



Free Hola Mohalla Festival of Courage and Strength April 21 at Sikh Gurdwara in Evergreen Valley — See page 5



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Evergreen Times

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Non-profit Heart & Homes contributes 200 hygiene care packages to Bay Area homeless

Organization supports local communities in need

In a significant act of charity and community support, Heart & Homes, a non-profit organization, has made a meaningful contribution to the Bay Area's homeless communities by donating 200 hygiene care packages.



Harika Chodavarapu, Founder and Bay Area Chapter Head of Heart and Homes

these critical items," Harika said.

The organization's volunteers support homeless shelters with necessary supplies and aid old age homes with food provisions. Looking ahead, Heart & Homes has set an ambitious goal for 2024 to enlarge its impact and expand its operations.

Drew, a representative from Food Not Bombs (FNB), a local community support organization, expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards Heart & Homes's generous donation.

"We have a wonderful young lady [Harika] here who's on the high school level who sees the importance of love, mercy, beauty, and compassion in the community and sees that nobody, no matter what times we're in, should have to fall to a level of ruin and destitution," Drew said. "They're essential things that all people need, and we have."

The homelessness crisis in the Bay Area continues to be a pressing issue, with McKinsey & Company reporting approximately 38,000 individuals experiencing homelessness on any given night, marking a 35 percent increase since 2019. While many organizations focus on providing essential food supplies, Heart & Homes aims to complement these efforts by addressing the dire need for basic hygiene items

Individuals interested in volunteering or contributing to Heart & Homes's mission are encouraged to contact at harika@heartandhomes.org.

Children of the Dragon: Vietnamese heritage celebration at Children's Discovery Museum

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Here's your chance to explore some of the rich Vietnamese traditions at the upcoming festive celebration at the Children's Discovery Museum on April 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Don't miss the thrilling Lion dance by Yun Yee Tong USA - a spectacular favorite among museum visitors. Performances are scheduled at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Make a dragon puppet, pose for a commemorative family photo in a rich-lo, and stop by the theatre to watch a short video to learn more about Vietnamese cultural heritage and the legend of Children of the Dragon.

Admission: \$18 for children and adults; \$16 for seniors; infants under one and members are free.

The Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is located at 180 Woz Way in downtown San Jose.

For tickets, visit <https://www.cdm.org/celebrate/community->



celebrations/children-of-the-dragon
About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

Kids lead the way at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, exploring and discovering through open-ended, play-based learning. Over 150 hands-on exhibits and programs in the sciences, humanities, arts, nature, and health spark curiosity and ignite family fun where children build life skills in

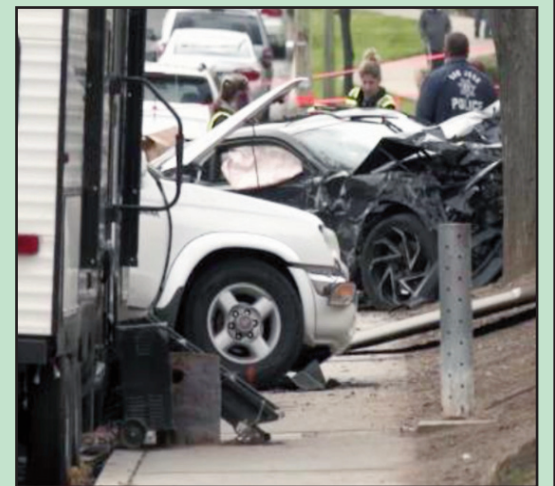
creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, and confidence. The nonprofit celebrates people and diverse cultures, creates authentic connections, and builds global understanding. Welcoming more than 10 million visitors since 1990, the award-winning museum inspires creativity, curiosity, and lifelong learning inside the stunning 50,000-square-foot purple building.

1 dead in San Jose hit-and-run crash Wednesday, juvenile in custody

A juvenile has been taken into custody in connection to a fatal hit-and-run collision between two vehicles on the early morning of April 5, according to the San Jose Police Department.

The crash occurred in the area of Nieman Boulevard and Elkins Way at around 4:12 a.m., near John J. Montgomery Elementary School.

