

New Ballet featuring world premieres by seven choreographers March 21-22 at Hammer Theatre
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Supervisors approve new foster home plan; proposal seeks 'therapeutic' homes for youths with high needs
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Evergreen Times

MARCH 7 - MARCH 20, 2025 ■ VOL. 42, NO. 6

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Year of the Snake

Vietnamese Student Association at Evergreen Valley College hosted a Tet Lunar New Year's celebration at Evergreen College. Here are photos of the event.



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Report: Santa Clara County education office misused funds

By Brandon Pho
San José Spotlight

A federal investigation has found more than \$135,370 earmarked for preschool education program Head Start was misappropriated to pay for non-Head Start staff and credit card purchases, according to the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Interim Superintendent of Schools Charles Hinman said the failure has been remedied in a Wednesday statement. But he said a recently published report by federal auditors shows a pattern by previous administrators of "scoffing grant rules" and "rejecting calls for oversight" by the Board of Education.

His office is referring to his predecessor, former Superintendent Mary Ann Dewan, who was fired in October by a board majority. After backlash from educators and state lawmakers, the board majority and Hinman accused Dewan of mispending funds. Hinman, appointed shortly after Dewan's firing, launched separate investigations into Dewan's spending in November.



The Santa Clara County Office of Education Interim Superintendent Charles Hinman said a series of investigations into his ousted predecessor have revealed even more issues. File photo.

The report found the office of education charged the Head Start federal grant for wages and credit card expenses of a non-Head Start manager in the amount of \$135,372.97 between January and June of last year.

Hinman and board members said Dewan's firing has been vindicated, as the report confirms suspicions that funds weren't being legally appropriated — and that previous administrators refused to comply with calls for public review and neglected to engage the community members being served by the grant per federal mandates.

"Since stepping into this role, myself and the rest of SCCOE leadership have taken these issues seriously and have been proactive in addressing

concerns to ensure compliance with all federal regulations," Hinman said in the statement. "We remain committed to completing our own investigations so we can fully understand how these things happened and ensure they never happen again. It is our duty to ensure that all possible resources are used in the best interest of our students."

Dewan said when it was brought to her attention that the funds were unintentionally charged to wrong accounts, she ensured it was corrected immediately.

"I have dedicated the last 11 years of my life to serving the children and families of Santa Clara
See MISUSE, page 6

Free Hola Mohalla Festival of Courage and Strength March 16 at Sikh Gurdwara in Evergreen Valley

Free admission and complementary food served all day at the San Jose Gurdwara

"It a Festival of love from the Sikhs to all people!" — Bob Dhillon

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, March 16 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at one of San Jose's most beautiful landmarks,



San Jose Gurdwara members preparing food in November 2023

San Jose Gurdwara, located in Evergreen Valley, San Jose.

Located in the foothills on Quimby Road, the Hola Mohalla Festival is a day where all people of all cultures and religions are invited as guests of

the American Sikhs. Admission is free of charge.

The annual event not only provides a unique opportunity for the community to come together but also fosters love and understanding. The fes-

tival includes sport challenges to promote both good physical and mental health. Hola Mohalla focuses on building your own personal strength and courage in all you do.

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

Building strength and courage

Your entire family is invited to join in and 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 brings

See GURDWARA, page 10

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*The Young Artist Competition is kindly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation. "San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation, and its use in all its variations is by license.

New Ballet presents the 8th annual Fast Forward

New contemporary ballet featuring world premieres by seven choreographers March 21-22 at Hammer Theatre

New Ballet, the institution that Silicon Valley looks to for excellence in the art of ballet, announces today the 8th annual Fast Forward, two eve-nings of new contemporary ballet by seven choreographers, March 21 at 7 pm and March 22 at 2 pm at the Hammer Theatre Center.

Fast Forward provides the opportunity for emerging choreographers, both local and from around the country, to experiment. The program offers New Ballet Company Dancers the chance to perform work that has been created specifically for them, and to grow as artists and be part of the creative process. In addition, the choreographers provide the audience with a behind-the-scenes understanding of the new works by discussing the choreographic process and providing context and insight into their inspiration.

World Premieres by Seven Choreographers

- Julio Hong: Montreal-based choreographer, who trained at the



Photo by Tony Abello of Keon Saghari's work for the 2024 Production

National Ballet of Cuba and choreographs contemporary ballet, modern and Latin dance works; creating a new work to the music of Arturo Sandoval. This world premiere is underwritten by Snowflake Properties, LLC.

