisions. Photo courtesy of Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Creek intersects Monterey Road.

"As Santa Clara County's congestion management agency, VTA works to keep our transportation network safe and efficient," Carolyn Gonot, VTA's general manager and CEO, said

in a statement. "Investing in wildlife crossings helps reduce collisions and ensures our roadways better coexist with the region's natural habitats for the long-term health and safety of all."

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Times **Local News**

Much has changed, yet much has remained the same

By Matt Mahan

We've been planning, talking and fundraising for the last three years. As I was reflecting on all that's gone into this event, I looked back at our newsletter from May of 2023.

I had just taken office as your mayor, and in that newsletter, we first announced and discussed the fact that San José would help the region host two of the largest sporting events in the world: Super Bowl and World Cup.

It's funny — so much has changed since then, but our goals remain the same. Our plan is close to execution, and our city is ready to activate.

Back then, I shared that the last time Levi's Stadium hosted the Super Bowl, the event generated over \$240 million in economic impact, but San José only captured 12% of the total. I told you all that we can and would do better. That we would capitalize on this experience for our small businesses, for our residents, and for the many people visiting

San José for the very first time. That we would bring the action directly to our Downtown.

Three years later, we are a month away from that vision becoming a reality. And I have no doubt that 2026 will blow 2016 out of the water.

Our goal all along has been to ensure that this year isn't just fun for visitors and a strain on our communities. We want to make sure that even if you don't have a ticket to the big game, you can be a part of the action. That you can feel the energy in your city and be proud of the place you call home.

To that end, we have national headliners choosing to play right outside City Hall. We have a massive block party circling San Pedro Square that will show off the innovation of our region with holograms and flying cars. We have a sports initiative launching next week that will bring our biggest teams together to coach our youngest residents.

We'll have drone shows, projection art and wayfinding via a mobile app.

For us, none of this just happens. The leagues and their big sponsors are putting most of their official programming in SF, as they always do, but we decided three years ago to take control of our own destiny. The only official event we have next month is the NFL's Open-

ing Night the Monday before the big game. But what we do have is an incredible community — people with creativity, vision and hard work who believe in what San José can be.

Part of that team is the funders who made these events possible. Devcon, Adobe, eBay, Cisco, Google and so many other local and global business leaders came together to bet big on our city.

I'm grateful to the private sector partners who are making San José's fan experience possible. These are community leaders who see what our region is and can become. People who know we're the safest big city in the nation. People who know we're reducing unsheltered homelessness faster than any other big city in California. People who know that what is holding us back is at least partly perception.

Perception that San José is a bedroom community, or a suburb of SF. I like to tease my colleagues around the Bay that one day we'll be known as the San José Bay Area. And I'm only half joking. We have the scale, the land, the pragmatism, the creativity, the sense of community, and the will to power this region into the future. To define what the Bay Area becomes in the Twenty-First Century.

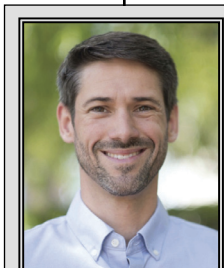
At our State of the City It May, I said that San José was a city on the cusp. And it's years like this that will take us over the edge. It's our job to make sure that progress lasts beyond 2026.

Assemblymember Chris Ward launches new push to protect Californians' data privacy

Assemblymember Ward (inset) held a press conference on January 6 to announce the reintroduction of legislation to ban the sale of geolocation data, the introduction of new legislation to strengthen protection for sensitive personal data, and continued efforts to advance AB 1337, currently a two-year bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The event brought together consumer advocates, civil rights organizations, and privacy experts to highlight the growing risks posed by the unchecked collection, sale, and misuse of Californians' personal information.

The press conference included statements from privacy experts to underscore the urgency of protecting Californians' personal information from misuse, exploitation, and sale without consent.



From the Mayor

Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose



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.

Steinbeck Museum, Thursday March 5, 2026

Travel with us to the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas with lunch at The Steinbeck House. We'll go by bus from the community center to Salinas for a docent led tour of life and works of author John Steinbeck. Afterward we will have lunch at Steinbeck's childhood home two blocks from the museum. Along with lunch, a docent will tell us about the house and Steinbeck's life there as a young boy. Tickets on sale M,W,F 8am to 10am in the Almaden Community Center lobby. Price \$100 Cash or Check. For more information, call Rich at 408-219-8641.

