

Super Bowl weekend brings throngs to downtown San Jose
SEE PAGE 4



'California Back To Basics' airs pro-Mahan ad during the Big Game
SEE PAGE 11



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Almaden Times

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Despite the rain and cold, San Jose Unified School District parents, students and community members showed up to a public meeting to advocate against school closures on Feb. 10, 2026. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

San Jose's largest school district looks to lose schools

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

San Clara County's largest school district could close as many as nine elementary schools due to declining enrollment — a game changer for the district as it redefines its future.

The San Jose Teachers Association is urging San Jose Unified School District to consider restructuring the system due to enrollment and equity issues. There are 41 schools in the district, of which 26 are elementary schools. The district formed a Schools of Tomorrow advisory committee, which completed its work last semester. A separate implementation committee will make its recommendation on closures by March 5, and the school board will make the final decision March 12.

The implementation committee — comprised of district and union representatives, teachers and parents — is tasked with choosing which schools to consolidate and where to redraw attendance boundaries and relocate special

See CLOSURES, page 3

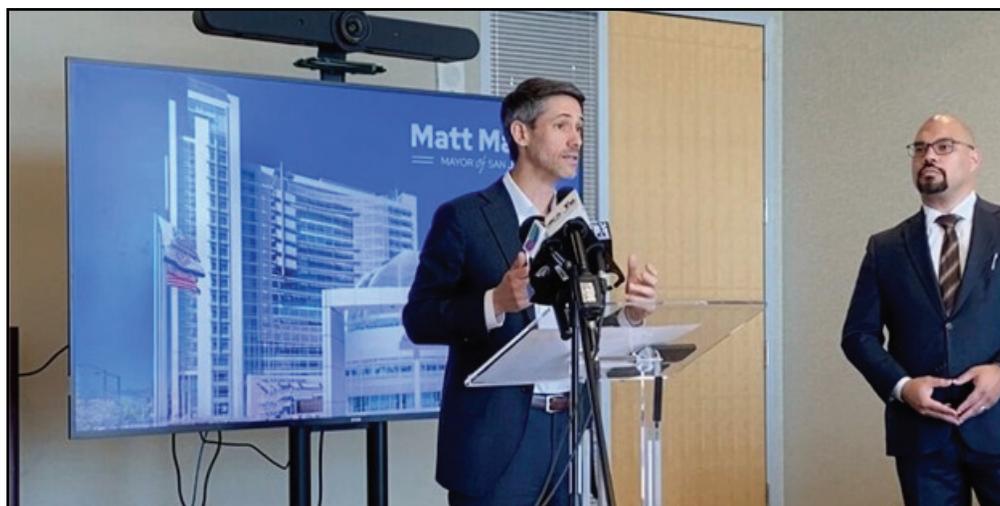
Billionaire techies back Matt Mahan's run for CA governor

By Brandon Pho
San José Spotlight

Billionaires and tech moguls are spending mountains of cash to catapult San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan to the front of the race for California governor.

Recent campaign finance reports show Mahan has raised more than \$2 million, though he has touted raising a total of \$7 million so far on social media. Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Palantir co-founder Joe Lonsdale and YCombinator CEO Garry Tan are among the Silicon Valley elite who maxed out their legally-allowed contributions — \$78,400 each — into Mahan's governor campaign in January.

David Baszucki, the billionaire CEO of the gaming platform Roblox, and his wife Jan gave a combined \$156,800 to Mahan's campaign, records show. The support for a moderate, billionaire-friendly governor extends to Southern



San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan has raised millions of dollars in the early days of his campaign for California governor. *File photo.*

California, where businessman and former Los Angeles mayoral candidate Rick Caruso contributed \$78,400 to Mahan's campaign.

The financial support comes as Mahan has voiced opposition to a proposed billionaire tax in California over the early days of his statewide bid — and billionaires are responding.

Adrian Rafizadeh, Mahan's campaign man-

ager, said the mayor has united Californians against special interests.