- James Kopecky: Former Company Dancer at Charlotte Ballet; former dancer at Ballet San Jose

- Mariana Sobral: Director of eMotion Arts Dance Co and, former professional dancer

- Laura Burton: New Ballet Chief Operations Officer and contemporary dance choreographer; former lead choreographer for the Dance Company at Virginia Tech

- Deborah Le, New Ballet Studio Company Dancer

- Niamh Rollins, New Ballet Studio Company Dancer

- Dalia Rawson, New Ballet's Artistic Director

General Admission tickets are \$17-\$50 and Premium tickets are \$136. For more information, visit <https://newballet.com> or call 408-924-8501.

Premium Tickets include access to the Hammer Theatre Center's Curtain Call Lounge starting one hour before the show and at intermission, plus access to a post-performance Cast Party with the dancers, featuring sweet and savory bites and elegant wines.



Dalia Rawson, New Ballet's Artistic Director

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The deadline for submitting audition applications is:
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QUESTIONS? Reach out to sjys@sjys.org.

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Times Local News

Misuse

Continued from page 1

County," Dewan told San José Spotlight. "My focus and attention have been on what is in the best interest of the students, families and staff. These attacks on me are unnecessary. I urge the Santa Clara County Board of Education to focus on the needs of the community and use the limited public resources for the children and families who need their support now more than ever before."

One of Dewan's few allies on the board, Tara Sreekrishnan, called the office of education's announcement "yet another politically motivated attack" meant to deflect from the serious governance issues facing the board.

"When this accounting error was identified, it was immediately corrected — no funds were lost, no services were impacted and an independent audit recently gave SCCOE an A+ rating," Sreekrishnan told San José Spotlight.

The Administration for Children and Families found Dewan's office did not immediately comply with the federal review into its use of Head Start funds in 2024. Additionally, the report found Dewan "did not meet the standard" in implementing Head Start, including not having "a process for engaging the parents, including the policy council and parent committees" or providing appropriate training and technical assistance on Head Start to the policy council and board of education.

The office of education eventually con-

firmed the misallocation of funds and reversed the charges out of Head Start on June 11, but it only came after months of a "failed cover-up," Board of Education President Maimona Afzal Berta said in the statement. Berta was part of the board majority that fired Dewan.

"The results from this federal review validate the rightful concerns and actions of the Board of Education despite the now proven intentional and illegitimate effort to undermine the Board's oversight and governance authority, as publicly elected officials," Berta said. "The public has a right to know exactly what occurred. These are precious public dollars meant to help the most vulnerable in our community and no administrator should ever be allowed to act in this manner ever again. As stewards of the public's trust, we must ensure that we have the unfettered ability to fulfill our duty to oversee this program and put appropriate measures in place."

Yadira Orozco, chair of the Head Start Policy Council for the office of education, said the prior administration did not keep her panel in the loop or properly prioritize program participants based on community needs.

"It is unfortunate that Head Start has experienced challenges stemming from the actions of previous leadership," Orozco said in the statement. "Our focus now is on addressing these issues and working collaboratively to strengthen and enhance the program for the children and families we serve."

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

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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
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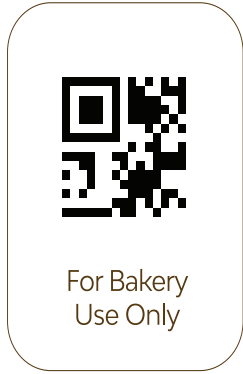


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Times **Local News**

Gurdwara

Continued from page 1
a smile to their face!

Everyone of all ages may participate in any sports or they can just observe which can provide inspiration in developing healthy and strong habits encouraging lifelong decisions that can change lives.

“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 many 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 and offer the availability to acquire complementary services.

The Protectors

The Sikhs have many cherished

religious tenants which promote goodness in our world and in giving back to those in need. Their beliefs are composed of equality between man and woman and much more. The founder of the Sikh religion Guru Nanak Dev Ji saw the world suffering and urged every person of faith to seek within their hearts that there is one creator which exists everywhere regardless of religion color or creed. The Sikhs care and protect our world and thus many refer to them as “The Protectors.” One of ten great leaders of the Sikh religion, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji believed in teaching all to defend themselves with regard to building up courage and strength in the heart and mind. Be strong, it is good. His wisdom is the reason why we are able to observe and actually participate in the Festival of Courage and Strength today on an annual basis.

Touring the Gurdwara

While attending the Festival, you may take a tour and learn about the culture as 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.

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.

Spread the word...

