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Willow Glen Times

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The River Church Community is pictured in this San Jose Spotlight file photo.

Former San Jose church leader arrested for alleged child abuse; wife says he's 'absolutely innocent'

Arrest follows second investigation by *The River Church* in three years

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

A former pastor has been arrested and charged with six felony counts of child sex abuse, after being under investigation this year for allegations that surfaced about his time as a youth ministry leader at a popular South Bay church.

Brett Bymaster faces time behind bars for alleged lewd acts with a child who was as young as eight during his time at The River Church, located on Lincoln Ave. in Willow Glen. He was recently arrested and booked at the Elmwood Correctional Facility.

The youth pastor, facing multiple sex crime charges related to the alleged yearslong assault of a minor beginning when she was eight years old, claims he is innocent.

Youth Pastor Brett Bymaster, formerly of San Jose's The River Church Community until his departure in 2019, was arrested on April 11 and faces six charges of felony sex abuse. He remained behind bars until Friday after a judge reportedly allowed him to post bail at a reduced amount.

Bymaster's wife, Angela, told ABC 7 News that she believes the allegations against her husband are false.

"Brett is a kind and honest man who has dedicated his life to helping others," she was quoted as saying. "This outrageous accusation against

my husband is [patently] false. He is absolutely innocent. I have faith that the truth will ultimately prevail," Angela Bymaster said.

During the course of the investigation, an adult female survivor disclosed that an adult male suspect sexually assaulted her multiple times between 2014 and 2018 when she was a minor," according to police records.

The church announced the launch of a third-party investigation by a sexual abuse investigator in January 2024, which prompted the police investigation, River Church's Interim Board Chair Cameron Ashizawa previously told *San Jose Spotlight*. The church's third-party investigation continues.

"We are deeply saddened by these developments and continue to express our concerns, prayers, and support for the young people who have bravely raised their voices, for all victims of abuse, and for our entire church community during these distressing times," the church shared in a statement with media outlets.

"Our congregational leaders were contacted by the San Jose Police Department soon after the latest investigation launched. We have been fully cooperative. Our previous employment reviews identified performance deficiencies leading to Mr. Bymaster's departure in 2019. The subsequent 2021 pastoral inquiry further resulted in numerous substantive findings of inappropriate and unprofessional conduct by Mr. Bymaster."



Tanisha Samuel of San Jose participated in the 2024 Student Visionary of the Year campaign as a candidate. The Student Visionary of the Year is a philanthropic leadership development program that raises funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). The philanthropic competition brings together thousands of high school students across the country with the goal to end blood cancer.

High School sophomore Tanisha Samuel raises \$10K in donations to combat blood cancer

By William Bellou
Publisher

Tanisha Samuel of San Jose participated in the 2024 Student Visionary of the Year campaign as a candidate. The Student Visionary of the Year is a philanthropic leadership development program that raises funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). The philan-

thropic competition brings together thousands of high school students across the country with the goal to end blood cancer.

Tanisha Samuel raised ten thousand dollars with the help of her team, A Reason to Hope, as part of the fundraising program for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

See SAMUEL, page 3



Volunteers, Mayor Mahan announce Bay Area recruitment for nation's largest service force

California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan announced at a press conference on Friday, April 19 the recruitment for nearly 2,000 positions in the Bay Area to join the paid California Service Corps.

The California Service Corp, 10,000 strong, is the nation's largest service force. Participants gain meaningful work experience while earning money and helping their communities.

Service members gain economic opportunities while tackling the state's most pressing issues, gaining economic opportunities and shaping the future of the region's workforce.

California Service Corps Members receive living stipends, and many are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 after completing their service to be used for college, trade school or to pay back student loans. The benefits will help individuals who are facing crises of isolation, student debt and growing income inequality.

The California Service Corps consists of four paid service programs: #CaliforniansForAll College Corps, California Climate Action Corps, #CaliforniansForAll Youth Jobs Corps and AmeriCorps California.

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Please note: I have not and will not be verifying or investigating any information supplied by others.

Times **Community**

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 me 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.

Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com.