"Californians want hope that the problems that have been seen as intractable are solvable," Rafizadeh told San José Spotlight. "Trust in city government has increased by nearly 40% since (Mahan) took office because he delivered, and

See BILLIONAIRES, page 7

High school students bring back senior ball to fight loneliness in Almaden on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day Senior Ball at Watermark - Almaden

By William Bellou
Publisher

This year's Valentine's Day Senior Ball at Watermark Senior Living community in Almaden Valley was a huge success thanks to a collaboration between students from Irvington High School and Watermark.

The event brought together two generations for an afternoon centered on music, conversation, and shared experience. It also created space for long-time couples to celebrate Valentine's Day together.

Valentine's Day began with members of Irvington High School's Students in Action greeting residents as they arrived. The event opened with a live student vocal performance, drawing the room's attention and setting the tone for the celebration. Following the performance, students and residents spent time talking and getting to know one another.

A group of students gathered around Pui



Residents of Watermark Senior Living community attended this year's successful Valentine's Day Senior Ball in Almaden Valley thanks to a collaboration between Watermark and members of Students in Action from Irvington High School. *Photo by Amna Rahman, Irvington High School.*

Tsang, a resident who shared stories from his background in medicine, arts, and martial arts. The students asked questions and listened closely as he reflected on his experiences, creating a meaningful exchange across generations.

Once the Jerry Logan & Loganville live band began playing, many seniors and students headed to the dance floor. Throughout the afternoon, music filled the auditorium as guests

See VALENTINES, page 11

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Times Local News

Closures

Continued from page 1

programs. It strives to provide additional resources for students, as well as balanced school sizes districtwide.

Hundreds of people, including young children, braved the cold and rain to protest their school being on the chopping block at the school district office before Tuesday's committee meeting.

The main meeting room and overflow spaces were at capacity, with many people holding signs saying "Williams: Stop the Whale Hunt," "Simonds IS the School of Tomorrow!" and "Lowell is Where I Learn, Play and Dream."

"We recognize that many of you are here tonight because you care deeply about your school communities," Committee Chair Patrick Bernhardt said at the meeting. "This process is difficult."

The committee discarded one option during the meeting, and added new ones that included not separating students in special education classes from their schools.

The first option would close nine elementary schools — Almaden, Anne Darling, Canoas, Gardner, Lowell, Rachel Carson, Selma Olinder, Simonds and Walter L. Bachrodt — with Hammer Montessori located at Galarza relocating to the Rachel Carson facility.

The second option would close Empire Gardens, Gardner, Lowell, Rachel Carson, Reed, Selma Olinder, Terrell, Walter L. Bachrodt and Williams.

At a virtual town hall the night before, Trustee Nicole Gribstad said school closures should be the last resort.

"I don't think two months' time is enough to fully look at the picture and allow for stakeholders to come and have their say," she said. "We want to have transparency. We want to have accountability."

According to San Jose Unified School District, enrollment has declined by more than 6,000 students since the 2017-18 school year, with 12 elementary schools having fewer than 350 students and the largest more than 800. The district has 25,000 students, from transitional kindergarten through grade 12.

"The number of students at a school directly impacts how many teachers and support staff — counselors, nurses, campus supervisors, etc. — can be assigned there," the district said on its website. "The number of staff, in turn, affects which programs schools can offer, such as science, arts, and music. Staffing numbers also affect whether we need to create 'combo classes' in which two grade levels are taught by one teacher in the same classroom. The Schools of Tomorrow ... will enable us to address declining enrollment in a positive, student-centered way."

Declining enrollment is a statewide issue. Various districts in San Jose have already closed a dozen campuses. Franklin-McKinley School District closed three elementary schools in 2025. In 2024 Berryessa Union School District closed three schools and Alum Rock Union School District closed six schools.

Renata Sanchez, president of the San Jose Teachers Association, said the committee is being thoughtful in its deliberations.

"This work is challenging and emotional, and we all want what is best for our students," she told San José Spotlight. "It was also beautiful to see so many communities come out and express the love they have for their school. Each of the speakers brought up good points

Concerned parents attended the SJUSD Schools of Tomorrow implementation committee meeting to speak against closing campuses. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.



for the committee to consider."