A white Nissan Frontier pickup truck and a black Chevy Camaro car appeared to be involved in the deadly collision. According to police, the Camaro was traveling at a high rate of speed, failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of Nieman and



Daniel Maloney Drive and struck the pickup, resulting in the death of one occupant.

SJPD patrol officers later located a juvenile believed to be the driver of the Camaro.

The police investigation is ongoing.

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Times **Community**

WATER-WISE®

The Meadowverse: A Commentary

By **Matthew Frazier**

*Qualified Stormwater Manager
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Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

A San Jose State University Mass Communications professor agreed to allow me to create a short film as a substitute for the original capstone assignments of high-fidelity and low-fidelity frames media apps last year. Having been in Independent cinema and Independent theatre here in San Jose, California since late 1995, this seemed like an ideal and optimal assignment for the course.

“The Meadowverse: A Commentary” is the title chosen for this first chapter in the series. The Meadowverse. An aggregate and an amalgam of all the parcels and sectors of unmanicured environs and landscapes throughout Santa Clara County and more specifically the valleys within.

My brother, a conservation/organismal biologist, operated the camera for most of the shoot. Roughly seven 2-minute segments comprise the first cut of this short film – highlighting the details and the nuances of those locales within, whose meadowesque appearance lends itself to conjecture and Imagination.

Currently in a certificate program for Horticulture at UCLA Extension, this seems an appropriate condiment and complement to the larger objective of telling a story cinematically and theatrically in the context of western wildernesses. Multiple valleys comprise Santa Clara County. Their essence and their presence imbue the landscapes and the sceneries.

Evergreen Valley, San Jose, California is one such place. Hues and tones of green flush the valley’s interior as sunrise and sunset ebb and flow – leaving in their wake a vision of which to partake. Evergreen Valley beckons to each and all who seek serenity and solace in conjunction with an escape from the unyielding demands of Life within this high-stakes high-tech megapolis known as Silicon Valley.

Oak Woodlands pre-date that which we see now, anywhere in the valleys of this county. Evergreen imbues the landscapes and psych escapes of each and all who gaze upon its splendor. Opulent and ubiquitous, Evergreen Valley glows in the waning light of Friday Night as the telescope at Montgomery Observatory (Evergreen Valley College) emerges from its sheath – to circumvent and navigate the evening sky/night sky.

The Meadowverse brims with annuals, biennials, and perennials that accentuate and illuminate all in their path.

Beneficial weeds and Insectary plants are aglow in the green light of sunrise and sunset. The 15-minute first-cut draft of “The Meadowverse: A Commentary” brings The Artists and the audience to new heights of Imagination which speaks to the question, “What would these valleys look like, were they to be free of manipulation from human activity?”



Evergreen Valley boasts of signature scenery set amidst a backdrop of star-laden night skies and birds/insects who orchestrate the energy and the mood of all they imbue. The Meadowverse surrounds us. It is a cooperative of botanical and horticultural components beset by artistry and imagination.

More chapters to come: Times Media Inc’s “The Evergreen Times” speaks to the innate and sublime desires of its residents who seek deviation blended with a sense of eternal elation. Evergreen hosts many botanical and horticultural splendors, not the least of which are the meadows that succeeded the sterile and uniform gardens and landscapes of the pre-pandemic plethora of San Jose.

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The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducts new members, Le and Pham of Evergreen Valley

Jenna Le and Steven Pham of Evergreen Valley were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Phi Kappa Phi membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines.

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Times **Community News**

SJECCD Board names Dr. Beatriz Chaidez Chancellor

Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) board of trustees has named the next permanent SJECCD chancellor, unanimously selecting **Dr. Beatriz Chaidez** (inset) to lead the District.



Chaidez, who has been serving as chancellor in an interim capacity since July 2023, was approved during the Board's regular meeting on April 9.

"We are very fortunate to have a highly skilled and experienced leader such as Dr. Chaidez to lead the District as our next permanent chancellor," said SJECCD Board President Tony Alexander. "Following a rigorous, nationwide search, the board is confident that Dr. Chaidez is the best choice to lead the District."

Prior to her appointment as chancellor, Chaidez held multiple roles with SJECCD, including interim chancellor, vice chancellor of human resources, and associate vice chancellor of human resources.