Samuel

Continued from page 1

The philanthropic competition engages thousands of high school students nationwide each driven by their unique determination to excel all in support of LLS’s mission to combat blood cancer. Every 180 seconds someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with this disease, which currently lacks preventative measures.

Achieving record donations

“We were able to collect \$10K in donations in just seven weeks of fundraising with support from Leland High School and Bret Harte Middle School’s ASB teacher,” said Samuel. “Generous donations came from Ajit Koti, Therese Swan (Real Estate Agent) and Nicole Rottjakob (Dentist).”

A number of local Almaden businesses as well as Samuel’s family and friends played a big role in helping to raise funds. The 2024 Student Visionary Candidate class raised a total of \$258,100.

Linda who was the campaign manager helped her all along and helped Tanisha in professional development and how to raise fund by corporate sponsorship.

Student Visionaries of the Year is a groundbreaking leadership development program for high school students that has helped LLS invest more than \$1.7 billion in cutting-edge research worldwide, fueling nearly every critical advancement in blood cancer treatment that spans the most promising cancer research. And, as the leading source of free blood cancer information, education, and support, LLS helps blood cancer patients and their families through a wide range of free services.

Each candidate team chose an LLS Mission Pillar to represent and bring awareness to throughout their seven-week campaign. These three pillars, research, patient support, and advocacy, make up the very core of what LLS does.

About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the global leader in the fight against blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

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EVC nursing students achieve 100% pass rate on Licensure Examination

For the fourth consecutive quarter, students in Evergreen Valley College's (EVC) nursing program have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), a requirement for registered nursing licensure.

This accomplishment further illustrates why EVC's Associate Degree in Nursing program recently received full reaffirmation of its accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), confirming that the program meets a set of rigorous educational standards verified through ACEN's peer-review process. This accreditation signals EVC's dedication to educational excellence.

Remarkable feat

"This remarkable feat underscores the quality of our nursing program and the unparalleled dedication of both our students and faculty," said Dr. Lu Crary, EVC's dean of nursing and allied health programs. "Achieving a 100 percent pass rate once is commendable, but maintaining this standard of excellence for four consecutive quarters is a testament to the consistent hard work, determination, and commitment of our entire academic community."

Passing rates exceed state national aver-



Nursing group take a break from their nursing program classes at Evergreen Valley College. The college's nursing program has achieved a 100 percent rate on the National Licensure Examination.

and focus. It is also a testament to our faculty's dedication to providing a supportive and challenging learning environment that prepares our students for real-world healthcare challenges."

Nursing shortages

As these students prepare to graduate and enter the workforce, they will be joining a healthcare industry beset by challenges. Many regions throughout California are currently experiencing nursing shortages, according to the California Health and Human Services Agency, an issue that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Internal student surveys indicate that the vast majority of EVC nursing graduates remain in the Bay Area as they launch their careers.

Graduates make community proud

"Evergreen Valley College is proud of its contribution to the nursing profession and we are excited to see our graduates make a significant impact to the quality and availability of healthcare services in communities in our region and beyond," said Dr. Denise Noldon, EVC's interim president. "Our program—and community college nursing programs in general—have demonstrated significant value to the state. Community colleges continue to be the number one source for training nurses and making sure that the workforce needs of this vital industry are met."

For more information on EVC nursing and allied health programs, visit <https://www.evc.edu/nursing>

age

While the 100 percent pass rate for nursing students in the 2023-2024 academic year is unprecedented, EVC students have historically passed the NCLEX exam at rates that exceed state and national averages.

According to data from the California Board of Nursing, EVC nursing students passed at a rate of 96.4 percent in 2022-2023 and 97.5 percent in 2021-2022, respectively. This places EVC among the top of all public and private colleges and universities offering registered nursing programs in California.

Resilience, Perseverance, and Focus

"This perennial success is not just about percentages and numbers," said Dr. Beatriz Chaidez, San José – Evergreen Community College District chancellor. "It reflects the personal journeys of hundreds of students who have shown exceptional resilience, perseverance,

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Times Local News



Destination Imagination creates unique solution to STEAM based challenges that utilize creativity

Global community supports kids from K-12

By Amita Samuel

Destination Imagination is a global community that supports kids from K-12 and beyond to create a unique solution to STEAM based challenges that utilize creativity.