Sanchez said the unions have negotiated with the school district to ensure no teachers or staff will lose their jobs due to consolidations. She sees this as an opportunity to address racism and disparities.

"It was important to the committee that we're making the decisions not based on

academic achievement, because academic achievement is an imperfect measure of the effectiveness of a school and the effectiveness of teaching staff," she said. "What is different are the circumstances that our students are living in and the experiences that they're bringing with them to the schools."

Lizeth Hernandez, a Lowell Elementary

parent, is concerned closing schools will negatively affect struggling communities.

"These shifts often create big challenges for families who already have the least flexibility," she said at the meeting. "New school models can mean longer commutes, transportation issues, childcare gaps and parents having to rearrange work schedules ... when you are already juggling multiple jobs. "Parent Travis Curran said a benefit of walkable neighborhood schools is the opportunity to converse with his children.

"You're not making eye contact and you're in motion and you're just kind of walking side by side. It makes my kids speak up a whole lot more and share with me about how their day was," he told San José Spotlight. "You lose things like that if you look at shutting down a community school."

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Times Local News

Superbowl brings throngs to San Jose

By Mayor Matt Mahan

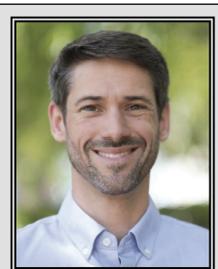
If you came downtown during Superbowl weekend, you were in good company. And if you didn't, here's what you missed!

Nearly half a million neighbors and visitors came to the party in Downtown San José last week.

We filled our bars and restaurants — in fact, some San Pedro Square business owners reported a 300-400% increase in sales. We packed Discovery Meadow by the thousands for drone shows and filled City Hall plaza to the brim for Kehlani and Dom Dolla.

The goal was to give us all moments to celebrate, even without a ticket to the big game. So many of you told me how excited you were — that we've never had this kind of energy in San José before. Hearing that from you and seeing so many smiles over the week made me proud to be your Mayor and proud to be a San Josean.

And this is just the beginning. March Madness is coming to SAP Center, the 20th Crossfit Games will be here in July, and the biggest event of all, FIFA World Cup, will be in town this summer. We're learning from what did and didn't work



From the Mayor
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose



during Super Bowl Week, and we'll be ready to give you plenty more to be proud of.

Because 2026 is all about building civic pride. We've worked hard together to create a city that is safe, clean and full of opportunity — a city that's leading the way for the rest of California. And our hard work is paying off.

We talked about the progress we've made last weekend amidst all the action at our annual State of the City.

At least 500 of those half a million visitors came together during Super Bowl weekend to give back and get engaged. Together, we painted a mural (and luckily, most of the paint made it on the wall!), we planted trees, and we made San José just a little bit cleaner and more beautiful.

Afterwards, we all came together, celebrated with our community heroes, and I told you about someone very special to me. I spoke about this man at my inauguration, for those of you who have stayed engaged since way back then.

My dad was a letter carrier, a lover of science and theology, and a person who believed, despite

how hard he had to work, that he was the luckiest man in the world. And although he probably wouldn't have cared about or even known who the national headliners we had in front of City Hall were — what he would have cared about is the fact we've delivered.

He would care that we've increased trust in City Hall by nearly 40% over the last three years by getting back to basics. He would care that we've built more shelter than any city on the West Coast and thereby reduced unsheltered homelessness by nearly 1/3rd. He would care that we became the safest big city in America last year by building trust and implementing technology.

Because as a mailman, my dad had a duty to deliver. He believed, as I do, that our government does, too.

And that work is never done — I'm proud of our progress in San José but impatient for how much work remains. Let's keep delivering.



San Jose Youth Symphony Spring Concert featuring Young Artist Competition Winners perform March 28

The Philharmonic Orchestra to perform Glazunov, Conus, Doppler and Liszt

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2025-26 Spring Concert, featuring 2025 Young Artist Competition Winners to be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, 2 pm, at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street in San Jose.

The orchestra will open with selections from Glazunov's music for the grand ballet, *Raymonda*, and will close the concert with Liszt's symphonic *Les Préludes*.

This concert will also feature two winners from last season's 2025 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation.