"During her tenure as interim chancellor and her years serving our District as vice chancellor and associate vice chancellor of human resources, Dr. Chaidez has proven herself to be a steady leader, a creative problem solver, and a passionate advocate for students," added SJECCD Board Vice President Wendy Ho.

Before joining SJECCD, which she did in early 2019, Chaidez held various roles in K-12 administration, including serving as assistant superintendent for human resources with Salinas City Elementary School District (SCESD). She has also been director of pupil personnel services and special education—also with SCESD—assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction with Sacramento City Unified School District, and superintendent/principal with Raisin City School District.

"I'm very pleased to be stepping into this new role with SJECCD and want to thank the board of trustees for placing their confidence in me," Dr. Chaidez said. "The District's core values of

Opportunity, Equity, and Social Justice align closely with my personal values as an educator. I look forward to continuing to work alongside my colleagues among our dedicated faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to advance our mission and serve our community."

Chaidez has extensive experience with labor relations and negotiations, employment law, worker's compensation, California Education Code, and building dual and concurrent enrollment partnerships between colleges and K-12 school districts. She has also served as an executive board member for both the Association of California School Administrators and the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators.

In addition to her administrative experience, Chaidez has also served as an adjunct faculty member at San Jose State University, where she taught a seminar course on administration in educational settings.

"I understand and appreciate the vital role that community colleges play in our educational system, particularly for many individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups, and will work to ensure that all residents of our District have access to higher education," Dr. Chaidez said.

Chaidez holds a doctorate in educational leadership from University of California, Davis; a Master of Arts in educational administration from Fresno Pacific University; and a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies from California State University, Fresno.



Report: 2024's Healthiest Cities in America

With more than 7 in 10 U.S. adults being overweight and health care costs rising, the personal-finance website WalletHub just released its report on 2024's Healthiest Cities in America, to show where people are saving and costing themselves the most money.

WalletHub compared more than 180 of the largest U.S. cities across 41 key metrics.

The data set ranges from the cost of a medical visit to fruit and vegetable consumption to the share of physically active adults.

Healthiest Cities	Unhealthiest Cities
1. San Francisco, CA	173. Huntington, WV
2. Honolulu, HI	174. Detroit, MI
3. Seattle, WA	175. Corpus Christi, TX
4. San Diego, CA	176. Fayetteville, NC
5. Washington, DC	177. Augusta, GA
6. Portland, OR	178. Shreveport, LA
7. Denver, CO	179. Columbus, GA
8. Salt Lake City, UT	180. Laredo, TX
9. Scottsdale, AZ	181. Gulfport, MS
10. Irvine, CA	182. Brownsville, TX

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/healthiest-cities/31072>

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LIVE & LIVESTREAM



PAVEL KOLESNIKOV

April 7, 2:30 p.m.
Cubberley Community Center Theatre, Palo Alto

PROGRAM
Chopin, Prelude in C-sharp Minor, Op. 45
Chopin, Four Waltzes
Chopin, Three Nocturnes
Chopin, Five Mazurkas
INTERMISSION
Schubert, Piano Sonata in B-Flat Major, D. 960



TRIO WANDERER

April 20, 7:30 p.m.
St. Francis Episcopal Church, San Jose

PROGRAM
Fauré, Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 120
L. Boulanger, D'un soir triste—D'un matin de printemps, for Piano Trio
INTERMISSION
Bonis, Soir. Matin, Op. 76, for Piano Trio
Ravel, Piano Trio in A Minor



FEDERICO COLLI

May 4, 7:30 p.m.
Cubberley Community Center Theatre, Palo Alto

PROGRAM
Ligeti, Musica ricercata
Scarlatti, Selected Sonatas
INTERMISSION
Couperin, Le Carillon de Cythère
Couperin, Les Barricades mystérieuses
Couperin, Les Folies françaises, ou les Dominos
Couperin, Selections from Le Tombeau de Couperin

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Free Hola Mohalla Festival of Courage and Strength April 21 at Sikh Gurdwara in Evergreen Valley

By Kirpal Atwal
Special to the Times

The Evergreen Community is excited in anticipation of this year's Hola Mohalla Festival of Courage and Strength on Sunday, April 21 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at one of San Jose's most beautiful landmarks, San Jose Gurdwara.