All events and trips are for those 50 years and over.
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>
<https://www.facebook.com/almadenseniors>



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Poll gauges support for San Jose mayor running for governor

By Keith Menconi | By Brandon Pho
San José Spotlight

Amid reports that San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan is considering a run for California governor, someone has launched an exploratory text message poll to gauge public support.

The poll — which runs dozens of questions long — describes Mahan as a Democrat with a working-class background and tech credentials, according to screenshots obtained by San José Spotlight. It adds Mahan jumped into politics and “challenged” California’s status quo on homelessness by taking affordable housing funds and using them for temporary shelter. The poll said that as governor, Mahan would stand for Democratic values but still be a fiscal hawk. It asks respondents whether they like him and would support him.

“Matt Mahan is a Democrat who is pro-choice, pro-gun safety and pro-environment,” the poll reads. “He is also pro-accountability for how tax dollars are spent, and pro-public safety including more police and more shelter and services for those who accept shelter. As Governor, he will stand up for Democratic values, but also ensure Californians have a government that is accountable, fiscally responsible, and delivers on his promises.”

The poll then asks respondents if that makes them much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely or much less likely to vote for Mahan for governor.



San Jose Mayor **Matt Mahan** is considering a run for governor of California. File photo.

It’s not clear who commissioned the poll or put up the funding to finance it. A search of recent state campaign records show no filings indicating Mahan has established a statewide office campaign committee or a candidate intention statement.

A representative for the mayor did not address questions about the survey’s origin.

“I’m seriously considering running for governor because we need serious solutions from Sacramento on homelessness, crime and cost of living,” Mahan told San José Spotlight.

Jim Reed, executive director for Mahan’s recently launched Back to Basics 501(c)(4) political advocacy group, said the organization is not behind the poll, but declined to comment further.

Text messages show polling firm Dynata conducted the survey. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

Northern California’s largest city has historically failed to produce a competitive governor candidate, which some have blamed on San Jose’s usual offering of moderates. Only two San Jose mayors — Sam Liccardo and Norm Mineta — translated

their political success to landing powerful federal offices.

But over the past two years, Mahan has insisted on his commitment to City Hall while appearing on TV news channels up and down the state to build name recognition and spar with Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Mahan clashed with the governor over Proposition 36, the statewide ballot measure that toughened criminal punishment for petty theft. He made national TV over his controversial plan to arrest homeless people who refuse shelter. He publicly ridiculed Newsom’s attempts to go viral when combating President Donald Trump’s administration. He painted himself as a foil to what he called the Democrat “status quo” of wasteful government spending. And yet he’s aligned with Newsom as a vocal opponent to California’s proposed billionaire tax.

In the process, Mahan has won premature endorsements online from some of the Bay Area’s loudest centrist and right-wing political voices.

“Matt Mahan is the future of California,” venture capitalist and Ycombinator CEO Garry Tan wrote on X Monday.

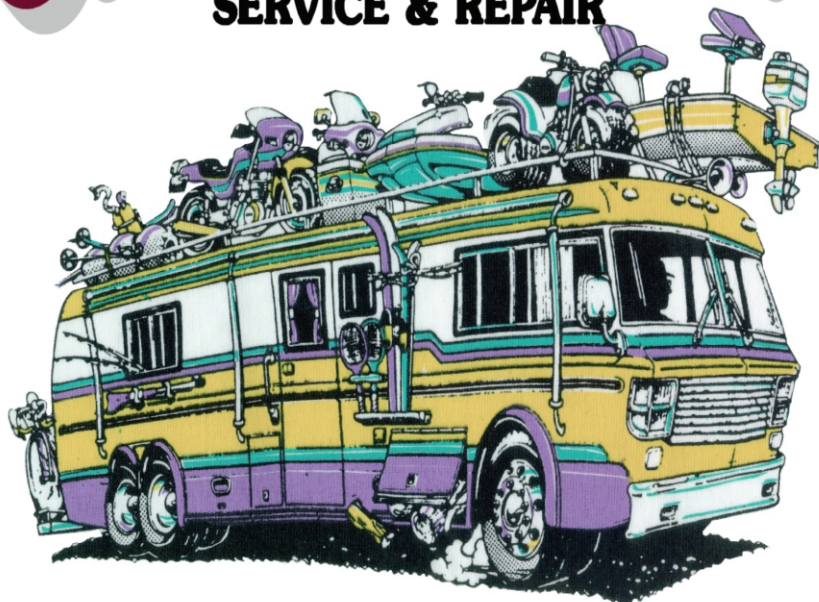
Mahan’s decision to launch the Back to Basics organization — focused on building a statewide political coalition around his policy agenda — has been widely interpreted as an attempt to raise his profile and strengthen his reach in statewide policy conversations.