Kids learn the value of collaboration, respect, stewardship, perseverance, integrity, and many other life lessons while participating in these challenges.

There are 6 categories for teams to choose from, Technical, Engineering, Scientific, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Service Learning. These challenges are offered at different school levels, Elementary school, Middle School, and High School. The younger kids (K-2) participate in the Early Learners challenge.

The team known as "Right Side Up" is a group of six, 6th graders from Bret Harte middle school who participated in this program for the first time. The team selected the challenge category, Engineering, where they had to build a catapult and write a story that incorporated the functioning device and present it. Students participating on this team include Neelan Sundaralingam, Rishaan Samuel, Aarnav Rastogi, Aditya Sudarshan, Advait Sudarshan, and Eric Mitrea.

During the tournament, there are two components that the team participates in. One is the main challenge that the team starts working on around September till the Regional tournament in Feb. The other is an instant challenge where the team is given about 5-8 mins to solve a challenge on the spot.

This team participated in the Regional Challenge on Feb 24th and moved into the State Challenge on March 23rd and has now qualified to attend the Global challenge where they will be competing against kids in their category & level from around the world.

The 2nd team called "Built in Crowns" also representing Bret Harte is made of six, 8th graders. They had selected the challenge category "Service Learning" challenge and made it through Regional to State level. Four out of the six team members have been participating in DI for the past three years. However, this team did not move on to Global. Students participating on this team includes Tara Sundaralingam, Haarika Karry, Deepti Rao, Mir Reddy, Mimansha Dakwlas, and Aaryan Khetawat.

Viji Mahathevan managed both teams. She hopes more kids are inspired to participate in DI and benefit from it. If you are interested in forming your own DI team, please feel free to contact her at skdikids@gmail.com or 408-596-4086.

Local duo arrested on suspicion of selling drugs on the dark web

Suspect accepted cryptocurrency as the only form of payment

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Two 36-year-old San Jose men have been arrested in East San Jose on suspicion of selling drugs on the dark web following a monthslong probe, according to authorities.

The investigation kicked off Nov. 27, 2023, two days after officers stopped one of the men near Alum Rock Avenue and South White Road and found firearms and illegal narcotics in his vehicle, San Jose police spokesperson Stacie Shih said in a news release Thursday.

Officers also located evidence suggesting the suspect was shipping drugs via the U.S.P.S., according to Shih.

Detectives eventually determined the man was selling drugs on the dark web and was accepting cryptocurrency as the only form of payment, Shih said. They also identified a second suspect.

Searches of their homes turned up "several hundred grams" of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, psilocybin, MDMA, morphine, Xanax and Cialis, according to Shih. The spokesperson added that detectives also seized roughly \$6,000 in cash, ammunition and three semiautomatic pistols, including one with an extended magazine.

The men were booked into Santa Clara County jail on charges of trafficking illegal narcotics and possession of illegal firearms.

Anyone with information related to the case or similar cases can contact the SJPD Gun and Hazardous Offender Suppression Team at 408-537-3835. Tips also can be left with Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers at 408-947-7867 (STOP) or siliconvalleycrimestoppers.org.

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Are we recycling the right stuff?

Program to curb recycling contamination begins this month

Are local residents putting the right stuff in their recycling carts?

Recycling contamination has become a growing problem in the Bay Area's largest city, San Jose.

A recent city survey in 2022 found that 57% of waste deposited in single-family recycling carts was not recyclable. In 2020, 51% of bins were contaminated with non-recyclable material; five years before that, only 32% were contaminated.

Different cities have different rules for which recyclables they accept. With the passage of SB1383 in 2022, the burden of monitoring waste containers for contamination in California fell to cities.

But other major Bay Area cities have thrived in this system, maintaining some of the lowest contamination rates in the country.

In a November 2022 audit, Oakland found that only 10.5% of its residents' recycling bins and 4% of all compost bins had any level of contamination. San Francisco, which aims for a zero waste goal, also has a low contamination rate, with only 19% of materials deposited in residents' recycling bins found to be unrecyclable, according to a 2020 article by the San Francisco Public Press, which called the city's 81% success rate "among the highest in the nation."