This special event encourages everyone to be healthy, engage in physical sports, and tackle challenges to help everyone achieve well-rounded physical and mental health.

The annual free event not only provides a unique opportunity for the community to come together, but also fosters understanding and love for one another.

Located all the way up Quimby Road in the Evergreen Valley foothills, this is a day where all people of all cultures and religions are invited as guests of the American Sikhs in the Bay Area.

The Festival of Courage and Strength (Hola Mohala) is truly a unique experience and a gift to the community. Thousands of volunteers of many faiths organize the event which offers complementary tasty specialty recipes of delicious handmade food and beverages, including several flavors of ice cream!

Building strength and courage

Hola Mohalla focuses on building up your



Above: San Jose Gurdwara Sikhs prepare food for an event in November 2023.

“It’s a Festival of love from the Sikhs to all people!” — Bob Dhillon

own personal strength and courage in all you do. You and your family of all ages are encouraged to join in or observe many athletic competitions such as Tug of War, Running Races for adults and children, Martial Arts, competitive games and performances, Volleyball and Basketball competitions, Horseback Riding Competitions, and Pony Rides for youngsters where they navigate the saddle and ride the circular track that is sure to bring a smile to their face!

“This is a festival where you can come and enjoy events with your family and walk around and enjoy our various activities. We welcome you as our guest and hope you have a wonderful time,” said Bob Dhillon, President of the San Jose Gurdwara. “We want everyone to know that this festival belongs to everyone in the community. It’s an event where everyone is welcome to enjoy and build new friendships and understanding.”

This Festival is a representation of love from the Sikhs to all people!”

Booths of food & wares

There will be food booths offering complementary mouthwatering delicious handmade culturally authentic foods, and don't forget the ice cream. There will also be booths that will feature authentic traditional Indian wares (clothing items, kid's toys, jewelry and more) for purchase. It is like walking through an authentic bazaar in India. Community information booths will feature San Jose agencies that offer complementary services.

Touring the Gurdwara

While attending the Festival, you may take a tour and learn about the culture of the San Jose Gurdwara, the largest in the United States. The Gurdwara is open to the public year-round and is considered among the most beautiful and tranquil places in the world. Ask about their history museum and you will be amazed. The Gurdwara welcomes all people of all cultures and all religions.

Take the shuttle or just walk in

For the past 10 years the Festival has grown in attendance. There is free parking in the Gurdwara and that fills up by morning and so many park along Gurdwara Avenue or at the schools where a free shuttle runs which will bring you to the site and back to your car later in the day. There are also shuttles from nearby schools. Everything is done like clockwork because the volunteers and oversight leaders professionally ensure the family friendly festival

See *FESTIVAL*, page 8

**Almaden Senior Association
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**Saturday, May 4th
12pm-3pm**

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Lunes, 29 de abril
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Times **Local News**

Saratoga Symphony presents concert 'Into the Woods'

Enjoy a FREE orchestra concert of classical music with exciting rhythms and beautiful melodies.



Saratoga Symphony is presenting Into the Woods with its variety of musical melodies, rhythms, tempos, and instrument sounds on May 5th at 3 p.m. at West Valley Presbyterian Church in Cupertino.

All four music pieces in this concert program were composed in the Romantic Music Period. They present sensations and impressions that you sense while in woods or forests.

The concert features a Dvořák lyrical character piece "Silent Woods", with talented and acclaimed Sarah Ziegler as violoncello soloist.

Conductor Dr. Jason Klein talks to the audience about each program piece before it is performed, adding insight about each piece. concert.

Saratoga Symphony website lists each music program piece, plus the Concert Location Map: <https://www.saratogasympphony.org/concerts>

For more information, visit: www.saratogasympphony.org

The Sikhs do not proselytize or try to get people to join their religion; instead they believe the entire human race is connected and each religion can work in its own way to achieve the virtuousness of God.

They believe everyone is special and all of us are equal to each other. The Sikhs work with all churches through communities worldwide.