While Mahan has generally downplayed rumors of a potential gubernatorial run, recent appearances on TV news stations suggest his thinking has changed. He has told a number of outlets he will decide whether to join the race in the coming weeks.

“I’m not seeing any of the current candidates speak
See POLL, page 7

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Most stolen vehicle models in California revealed

A new analysis of motor vehicle theft data reveals the three most stolen vehicle models in California, highlighting which cars are most frequently

targeted by thieves.

According to the analysis by Compare the Market, the most stolen vehicles in California are:

- Chevrolet Pickup
- Honda Civic
- Ford Pickup

In California, vehicle thefts reached 466 per 100,000 residents, ranking 8th in the nation.

The Most Stolen Cars by State follow:

Rank	State	Total Motor Vehicle thefts per 100k	Most Stolen Model	2nd Most Stolen	3rd Most Stolen
1	Colorado	777	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Kia Sportage
2	Washington	627	Ford Pickup	Honda Civic	Honda Accord
3	District of Columbia	555	Toyota Camry	Honda Accord	Hyundai Elantra
4	Oregon	542	Ford Pickup	Honda Civic	Honda Accord
5	New Mexico	515	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	GMC Pickup
6	Missouri	495	Ford Pickup	Hyundai Elantra	Chevrolet Pickup
7	Nevada	479	Chevrolet Pickup	Hyundai Sonata	Ford Pickup
8	California	466	Chevrolet Pickup	Honda Civic	Ford Pickup
9	Hawaii	440	Ford Pickup	Toyota Tacoma	Toyota Corolla
10	Tennessee	358	Chevrolet Pickup	Hyundai Elantra	Ford Pickup
11	Texas	317	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	GMC Pickup
12	Oklahoma	310	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Dodge Pickup
13	Louisiana	293	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Honda Accord
14	Minnesota	285	Hyundai Elantra	Hyundai Sonata	Ford Pickup
15	Nebraska	269	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Hyundai Elantra
16	Michigan	265	Jeep Grand Cherokee	Dodge Charger	Chrysler 300 Series
17	North Dakota	254	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Impala
18	Arizona	250	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Honda Civic
18	Illinois	250	Hyundai Elantra	Hyundai Sonata	Kia Optima
20	Arkansas	248	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	GMC Pickup
21	Alaska	244	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	GMC Pickup
21	South Carolina	244	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Honda Accord
23	South Dakota	231	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Chevrolet Impala
24	Maryland	230	Honda Accord	Hyundai Elantra	Hyundai Sonata
24	Ohio	230	Hyundai Elantra	Hyundai Sonata	Kia Optima
26	Montana	223	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	GMC Pickup
26	Wisconsin	223	Hyundai Elantra	Hyundai Sonata	Kia Sportage
28	Kentucky	222	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Toyota Camry
29	Kansas	216	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Dodge Pickup
30	Utah	204	Ford Pickup	Honda Civic	Chevrolet Pickup
31	Georgia	197	Ford Pickup	Dodge Charger	Chevrolet Pickup
32	Connecticut	196	Honda Accord	Honda Civic	Hyundai Elantra
33	Alabama	190	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Dodge Charger
34	North Carolina	189	Ford Pickup	Honda Accord	Chevrolet Pickup
35	Indiana	178	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Chevrolet Malibu
36	Delaware	169	Ford Pickup	Honda Accord	Honda Civic
37	Virginia	159	Honda Accord	Ford Pickup	Hyundai Elantra
38	Rhode Island	157	Honda Accord	Toyota Camry	Honda CR-V
39	Iowa	156	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Impala
40	New Jersey	148	Honda Accord	Ford Pickup	Honda CR-V
41	Pennsylvania	147	Honda Accord	Hyundai Sonata	Hyundai Elantra
42	New York	134	Honda CR-V	Honda Accord	Honda Civic
43	Mississippi	111	Ford Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	Honda Accord
43	Wyoming	111	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Dodge Pickup
45	Florida	101	Ford Pickup	Honda Accord	Nissan Altima
46	Massachusetts	98	Honda Accord	Toyota Camry	Honda Civic
46	Vermont	98	Chevrolet Pickup	Honda CR-V	Ford Pickup
48	Idaho	90	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Dodge Pickup
48	West Virginia	90	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Toyota Camry
50	Maine	71	Chevrolet Pickup	Chevrolet Pickup	GMC Pickup
51	New Hampshire	67	Chevrolet Pickup	Ford Pickup	Honda Accord