Outstanding young soloists, Aden Liu, will perform Conus's spectacular *Violin Concerto in E minor*, and Leo Liu, will perform Doppler's *Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy for*



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prises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras, a chamber orchestra, two flute choirs, two string ensembles, as well as winds, brass, saxophone, percussion, and jazz ensembles.

Ticket purchases now available online: <https://sjys.org/product-category/tickets>

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Above: Aden Liu. Below: Leo Liu





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Times **Local News**

Lincoln Law School of San Jose appoints Mary Fuller as Dean

By William Bellou
Publisher

Lincoln Law School of San Jose, San Jose's Law School™, announced the appointment of **Mary Fuller** as its new Dean.

Fuller brings decades of leadership experience spanning law, engineering, education, and public service. Most recently, she served as Director of the Western Regional Office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, based in Silicon Valley, where she led regional initiatives focused on intellectual property education, innovation, and stakeholder engagement across the western United States.

In her role at the USPTO, Fuller worked closely with entrepreneurs, educators, inventors, startups, and established companies, helping communities better understand and leverage intellectual property as a practical business asset.

"Mary brings a rare combination of legal, technical, and public-service leadership experience," said Bill Long, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Her commitment to education, collaboration, and thoughtful leadership aligns well with Lincoln Law School's mission, and we are pleased to welcome her as Dean."

As Dean of Lincoln Law School, Fuller will focus on academic excellence, student success, and collaborative leadership. She will work in close partnership with faculty, students, alumni, and the Board of Trustees to build on Lincoln's strengths and support the school's continued role in expanding access to legal education for working professionals.

"Lincoln Law School has a long history of serving students who are deeply committed to the practice of law and public service," Fuller said. "I am honored to join the school and look forward to working with the Lincoln community to support students and advance the institution's mission."



Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action organization launches 2026 Youth Nature Video Contest

By William Bellou
Publisher

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA) is launching its Youth Climate Video Contest. Submissions are open now through March 31, 2026.

The contest's goal is to showcase the next generation of environmental stewardship by encouraging youth to present their ideas through creative storytelling around local climate and natural topics.

"We are incredibly thrilled here at SVYCA to offer this opportunity for youth climate action and community involvement," said Rosalía Bacon-Flores, Co-Lead of the Nature Based Solutions Team. "This video compe-

tion provides a platform for the voices of the leaders of a fast-approaching tomorrow who are committed to maintaining a safe, livable future."

(SVYCA is a grassroots youth-led nonprofit that empowers youth leaders to effectively combat climate change through education, advocacy, and policy initiatives with more than 100,000 students engaged through 15 action teams across the Bay Area.

Contest rules

Individuals aged 12-18 from Santa Clara County are invited to submit short videos highlighting Coyote Valley, Farming and Food Systems, Nature-Based Climate Solutions, and Personal Connections to nature.

By engaging youth voices in conservation, SVYCA works to empower young people to take informed climate action through education, outreach, and community, and this contest provides a visible platform in which

See *VIDEO CONTEST*, page 8

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Times **Local News**

Billionaires

Continued from page 1

because he was willing to stand up to special interests to get things done.”

Mindy Romero, a political sociologist and founder of the Center for Inclusive Democracy, said the fundraising is substantial for a late-entry gubernatorial candidate — and a sign he’s a candidate that can no longer be ignored.

“If he keeps this pace up, then he could potentially surpass — if he hasn’t already — other candidates in a very short amount of time,” Romero told San José Spotlight. “Does that make him frontrunner? We’d have to see what the polls say. He does have a ways to go in terms of all Californians knowing who he is and his name. But having the funding he’s already gotten is a really strong sign he’s going to have a viable and very competitive candidacy.”

Mahan’s campaign filings also weave a tangled web of tech mogul support linked to Peter Thiel, the billionaire conservative benefactor and co-founder of data analytics software company Palantir. Thiel-linked donors include Lonsdale, who later launched the Cicero Institute, a conservative policy think tank.