A gift to you

With outstretched generous hands they welcome you, your family and your friends. This Festival of Courage and Strength (HOLA Mohalla) is truly a unique kind gift to Evergreen Valley residents. Thousands of Sikhs and volunteers of other faiths organize the event.

Spread the word...

You are encouraged to bring your friends and neighbors to introduce them to the joyous nature of how the Evergreen Valley celebrates diversity and promotes respect for all cultures and people!

There is so much to do and see. Some like to get there early arriving at 10 a.m. when the parking is light and easy. Also, as the day moves forward in the morning time, one can sample the food first with shorter lines on the large field. If you would like to purchase items, there will be various vendor booths that offer authentic items from all over the world.

For more information visit: sanjosegurdwara.org or contact Kirpal Atwal at (408) 835-7712. The address of the Gurdwara is 3636 Gurdwara Ave, San Jose, CA 95148. Stay connected and download the San Jose Gurdwara App.

Editor's Note: The best way to enjoy the festival is to park at Evergreen Valley High School or Carolyn Clark Elementary School which will have shuttles coming and going all day starting at 10 a.m. The event is free and the food is complementary. All age groups are encouraged to watch the sporting events and participate. Also, if one wishes to donate or volunteer to help with all the things the Sikhs do in the community during the year, the information is available on their website.

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Festival

Continued from page 5 runs smoothly which allows everyone to have a meaningful experience.

History

More than 300 years ago in the country of India, the revered 10th Guru of the Sikh religion, Guru Gobind Singh Ji decided to create a new festival which would promote strength and courage. Also, beautiful words of poetry combined with traditional music were included with the court poet Bhai Nand Lal.

The festival continued year after year worldwide and was welcomed to Evergreen Valley over a decade ago at our community center open to everyone. Gurdwara on the Hill is the largest Sikh Gurdwara (Religious Temple and Community Center) in the United States.

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A day to celebrate strength, courage, and more!

The annual Evergreen place and time where everyone is invited to take their families and enjoy a festival they can call their own which is given to the community by the American Sikhs

"We welcome you and encourage everyone to come and enjoy this beautiful family festival"
"Chúng tôi chào đón bạn và khuyến khích tất cả mọi người đến và thưởng thức lễ hội gia đình xinh đẹp này"
"Te damos la bienvenida y alentamos a todos a venir y disfrutar de este hermoso festival familiar"

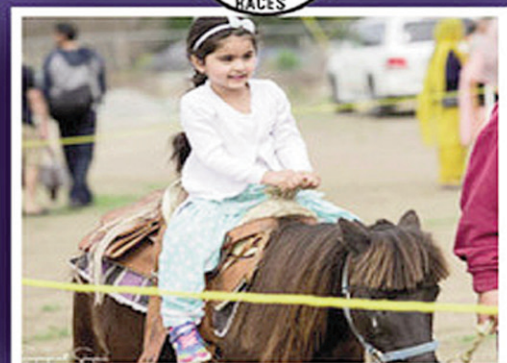
— Bob Dhillon / President of the Sikh Gurdwara of San Jose

FREE SHUTTLE FROM EVERGREEN HIGH SCHOOL (Quimby Road) and CAROLYN CLARK ELEMENTARY | FREE PONY RIDES FOR THE KIDS | SPORTING EVENTS | KIDS RACE COMPETITIONS
GATKA (SKILLS OF COURAGE) | INDIA BAZZAR OF MANY BOOTHS TO OFFER ART AND ITEMS FOR SALE (Jewelry, tapestry, toys and more)
COMPLEMENTARY TRADITIONAL TASTY FOODS AND BEVERAGES FOR ALL | COMPLEMENTARY ICE CREAM | COMPLEMENTARY CORN ON THE COB
COMPLEMENTARY FRESH SQUEEZED SUGAR CANE JUICE | AND MUCH MORE!