How to Prevent Your Car from Being Stolen

While national and regional car theft trends vary, many incidents can be avoided with the right habits and equipment. Strengthening your day-to-day car security is one of the most effective ways to reduce risk, no matter which model you own.

Secure your car properly

Always lock your doors and windows, even for short periods. Park in well-lit, populated areas, and avoid leaving your vehicle in the same spot for long periods. Keep valuables out of sight, as items on seats, dashboards, or cup holders can attract thieves even if they don't intend to steal the vehicle itself. Small behavioral changes like these can dramatically improve overall vehicle protection.

Use anti-theft devices

Visible deterrents can stop opportunistic thieves before they try. Steering wheel locks, immobilizers, and upgraded alarms remain

effective, low-cost defenses. For extra peace of mind, consider investing in a GPS tracking device, which can help prevent theft and increase the chances of recovery if a theft occurs.

Avoid common mistakes

Many thefts occur due to simple oversights, such as leaving the car running to warm up, hiding a spare key inside the vehicle, or failing to lock the trunk. Relying solely on factory-fitted systems can leave gaps, especially for owners of highly targeted vehicles.

Before purchasing any policy, drivers should check the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and Target Market Determination (TMD) to understand limits, inclusions, or restrictions.

More information on the most stolen car brand can be found onsite: <https://www.comparethemarket.com.au/car-insurance/features/most-stolen-car-brands-and-models/>

National Steinbeck Center & Museum
Thursday, March 5, 2026
Lunch at the Steinbeck House Restaurant

The day begins with a bus trip to the National Steinbeck Center and Museum in Salinas for a docent guided tour of the museum displaying the interesting life and literary accomplishments of John Steinbeck, the Nobel Prize winning author of many award-winning books including *East of Eden* and *Grapes of Wrath*.

Then go on the bus or walk two blocks to the Steinbeck House, John Steinbeck's boyhood home, for a delicious lunch along with a docent talk about the history of the house and Steinbeck's early days there. Enjoy a 3-course meal including Salad, Entree and Dessert (menu to be announced, vegetarian option available).

Arrive: 8:45am

Depart: 9:00 am

Return: Around 4:30 pm

Cost: \$100 check or cash

Includes: Transportation, Museum Entry, 3 Course Lunch

Sign up M,W,F 8am to 10am at the Almaden Community Center

Questions: Richard 408 219-8641 or Ann 408 221-8205



Santa Clara County prioritizes children amid budget issues

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County is working to provide safety net programs to children and their families despite budget issues stemming from federal funding cuts. The county's children's budget for fiscal year 2025-26 includes \$1.3 billion to support the welfare of children and youth, up 2.8% from the previous fiscal year. The budget is targeted at foster care and adoption, detention and rehabilitation facilities and CalWORKS, which provides financial assistance, childcare



Santa Clara County children in the Head Start program. Photo courtesy of Santa Clara County Office of Education.

and health care to families in need. The majority of funding comes from the federal and state government, property tax and hospital revenues.