Another donor linked to Thiel is Matthew Grimm, who with his wife Kimberly gave a combined \$20,000 to Mahan’s campaign, records show. Grimm was an early Palantir hire and a principal at Mithril Capital, Thiel’s growth fund. Grimm then co-founded Anduril Industries, a defense tech company that saw major backing from Thiel’s Founders Fund. Grimm’s Anduril co-founder Trae Stephens and his wife, who haven’t donated to Mahan’s campaign, founded ACTS 17, a Christian nonprofit that ministers to elites and funded Thiel’s 2025 lectures on the antichrist.

XYZ Venture Capital founder Ross Fubini — who donated \$10,000 to Mahan’s campaign — was also an early investor in Anduril and more than 20 startups by Palantir employees.

A handful of other wealthy Californians — some with ties to Thiel — came together to secure Mahan a Super Bowl advertisement highlighting his run for governor.

Romero said that big names in Mahan’s filings — and the amount he’s pulled together so far — could bring him the attention he wouldn’t normally have had.

“That in and of itself makes the media take a candidate more seriously. That’s when you hear questions such as, ‘Are they the new frontrunner?’” Romero said. “There’s a lot of positive press and attention and credibility a candidate gets from raising a lot of money quickly, especially for a late entry. But it also can mean there’s a lot of pressure to perform, and you’ve got a smaller runway to perform.”

American billionaire Tom Steyer — who has touted a progressive affordability platform — is still leading the pack with \$38 million in fundraising as of Feb. 3. He’s followed by conservative pundit Steve Hilton and former Democratic congresswoman Katie Porter, with both just under \$6 million in fundraising.

Other candidates in the governor’s race include Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, who has raised \$3.8 million. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has raised \$3.1 million. Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra has raised \$2.9 million. Former State Controller Betty Yee has raised \$587,000 and California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond has raised \$256,000.

Whichever two candidates get the most votes in the June 2 primary will advance to the Nov. 3 election.

Almaden’s Juliana Meeks named to University of Rhode Island Fall 2025 Dean’s List

The University of Rhode Island announced that **Juliana Meeks** of Almaden Valley has been named to its Fall 2025 Dean’s List. Meeks is a junior majoring in Textiles, Merchandising & Design with a Digital Media minor, consistently earning Dean’s List honors.

“With hands-on experience in visual merchandising, social media strategy, and brand marketing through roles at ISLE Newport, Bettina’s Boutique, Tilly’s, and Hang Loose US, I’ve developed a strong eye for brand aesthetics and



customer experience,” Meeks said.

“I’m passionate about growing within fashion and marketing—especially in brand strategy, visual communication, and consumer

engagement.”

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation.

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Times **Local News**

Navigating water challenges: Northern California's transition from drought to uncertainty

By **Matthew Frazier**
Times Media Columnist

As of mid-February 2026, Northern California has experienced a remarkable transformation in its water situation, moving from years of severe drought to being officially drought-free for the first time in 25 years.

This significant weather change is largely attributed to a series of intense atmospheric rivers that impacted the region in late 2025 and early 2026.

Our intense weather phenomena have substantially replenished the state's major reservoirs, which are currently filled to 129% of their average capacity. This increase in water levels creates a reassuring buffer against immediate scarcity, provid-



ing a moment of relief for residents and policymakers alike.

Challenges ahead

Despite the positive developments, the state still faces challenges related to the "snow drought" and the unpredictability of future climate patterns. The situation remains complex, as even with ample reservoir supplies, the absence of a consistent, robust snowpack could pose challenges for the later part of the year.

Drought status, reservoir levels

According to reports from the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of mid-January 2026, California has eliminated all drought and "abnormally dry" conditions across the state. This marks a stark contrast to the persistent drought conditions that have plagued the region for decades. Major reservoirs began the year at or near full capacity, providing essential data that suggests immediate water fears have temporarily subsided. However, the concerning trend of warmer-than-average temperatures poses significant questions about water sustainability for the coming months.

Threat of "Snow Drought"

While rainfall during the winter months has been impressive, contributing to full reservoirs, it has also

led to substantial mid-winter snowmelt. High temperatures have led to a "snow drought," characterized by lower-than-average snowpack.