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

are bestowed with hearty smiles too and include fresh squeezed mouth-watering cane juice, husked ready to serve flame roasted corn on the cob, secret family recipes of tasty Indian fried foods, numerous side dishes, smooth delicious thick frozen ice cream and much more. The large stage presents music and more throughout the entire festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. while all around you is a buzz of sporting events.

Free pony rides

Pony rides are a big hit with the kids, as they get a chance to experience riding a real Shetland pony. This makes wonderful joyful memories for the little ones. Make sure you bring your camera!

Your sports team is encouraged to sign up for a challenge

If you wish to enter the sports team challenge such as basketball, or volleyball or other sports, sign up a week in advance by going to the Gurdwara website: www.sanjosegurdwara.org

Children and adults are encouraged to run races so don’t forget to wear tennis shoes. The philosophy is

for everyone to find ways to develop and be proud of each person’s individual strength of mind and body.

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 Notes:

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. The Sikhs work with all churches through communities world-wide.

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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Supervisors approve new foster home plan

Proposal seeks ‘therapeutic’ homes for youths with high needs

By William Bellou
Publisher

Santa Clara County supervisors unanimously approved an ambitious plan to expand its network of foster families at its board meeting last week.

The plan also calls for the creation of therapeutic homes for teens with severe mental health challenges.

The move comes nearly a year after the Bay Area News Group began exposing how, since 2020, the county had been operating up to 10 “scattered sites,” or group homes that have been the scenes of numerous police calls, incidents of assault and battery, psychological breakdowns, at least one alleged rape and a fentanyl overdose.

Supervisors have earmarked \$2 million to start implementing the plan, which includes opening four therapeutic homes with professional staff as early as spring 2026.

Here’s a breakdown of how the expenditures will be spent:

- \$176,000 per bed — for a high needs foster youth to stay with a foster parent in an Intensive Services Foster Care home.
- \$846,500 per bed — community organization-run, high-level therapeutic foster home for no more than two youths (Short-term Residential Therapeutic Program).
- \$1.6 million per bed — for the same therapeutic home for two youths if the county ran it instead, which supervisors say is an important backup if the contractor backs out.

Philharmonic Orchestra’s 2024-25 Spring Concert to be held Saturday, March 8

The Philharmonic Orchestra Performs Strauss, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Sarasate and Suk

The San Jose Youth Symphony’s Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2024-25 Spring Concert, Featuring Young Artist Competition Winners, to be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025, 2 pm, at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA.

The orchestra will open with Johann Strauss’s Die Fledermaus Overture from his most famous operetta (meaning The Bat), along with Chopin’s beautiful and sparkling

Grand Valse Brillante and close with Smetana’s exciting Three Dances from The Bartered Bride.

This concert will also feature two winners from the 2024 Young Artists’ Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation*. Outstanding young soloists, Zijing (Zack) Zhang, pianist, and Joshua Kim, violinist, will perform Mendelssohn’s Piano Concerto No. 1, and Sarasate’s Zigeunerweisen for Violin and Orchestra, respectively. The orchestra will close the concert with Czech composer Suk’s memorable Scherzo Fantastique.

Zijing (Zack) Zhang is a high school senior at Saratoga High School and has been a violinist with the San Jose



Youth Symphony since 2021 and is currently in his 4th year with the Philharmonic Orchestra. He traveled with the orchestra on their last International Tour to the Baltics in 2022.

Joshua Kim is also a senior, attending Valley Christian High School, and has been playing violin with the San Jose Youth Symphony since 2017, first joining the Prelude Ensemble. He has been a member of the Phil-



harmonic Orchestra since 2021, and also traveled with the orchestra on their last International Tour to the Baltics in 2022.

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the U.S. Founded over seven decades ago as part of the former San

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At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellow-

ship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family.

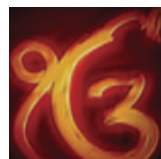

EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)
<http://www.eicsan-jose.org>
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148. (408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. 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.


GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchEvergreen.Com
408-274-1200
See you on Facebook. 2650 Aborn Rd at Kettmann, across from the Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 55 years. John Goldstein Pastor. john@GraceChurchEvergreen.com. Christian worship every Sunday at 11am. Together we build better lives and a better community. Music Institute (408)791 7772. After School Piano, Violin, Other classical Instruments. PreSchool, Ages 2-6 Caring for your child with God's love and affection. Check our website for current activities.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our

promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office.



God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148

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>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1770
www.sfoasj.com
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies, evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O Jr. High, I.G.N.I.T.E. High School, & North Star Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Chapel, Gathering

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!


the**point**.church

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



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

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SAN JOSE, CA. 95135