But with massive cuts to federal funding looming under H.R. 1, also known as President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, the county has been tasked with making tough decisions.

The bill, approved by Congress on July 4, approved unprecedented cuts to federal health care and food assistance programs. About 38,400 children are at risk of losing access to health care and food assistance services, according to the county's Social Services Agency.

While the county is committed to supporting vulnerable children and families, the loss of federal funding makes this mission challenging, District 4 Supervisor Susan Ellenberg said.

"We are being very thoughtful in looking at where our dollars are having the most impact, where there are opportunities to shift funding sources rather than eliminate programs altogether and where we need to look for other revenue opportunities," she told San José Spotlight. "I would like to not see those cuts be made in programs that serve vulnerable children, because that sets us up for another generation of people experiencing poverty, trauma and poor health outcomes." Heidi Emberling, director of the Santa Clara County Office

of Children and Families Policy, said H.R. 1 threatens the county's entire social safety net. She said nearly one in three children in the county rely on Medi-Cal or CalFresh to access health care and food assistance.

"That will threaten family stability," Emberling told San José Spotlight. "Without access to health care, families are going to have to flood ERs, as opposed to having access to primary care doctors."

Emberling said to address federal cuts, the county will work to ensure families have access to food, housing, health care and childcare.

In addition to navigating these cuts, county leaders are also concerned about a federal funding freeze impacting child day care centers statewide. The freeze is directed toward five states — California, Minnesota, New York, Colorado and Illinois — where the federal administration is claiming it has concerns about widespread fraud.

The feds are withholding billions of dollars from the Child Care and Development Fund, which provides low-income families with child care subsidies. The total freeze is more than \$10 billion across all five states. California accounts for about \$5 billion of those funds. A federal judge on Friday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from freezing funds. The order will last for 14 days unless it's extended.

Santa Clara County receives more than \$63 million for CalWORKS, which provides cash assistance to support employment goals, child care services and other pathways to sufficiency for 6,100 families, according to county data.

H.R. 1 will take about \$1 billion of the \$2.3 billion the county receives from the federal government, Emberling said. Some of this loss will be mitigated by Measure A, a five-eighths-cent sales tax increase approved by voters in November, which will raise about \$330 million a year to protect hospitals, health care and public safety. But that's a drop in the bucket compared to expected annual losses, and county officials have previously said cuts will be necessary. The county is also asking the state for aid.

"We're going to do the best we can with the resources we have to serve those most vulnerable in our community," Emberling said.

HAVE SOME NEWS
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Poll

Continued from page 4

clearly and boldly about flexible and accountable funding for getting people off the streets, intervening in cycles of addiction and mental illness and putting out a real plan for how we get people the help that they need and properly implement new tools like Prop. 36," Mahan told KCRA Channel 3 Sacramento in an interview.

He's also taken pains to ensure his vision for state governance is adopted by other candidates if he chooses not to run. He hosted several gubernatorial candidates at a homeless housing site in December, aiming to get their buy-in on San Jose's strategy of prioritizing temporary shelter over permanent affordable housing.

If Mahan announces his campaign, he would join a contender pool that includes East Bay Congressman Eric Swalwell, former Orange County Con-

gresswoman Katie Porter, former state Controller Betty Yee, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, former Assemblymember Ian Calderon, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and billionaire Tom Steyer.

While there is no confirmation that Mahan played a hand in the text survey, one political observer suggested the polling effort may be part of a broader fundraising strategy for an eventual campaign.

"The purpose could be to show he has a level of statewide recognition sufficient to give a campaign credibility to big donors," Terry Christensen, San Jose State University political science professor emeritus and former host of "Valley Politics," told San José Spotlight. "Fundraising will be a major challenge for him if he runs. It takes a lot of money to be a serious statewide candidate."

Agriculture

Continued from page 1

The program is coordinated by the non-profit educational organization, Agri-Culture, Inc., and supported by the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau.

Applications are now being accepted for the inaugural class. The first, all-day session will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. The deadline for applications is

Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Please visit the Agri-Culture website for more information, including 2026 session dates and topics. You can also complete the application online using this link: <https://bit.ly/focusagssc>; or this QR code:

Community leaders are encouraged to apply to this very special program.