As of early February 2026, Sierra Nevada's snowy elevations were reported to be about 71% of their normal range. This deficit is troubling since the Sierra's snowpack serves as a natural reservoir that feeds rivers and streams throughout the dry summer months. With less snowpack, there's an increased risk of not having sufficient water available during the peak demand periods when temperatures rise. New totals will soon be available for last week's snowfall which should improve the percentage of snow in the Sierra.

Climate volatility and condition shifts

The unpredictability of climate conditions has introduced a "drought to deluge" pattern within the region. This phenomenon indicates that areas that have just experienced heavy rainfall can quickly see a shift back to dry weather. For instance, late January and early February 2026 brought 15 consecutive days without precipitation, underscoring the risk

of rapidly returning dry conditions if winter storms diminish.

Such climatic volatility means that areas once considered protected from drought or water shortages can suddenly become vulnerable. The rapid depletion of soil moisture after heavy rains can increase the risk of wildfires, which has become a serious concern in Northern California.

Fire and Flood Risks Ahead

Looking ahead, experts anticipate that the risk of wildfires in Northern California could increase as early as May 2026. The combination of rapidly drying lower-elevation fuels and lower snowpack levels creates conditions conducive to fires, posing threats to communities and ecosystems alike. Fire management agencies must begin preparing for a fire season that could arrive earlier than usual, as experience suggests that a dry spring often leads to a particularly dangerous season.

Conversely, the region must also consider the risk of flooding from heavy rainfall. With reservoirs at maximum capacity, any additional significant rainfall could overwhelm the existing infrastructure, leading managers to strategize for flood control. This measure could involve controlled releases of water to mitigate risks, which, while necessary, poses its challenges for reservoir management.

Long-Term Outlook for Water Resources

While the early part of 2026 shows promise regarding water availability, the long-term outlook may not be as rosy. Experts suggest that a "dry-side" scenario could emerge, with the potential for below-average precipitation by the end of February 2026. The central concern is that, despite the initial abundance of water in reservoirs, the lack of a substantial snowpack may lead to increased competition for water during what is expected to be a long, hot summer.

In summary, while Northern California can breathe a sigh of relief with an immediate recovery from drought conditions, the longer-term outlook remains fraught with uncertainty. The region must prepare for the challenges ahead, balancing the benefits of a recent wet winter against the very real risks of fire and water scarcity from climate change.

Sustainability measures and proactive planning will be key in navigating this complex landscape as the year progresses.

The following sources can provide additional insights into the water challenges and environmental conditions discussed in this article.

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Video Contest

Continued from page 6
students can amplify their voices and share their ideas to inspire more initiatives within their own communities, while fostering the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

The Youth Nature Video Contest is made possible through the generous support of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Open Space Authority), the contest's main sponsor.

Eligibility:

- Ages: 12-18
- Residents or students in region/school districts: Santa Clara County School Districts

Video Requirements:

- Length: 2-5 minutes
- Format: MP4
- Themes: Spotlight on Coyote Valley, Farming and Food Systems, Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Personal Connections to Nature

Submission Process:

- Upload videos at: <https://svy-canbs-contest.com>
- Deadline: March 31st, 2026, 11:59 PM PST
- Additional materials required: All necessary forms are on the application.

Judging and Awards

Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges composed of local leaders and climate professionals.

Submission will be assessed on a 100-point scale. Videos will be evaluated based on the following rubric: Originality and Creativity (20 points), Clear Communication (20 points), Understanding and Analysis (40 points), and Art and Design (20 points).

Awards include:

- \$100-\$500 per winner
 - Certificate of Achievement for all participating students
 - Open Space Authority swag bag
- Ceremony Information:
- Winners will be announced on April 22nd, 2026

Winning videos will be displayed at a screening event in Mid-May where contestants, parents, friends, environmental groups, City Council members, and others can watch the winning videos, network, and discuss climate action.

For full contest guidelines and updates, visit Nature-Based Solutions Youth Video Contest.

THANK YOU FROM HAPPY HOLLOW FOUNDATION

In appreciation of the generosity of sponsors, donors and friends who supported the 2025 Hooray for Happy Hollow event benefiting Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.

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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!