Staff members will check residential



In Dec. 2023, San Jose Environmental Services staff members **Riley Knight and Margarita Delgado** gathered field data for a garbage cart study program aimed at reducing contamination in recycling carts. They looked in recycling carts to see whether there were non-recyclable materials or clean recyclable ones. (Courtesy of San Jose Environmental Services)

recycling bins for contamination and leave positive feedback or constructive criticism on the carts.

The double-sided tag will have a "Good job!" message with a smiley face on one side, which will be shown to residents who recycle correctly. Residents who do not recycle correctly may wake up to the message "Oops!"

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

Here is a partial list of items that can be recycled in San Jose. Items should be clean of any food and liquids. For a more comprehensive list and instructions, please visit sanjoserecycles.org.



Plastics

- Cleaning product containers
- Egg cartons (plastic)
- Frozen food trays
- Hard plastic clamshell packaging
- Laundry baskets
- Meal kit packaging
- Milk jugs
- Plastic #1 (PET)
- Plastic #2 (HDPE)
- Plastic #3 (PVC)
- Plastic #4 (LDPE)
- Plastic #5 (polypropylene)
- Plastic #7 (other)
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic cups
- Plastic food storage containers
- Plastic toys
- Produce baskets
- Roll-on deodorant
- Takeout containers (plastic)
- Tetra-pak cartons
- Yogurt cups



Paper

- Books
- Boxed wine
- Cardboard
- Construction paper
- Egg cartons (paper)
- Envelopes
- Gift bags and boxes
- Greeting cards
- Hanging file folders
- Junk mail
- Magazines and catalogs
- Manila folders
- Milk and juice cartons
- Newspapers
- Notebooks
- Office paper
- Paper bags
- Paper towel
- Paperboard
- Posters
- Shredded paper
- Sticky notes
- Tissue boxes
- Toilet paper rolls



Metal

- Aluminum cans
- Aluminum foil
- Aluminum trays and pans
- Beer bottle caps
- Cookware
- License plates
- Metal cans
- Paint cans (empty)
- Scrap metal
- Screw caps
- Takeout containers (aluminum)

NOT recyclable

- Batteries
- Foam plastic (polystyrene, Styrofoam)
- Glassware (stemware, Pyrex, mirrors)
- Ice cream cartons
- Light bulbs (fluorescent, incandescent)
- Medications
- Motor oil and filters
- Paint
- Pizza boxes (soiled)
- Plastic cups/plates
- Plastic salad bags



Glass

- Glass bottles and jars

Source: sanjoserecycles.org, Getty Images

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Times **In Memory**

Colleen Kelley

January 29, 1935 - March 28, 2024
Willow Glen High School Grad

Beloved Colleen passed away peacefully at home and surrounded by loved ones on Thursday, March 28, 2024. Colleen was born on January 29, 1935, in San Jose to Delores Buetner and Keith Kelley.



A graduate of Willow Glen High School, Colleen went on to raise four rambunctious children in Morgan Hill and San Jose with Vincent William (Bill) Walint Jr. After their divorce, she furthered her education at Foothill Community College, and she combined necessity and passion to build a career in graphic design. She also spent time restoring Victorian clothing and designing original costumes for the San Jose Historical Museum. Additionally, Colleen became certified as a UC Master Gardener through University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Colleen was known as a woman of few words, yet she generously expressed and shared herself with the world through sewing, painting, ceramics, doll making, gardening, gourd carvings, and knitting, to name a few. She also patiently listened to her loved ones, carefully offered her hard-earned advice, encouraged them to devel-

op their own creativity, and supported them in their business ventures.

While her family takes comfort knowing she was ready for her promotion to the garden in the sky, she is and will be profoundly missed. She is survived by her four children—Terri, Christopher, Kimberly, and Stacy; and her eight grandchildren.

Millie Monteleone

6/30/1925 -4/15/2024
Resident of Willow Glen

Millie Monteleone, age 98, of Willow Glen, CA passed away peacefully at her home on April 15, 2024.