This festival is a way for you to have fun and build camaraderie with all in our Evergreen Valley. Bring the family!
For more information see article in this edition of the Evergreen Times, or go to SanJoseGurdwara.org
The event will be free and open to the public starting at 10am and going till 5pm

To get to the event one can park their car and take the shuttle from Evergreen Valley High School on Quimby Road
Enjoy meeting new people and experiencing the festival of courage and strength called Hola Mohalla

3636 Gurdwara Ave San Jose, CA 95148
Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712



Times **Feature**

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TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

AI Copilot

By Shubhi Asthana



Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let us teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

AI Copilot

An AI copilot is a conversational interface that uses large language models (LLMs) to support users in various tasks and decision-making processes across multiple domains within an enterprise environment. For example, if you type in, “Summarize this memo in two sentences,” Copilot will do just that by giving you a concise written summary in the chat interface below your request. Ditto for images when you describe what you want it to draw. You can even ask Copilot to write code in many widely used computer languages, including JavaScript, C, and Python.

AI copilots play a crucial role in enhancing productivity and efficiency by:

- **Providing context-aware assistance:** AI copilots can proactively respond to user needs based on contextual information, ensuring relevant and timely support during critical decision-making processes.
- **Automating mundane tasks:** By taking charge of repetitive and time-consuming tasks, AI copilots allow users to focus their efforts on strategic

and creative work, significantly boosting overall productivity.

- **Analyzing data:** AI copilots can quickly process large amounts of information, identify patterns and trends, and present actionable insights to drive effective decision-making.

- **Enabling seamless communication:** AI copilots facilitate effective interactions with various stakeholders, including employees, customers, and vendors, streamlining communication processes, and reducing delays or misunderstandings.

- **Unifying disparate systems:** AI copilots can be the cohesive force connecting multiple platforms, tools, and software applications under one umbrella, ensuring data integrity, accessibility, and compatibility across the enterprise.

AI copilot represents remarkable advances in artificial intelligence. Being able to generate prose, poetry, images, lists, charts, itineraries, recipes, and answers to obscure questions without requiring lots of search term tweaking is a boon. But AI copilot takes longer to produce results than a good old web search, and its facts aren’t always correct (though it provides links to sources and corrects itself in response to your feedback). AI copilot itself comes with a warning: “Microsoft Copilot uses AI to respond, so mistakes are possible”. As AI copilots continue to evolve with enhanced capabilities and deeper integration into enterprise ecosystems, they hold the potential to redefine the way businesses operate and compete in the coming years.

About the Author

Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.

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

practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatak" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.



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God is One
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Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
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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

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St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
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8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center 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!

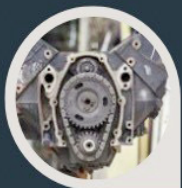
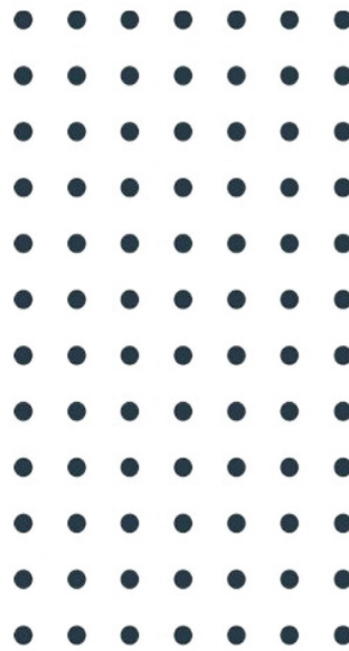


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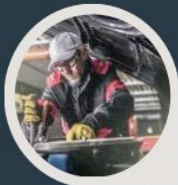
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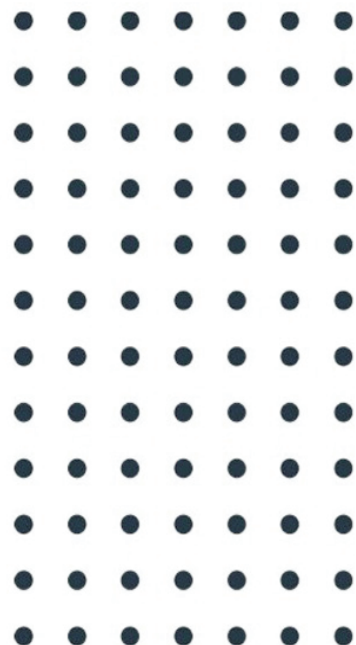
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