Times **Local News**

San Jose Youth Symphony to hold auditions for the 2026-27 Season

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) will be holding its annual general auditions for the 2026-2027 Season.

The auditions will be held on Thursday afternoons (April 2nd & April 9th) and Friday afternoons (April 3rd & April 10th) between the hours of 4-9 p.m. Saturday auditions will be held from 2 pm - 7 pm on April 4th and all day on April 11th.

All student musicians are welcome, ages 8 and up, who play orchestral instruments (woodwinds, brass, percussion & strings) or who are interested in performing jazz.

Marching Band musicians are welcome to apply for an audition now, and then join after marching band season ends.

To submit an audition application, visit: www.sjys.org to join one of SJYS's 12 orchestras and instrumental ensembles. The symphony will do its best to accommodate your date preferences you list in the application.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 31, 2026.

If you have questions, send an email to sjys@sjys.org

About the San Jose Youth Symphony

The San Jose Youth Symphony is one of

the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the US. Founded over 70 years ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony*, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

SJYS member musicians, of ages 8 to 20, are selected from more than 650 applicants through our annual spring General Auditions. SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras; a chamber orchestra; two flute choirs; concert winds, brass, saxophone, percussion, jazz and two string ensembles. Each group rehearses weekly from September to May or early June and performs a scheduled series of concerts each season. In addition, member musicians participate in a week-long summer camp and receive special coaching and participate in masterclasses from professional and renowned musicians in the Bay Area.

The premier group of SJYS is its Philharmonic Orchestra, led by SJYS Music Director and Conductor, Yair Samet. The orchestra performs its season subscription concerts at the historic and beautiful, California Theatre, in downtown San Jose. The orchestra also travels biannually on its International Concert Tours, and have performed in renowned concert halls in Japan, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ireland, Argentina and Uruguay. In 2022, the orchestra traveled to the Baltics: Vilnius, Lithuania; Riga, Latvia; Parnu & Tallinn, Estonia; and Helsinki, Finland. The orchestra toured again most recently during the summer of 2025 to Poland and Czechia!



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- Do you worry about shopping for food?
- Do you struggle preparing meals on a regular basis?

To learn more about Meals on Wheels, please call (408) 350-3237 or email community@mysourcewise.com



Come join the Almaden Senior Association on a bus trip to 'THE ROCK' - Alcatraz Island Tuesday, April 21st

We all know that Alcatraz was a federal prison. But did you know before that, it was a U.S. Army military fortress? Come with us and discover the history of 'The Rock' sitting in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Learn who was jailed there and who escaped from this maximum-security facility. Experience being locked up in a 9'x5' cell with only a bed, a sink and a toilet. After our visit to Alcatraz, we will go to Pier 39 for lunch on your own and shopping before returning home.

- 7:45am: Arrive at Almaden Community Center
- 8:00am: Depart for Pier 33 and the ferry to Alcatraz Island
- 10:10am: Leave for the island to start tour
- 12:25pm: On the ferry to return to Pier 33
- 1:00pm: Travel to Pier 39. You can walk or ride on the bus
- 3:30pm: Depart Pier 39
- 6:00 to 6:30pm: Arrive back at the community center

Price \$90, Cash or Check. Make check out to ASA. Sign up in the ACC lobby M/W/F from 8am-10am. For more information call Rich @ 408-219-8641



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.

St. Patrick's Day Party

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us on Saturday, March 14th from 2pm to 4pm at the Almaden Community Center. We will serve a traditional Irish meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, vegetables, rolls and will include coffee and dessert. Irish dancers will provide entertainment for you. Tickets are on sale now in the Almaden Community Center lobby from 8am-10am and every M/W/F until sold out. Price \$30 cash or check. For more info call Jeanne @ 408-425-5723 or Facebook or ASA Website.