She was an elementary school teacher's aid for more than 50 years, retiring at the age of 93 from Trace Elementary School. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard Monteleone, and daughter, Patricia Jones.



She is survived by her daughter, Lynne Jeffrey, 5 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren, whom she loved spending time with. She will be dearly missed.

Services were held at the Lima Family Mortuary in Santa Clara on April 29, 2024.

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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

Senate committee advances bill to accelerate economic growth through data centers expansion

In a 14-0 vote on Tuesday, the California State Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee advanced Senator Cortese's Senate Bill (SB) 1298.

The legislation streamlines the approval process for data centers and maintains clear development guidelines, upholding California's robust environmental standards and creating thousands of new construction jobs across the state.

SB 1298 seeks to meet the rapid demand for data centers from individuals, organizations, and industries in California by raising the

threshold for data center eligibility under the Small Power Plant Exemption process from 100 megawatts to 150 megawatts, in adherence to California's rigorous clean air and clean energy standards. The bill is sponsored by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the leading business association representing Silicon Valley's innovation economy and ecosystem.

"SB 1298 represents a balanced approach, boosting our technological capabilities to support the emerging digital economy while upholding the essential environmental standards that define our state," said Senator Cortese (D-San Jose). "This bill keeps California at the cutting edge, facilitating growth while maintaining our commitment to environmental stewardship."

Senator Dave Cortese represents Senate District 15, which encompasses most of San Jose and much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Visit Senator Cortese's website: <https://sd15.senate.ca.gov>



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Willow Glen Times

Times **Feature**

Symphony San Jose to pay tribute to great Italian composer Giacomo Puccini

On May 11 and 12, Symphony San Jose will pay tribute to the great Italian opera composer Giacomo Puccini on the 100th anniversary of his death. Carlos Vieu returns in this retrospective that will feature operatic highlights from Giacomo Puccini's early, middle, and late career masterpieces. Works to be performed include selections from *Manon Lescaut*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Turandot* and more.



Three of opera's leading soloists, Jenny Schuler, Gary Simpson, baritone, and Ben Gulley, along with the Symphony San Jose Chorale, will perform some of Puccini's most memorable arias, duets, and choruses, including "The Humming Chorus," "O mio babbino caro," and "Nes-sun Dorma."

Where Have I Heard It Before?

Perhaps the most famous opera composer of all time, Puccini's music is regularly used in movies, television shows, commercials, and video games. Among many memorable cinematic placements, *O mio babbino caro* was featured in *Room with a View*, and *The Humming Chorus* was featured in *House of Gucci*.

Fun Facts

Puccini was considered one of the most commercially successful composers of all time. He was worth roughly \$200 million

dollars when he died—a stark contrast to his youth, when he had to pawn his possessions regularly just to cover basic expenses.

Puccini's full name was Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini. He was named after four recent ancestors.

The concert will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose

The concert length is approx. 1 hr 50 min. with intermission.

Artists

- Carlos Vieu, conductor
- Jennifer Schuler, soprano
- Ben Gulley, tenor
- Gary Simpson, baritone

To get tickets or for more information, visit symphonysanjose.org.

Report: San Jose stands out as 2nd best metro for MBA students

According to CoworkingCafe's recent study, San Jose stands out as the second-best metro for MBA students and graduates due to its highly educated workforce, significant earnings and health care coverage that applies to three-quarters of its workers.

Investing in an MBA degree not only increases one's marketability in a competitive global economy, but also develops the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can define one's professional success. With this in mind, we analyzed more than 100 U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to determine which ones offered the best environment and opportunities for

MBA graduates from both a professional and personal standpoint.

Main points for your metro area of interest:

- The San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara metro ranked second only to Washington, D.C. among the best U.S. MSAs for pursuing a post-MBA career, while snatching first place among the Western MSAs analyzed.
- San Jose led the nation in terms of median earnings for MBA graduates, boasting an impressive \$160,037 annually, followed by the neighboring San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley metro with a yearly median of \$140,609.