For more information regarding the program, email agri-culture@sbcglobal.net.

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Times **Local News**

Reported crime in San Jose fell in 2025

By Keith Menconi
San José Spotlight

Reported crime figures in San Jose continued to decline in 2025, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. Last year's drop in violent crimes accelerated a downward trend that began in 2024 after such crimes peaked the previous year.

Violent crime last year fell 15% compared to 2024, while property crime dropped 7%, the figures show. These declines held across nearly all major crime categories, including aggravated assault, rape, robbery, theft, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

"San Jose remains the safest big city in the country," Mayor Matt Mahan told San José



A San Jose Police Department cruiser at the corner of W. Taylor Street and N. San Pedro Street. File photo.

Spotlight. "These (crime reductions) reflect our investments in smart, tech-enabled policing and the creation of our Neighborhood Quality of Life unit to address the issues res-

idents experience every day."

Mahan is referring to a new police unit he proposed last spring tasked with policing large homeless encampments. It's part of his broader effort to stiffen penalties for homeless people who refuse offers of shelter.

The 4,963 violent crimes reported in San Jose last year makes 2025 the second year in a row to see declines, after such crimes peaked in 2023 at 6,046. That's the highest number of violent crimes the city has seen since the crime surge of the mid-90s. Prior to 2024, violent crime had been gradually increasing in San Jose for over a decade, and despite the recent improvements, the 2025 figure still remains well above the historic average for the past 20 years.

Long-term property crime trends have been more stable in San Jose over the past decade. However, the 2025 property crime total for the city, 23,222, marks the lowest figure it has seen over that time period except for 2021, when COVID lockdown orders significantly disrupted typical crime patterns.

Some crime categories dropped more than others. Over the past 12 months, the San Jose Police Department recorded 26 homicides, the same as 2024. That means the past two years have tied for the lowest homicide level in the city in at least 10 years.

Among violent crimes, rape saw the most dramatic drop in 2025 with a 27% reduction. Incidence of the crime had been trending upward for more than a decade. Meanwhile, motor vehicle thefts saw a 17% decline, continuing years of improvements after such crimes peaked in 2017.

Police officials also credit the drop in crime to new tools, including SJPD's expanded use of automated license plate recognition and the addition of new software systems to the city's Real-Time Intelligence Center. The facility allows technical experts to review crime scene data in real-time.

"What we are seeing is not accidental, and it's not luck," a police department spokesperson told San José Spotlight.

San Jose is facing a lawsuit over its use of license plate readers from a coalition of local advocacy and civil rights groups. They

allege the city's network of surveillance cameras allows police to track the movements of motorists without a warrant.

San Jose's declining crime figures fall in line with national crime trends that have seen major cities throughout the country notch significant improvements in recent years. In fact, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Dallas, Texas all saw their crime figures decline by even larger percentages than San Jose, according to an analysis conducted by the San Francisco Chronicle.

San Jose won plaudits last year for its handling of public safety issues.

A report by financial tech company SmartAsset named it the safest major U.S. city in the country, after comparing various safety metrics such as violent crime and the rate of traffic fatalities.

Still, a number of challenges remain. SJPD faces a longstanding staffing shortage, made even more difficult to resolve by the city's growing budget deficit. And high-profile crimes continue to grab headlines in the city, such as the Black Friday shooting at Valley Fair mall that left three injured.

Greg Woods, a criminology professor at San Jose State University, said the figures could suggest that SJPD's focus on community outreach could be paying dividends by winning officers more trust among residents.

"Crime is top of mind in many communities, and maybe because we are focusing and spending so much attention on it and delivering in a way that connects community with law enforcement, we're able to maintain that responsibility to promote public safety," he told San José Spotlight.

However, Silicon Valley De-Bug Executive Director Raj Jayadev, a longtime critic of SJPD, voiced skepticism, arguing the declining figures should not be taken as a sign that the city's approach is working. Instead, he contends the crime drop should upend the tough on crime narrative advanced by some city leaders.

"If crimes go up, the mayor and police chief are going to use that to increase the police budget," he told San José Spotlight. "If crime is going down, they are going to use it to justify the spending they are already doing."