Trip to Alcatraz Island

Alcatraz, also known as The Rock, was a maximum-security federal prison from 1934 to 1963. It was a cold foreboding place as a prison. Now it's a national park that you can visit and learn the history of being a prisoner there. On Tuesday, April 21st, we will take you by bus to Pier 33 to take the ferry over to Alcatraz Island. There you will climb to the cellblock to get an audio device with headphones and begin your tour. The tour will take about 60 minutes. Upon returning to the city we will travel to Pier 39 for lunch and shopping. Afterward, we will reboard the bus in front of Pier 39 for the ride home. Price \$90, Cash or Check. Tickets are on sale now in the Almaden Community Center lobby M/W/F from 8am-10am. For more information call Rich @ 408-219-8641 or Facebook or ASA Website.

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>
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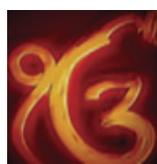
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God is One
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Rab Ik Hai

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The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room

on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

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Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, and Memorial Garden are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us in worship at any of the following times in our Chapel: Weekdays (M-Sa) at 8:30 AM; Saturdays at 4:00 PM (English) and 5:30 PM (Vietnamese); Sundays at 8:00 AM (English), 10:00 AM (English), 12:00 PM (English), 4:00 PM (Vietnamese), and 6:00 PM Youth Mass (English). The Villages Gated Community also features a Mass on Sundays at 8:15 AM at the Cribari Auditorium. For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Office open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and

share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!



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To place a worship listing, email times@timesmediainc.com

Times **Local News**



Many seniors and Irvington High School students danced to the music of Jerry Logan & Loganville live band at this year's Valentine's Day Senior Ball at Watermark Senior Community in Almaden Valley. Photo by Amna Rahman, Irvington High School.

Valentines

Continued from page 1

moved between conversations at their tables and dancing alongside one another.

In attendance were Nancy and James Richard "Dick" Lowry, who met at the Presidio of San Francisco during the Vietnam era when Dick was a young Army officer and Nancy worked as a civilian secretary across the hall.

What began with coffee breaks and a ride home turned into a first date at the Fairmont Hotel, where Nancy and Dick spent the evening dancing — a memory that helped define the start of their life together. They married in a military ceremony in 1966 and went on to raise three children while building careers in education across the United States before eventually returning to California to spend the rest of their days.

Nancy and Dick enjoyed spending the afternoon



Nancy and James Richard "Dick" Lowry, who met at the Presidio of San Francisco and were married in 1966. Photo by Amna Rahman, Irvington High School.



Students gather around Pui Tsang, a resident who shared his stories from his interesting background in medicine, arts, and martial arts during the Valentine's Day Senior Ball at Watermark Senior Living community in Almaden Valley. Photo by Amna Rahman, Irvington High School.

interacting with the students and fellow residents, listening to the music and watching the dance floor fill. While mobility and hearing challenges mean they are more likely to enjoy the celebration from their seats than join the dance circle, they were present side by side, much like they have been for six decades. Their presence served as a quiet reminder of the event's deeper meaning: love that endures, stories that span generations, and the importance of creating spaces where those stories can continue to be shared.

The event concluded with students and residents forming a dance circle during what was scheduled to be the final song. The energy in the room was strong enough that the group requested one more song, extending the celebration and closing the afternoon on a lively note.

'California Back To Basics' airs pro-Mahan super bowl ad

By William D. Bellou
Publisher

Amidst the high-budget ads shown during Super Bowl, an independent committee supporting San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan for governor, ran their first TV ad.

The committee dropped close to a million-and-a-half dollars to introduce Matt Mahan to Californians as their possible next governor.

The ad was straightforward; a back-to-basics message which was seen in many areas of California, but not in San Jose.

The ad opens with a line of tents on a city sidewalk and the statement, "We have problems toxic politics can't fix." It cuts to a crime scene and a gro-



cery checkout line, then touts San Jose's status as America's safest big city and takes note of the city's 100% homicide clearance rate (every homicide solved), and a reference to a drop in unsheltered homelessness.

The ad included its principal funders: California Back to Basics, Michael Seibel, Marc & Ashley Merrill, founders of the Riot Games and apparel brand Lunya.



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- If a crime occurs in your community or place of business, SJPD will contact you for video footage.
- All information is confidential. Registration is voluntary and there is no cost associated with registration.

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 Crime Prevention Unit (408) 277-4133.

SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT
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<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/security-camera-registration>

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