- The metro also registered the absolute highest share of the population aged 25 or older holding graduate/professional degrees at 27.7%, while Washington D.C. ranked second in this category with a share of 27.2%;

Check out the top metros for pursuing a post-MBA career: <https://www.coworkingcafe.com/blog/the-best-us-metros-for-mba-graduates>

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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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How are Your Transit Tax Dollars Being Spent? We Have Answers!

The Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) invites you to provide your input on Transit Tax expenditures, including the results of the annual compliance audit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

Join us at the annual public hearing:
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. (time certain)

In Person: VTA Headquarters, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134 – Conference Room B-106

Via Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/86546319855
 Webinar ID: 865 4631 9855

Contact the Office of the Board Secretary for questions. Sign language and interpreter services will be provided upon request at least five days prior to the meeting. Written comments are accepted until 10:00 a.m. on May 8 by email.

The Audit Results are In!
 The Committee commissioned an audit of the Measure A Program financial records and schedule for FY 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). Crowe LLP, an independent certified public accounting firm, conducted the compliance audit and issued an unqualified (“clean”) opinion on Measure A Program compliance with the ballot, making this the 17th consecutive audit receiving a clean opinion.
 The Audit results are available on VTA’s website at vta.org/cwc-fy23audit and at the VTA Administrative Office at 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134 in the Building B Main Lobby.

Here's the Back Story!
 In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a half-cent sales tax for specific public transit capital improvement projects and operations. Revenue collection began in April 2006. Highlights for FY 2023 include key activities for VTA’s BART Silicon Valley Extension project, Eastridge to BART Regional Connector project, and Caltrain Electrification efforts.



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Times **Local News**

Season of the Salix: Spring Solace

By **Matthew Fraizer**

Willow Glen – May 1994: Heading home from Willow Glen High School, venturing through the avenues of the surface streets, there was a theme and tone of spring surrounding all in my path.

In those years there was still an abundance of activity with the residents here in San Jose, working in their front yards when weather permitted doing so.

But the bright light of afternoons was not what resonated with me so immediately. It was instead the gray skies and metallic aromas of traffic amidst the drone and hum of electronic feedback as the sun relinquished to night. Atmospheric humidity precluded all that most would deem synonymous with the imagery of spring here in San Jose.

The rains had brought wave after wave of new growth from emerging weeds, flowering weeds, and beneficial weeds. Fully capable of being conduits and hosts to the birds and insects who made themselves scarce during the peak hours of day and emerged as activity began to wane.

California has long spoken of droughts and water rationing but was less common in those years. The rains were still infrequent and even sparse. The channels and gullies and rills etched in the earthen floors of this valley were ever-meandering and deliberate in their surge.

Xerigation and Xeriscaping were not yet buzzwords here in Santa Clara Valley; at least not a part of the collective lexicon and nomenclature of those who dwelled

here. The intermittent hours between day and night brought me to the overpasses where the creeks and streams made their way across the terrain, transversing with fervor and force.

It was the season of solace, a place and a time wherein one could lose all cognition and perception of space and time if given the opportunity. It would be years before my journey in landscape water management would even begin to be a mere premonition.

Dew and mist lay heavy in the gray air of late evening as I ventured towards home. The peripheral essences of evening are all about and all-encompassing. Solace comes to those who turn inwards, in search of something innate and sublime. these were such evenings

in such a time.

The home improvement centers were essentially the only places to find annuals and perennials for gardens and yards, outside of those that propagated independently. Occasionally, I would find a valley native flower misplaced in galleries of exotics. Yet the rains persisted. Now nothing more than modern lore, as we long for more.

Season of the Salix: This was Willow Glen 30 years ago; the whim and wonder of the willow were nothing more than a fleeting thought. Little did I know, these would be the ignition of my imagination for future musings in these essays woven into allegorical column entries.

Welcome to Willow Glen: The epicenter of escape. In the throes of antiquity, I found a vision and a voice with which to pen this memory.

Editor's note: Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Stormwater Manager, and Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. You may reach Matthew at (408) 656-5622 – Mobile; or at kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com.



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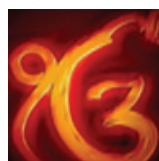


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The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or

"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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offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
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St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 1:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at

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