Helpful Tips:

- Know how to download your camera footage
- When mounting cameras, please be aware of places where people may have a reasonable expectation of privacy (examples: their backyard or interior of their home)
- Focus and mount your video on key points of entry or concern
- Exterior Mounting Location Options: Front door, rear door, side gate, driveway/front parking lot, second floor wide view and street view.
- Keep batteries charged in your cameras.
- Consider lighting around your cameras.

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



Saint Louise Regional Hospital opens Cardiology Center

By William Bellou
Publisher

New, expanded cardiology services are now available at Saint Louise Regional Hospital.

The new center offers echocardiography, continuous heart monitoring and treadmill stress testing, among other services, which

officials say will reduce travel burdens and potentially save lives in a community where heart disease disproportionately affects the Latino population.

"We're not only serving South County, we're also helping decompress some of the volumes in San Jose," said Dr. Sumit Sehgal, the county-hired cardiologist leading the expansion, noting that Saint Louise has already begun serving patients referred from other county hospitals.

The expansion comes as the county's public healthcare system faces a \$1 billion funding cut from federal legislation HR 1, passed in July. Despite the financial pressures, county leaders emphasized their commitment to addressing health disparities in South County.

San Jose ranks No. 6 nationwide for number of manufactured homes

By Sean Eastwood

Times Media staff writer

A new national analysis from StorageCafe highlights the outsized role manufactured housing plays in San Jose's housing landscape, particularly in a market where affordability remains one of the region's biggest challenges.

San Jose ranks No. 6 nationwide for the total number of manufactured homes, a notable position for a dense, high-cost metro where lower-priced housing options are scarce. While manufactured homes make up a modest share of the city's overall housing stock, their presence provides one of the few remaining footholds for budget-minded households seeking stability in Silicon Valley.

Key findings for San Jose

- 11,700 manufactured homes, accounting for 3.4% of the city's housing stock — a notable footprint for a dense, high-cost metro.

- Manufactured housing provides a critical affordability foothold, even as zoning constraints and limited land keep expansion modest.

- Self storage availability is among the tightest in the country, with just 4 square

feet per person and average monthly rents around \$187, well above the national average. The limited supply highlights how little flexibility exists for households living in smaller homes.

California context

- Statewide, manufactured homes account for 3.4% of California's housing stock — roughly 507,800 units — marking a 1% increase in inventory from 2023 to 2024.

- Affordability is a key driver behind renewed interest in expanding this segment: In 2024, a new manufactured home aver-



aged about \$167,000, compared with \$759,500 for the broader housing market. That 355% price gap — the widest in the nation — underscores the role manufactured housing can play in addressing California's affordability crunch.

Together, the data underscores how manufactured housing plays a disproportionate role in San Jose's housing ecosystem, helping residents remain rooted in one of the nation's most expensive regions.

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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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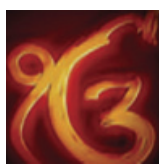


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Times **Local News****Symphony San Jose presents
Hollywood Spectacular 'Out of
this World' March 28-29***The most iconic outer space film
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Publisher

Symphony San Jose pays homage to some of the most iconic outer space film scores ever composed while exploring “the final frontier” with an electrifying concert that blends the magic of science fiction with the power of a live orchestra, March 28-29 at The California Theatre.

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THE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE:Danny Elfman: *Men In Black*Michael Giacchino: *Star Trek Into Darkness*James Horner: *Apollo 13*Richard Strauss: *2001: A Space Odyssey*Hans Zimmer: *Interstellar*John Williams: *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*,*E.T. – The Extra-Terrestrial*, and the iconic *Star Wars*.**ARTISTS:****Stuart Chafetz**, Conductor (pictured above)
Symphony San Jose

Stuart Chafetz is the Principal Pops Conductor of the Columbus Symphony and Principal Pops Conductor of the Chautauqua and Marin Symphonies. Chafetz, a conductor celebrated for his dynamic and engaging podium presence, is increasingly in demand with orchestras across the continent. When not on the podium, Chafetz makes his home near San Francisco, CA, with his wife, Ann Krinitsky.

Photos courtesy of the artist and Symphony San Jose.

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