

San Jose public library
fights to maintain funding
amid budget woes
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State Senator Cortese's bill gives
homeless youth better chances for
employment, college education
SEE PAGE 6



MAY 2025 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 5

Willow Glen Times

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"We credit the longevity of Church on the Hill primarily to God's goodness," said **Scott Simmerok**, Lead Pastor, Church on the Hill.

Church on the Hill to celebrate 175th anniversary June 1

By William Bellou
Publisher

Drive along Highway 87 near the Curtner exit and you'll invariably see the round, cross-topped building, aptly named Church on the Hill.

What many in the community probably don't realize is that the church has existed in San Jose in one form or another since 1850, quite a remarkable achievement in this age of fast-food and rapid change.

To commemorate its long heritage, Church on the Hill will be celebrating its 175th anniversary on June 1. The Church is just a few months older than the State of California.

During the June 1 church service at 10 a.m., there will be a presentation of videos and testimonies of the church's long history followed by a special celebration with balloons, refreshments and a historic timeline display in relation to San Jose's history.

"We credit the longevity of Church on the Hill primarily to God's goodness towards us, but we also recognize that we stand on the shoulders of so many people who served sacrificially over the last 175 years. On any given Sunday you'll find a young family checking out church for the first time, as well as a greeter who has been serving for almost 70 years," said Scott Simmerok, Lead Pastor. See **CHURCH ON THE HILL**, page 7

The 41st annual Willow Glen Home Tour

By William Bellou
Publisher

The 41st Annual Willow Glen Home Tour will take place on two days, Saturday, May 3rd, and Sunday, May 4th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This highly anticipated event offers an exclusive look inside five stunning homes,



each showcasing unique architectural styles—from a classic Spanish-style home with an ADU (Auxiliary Dwelling Unit) to a charming brick-front residence to a newly constructed large ranch style and more.



Supporting a Great Cause

All proceeds benefit The San Jose Day Nursery, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing quality childcare while supporting the financial needs of working families.

Boutique Market & Lunch

In addition to the home tour, guests can browse a boutique market at one of the featured homes, where vendors will offer barbecue spices, clothing, home decor, purses, jewelry, and handmade toffee. Take a break and enjoy a box lunch from Zanotto's, available for purchase and perfect for a relaxing afternoon in the backyard.

Tickets & Details

- Ticket Price: \$50 in advance. \$55 the day of event

- Purchase Online: www.willowglenhome-tour.com

- Tickets also available at Bella James and D'Anna's Florist

This annual event highlights the diverse architecture and vibrant community spirit of Willow Glen, drawing visitors from across the Bay Area. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the charm and character of these beautiful homes while supporting a meaningful cause!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.willowglenhomes.com.

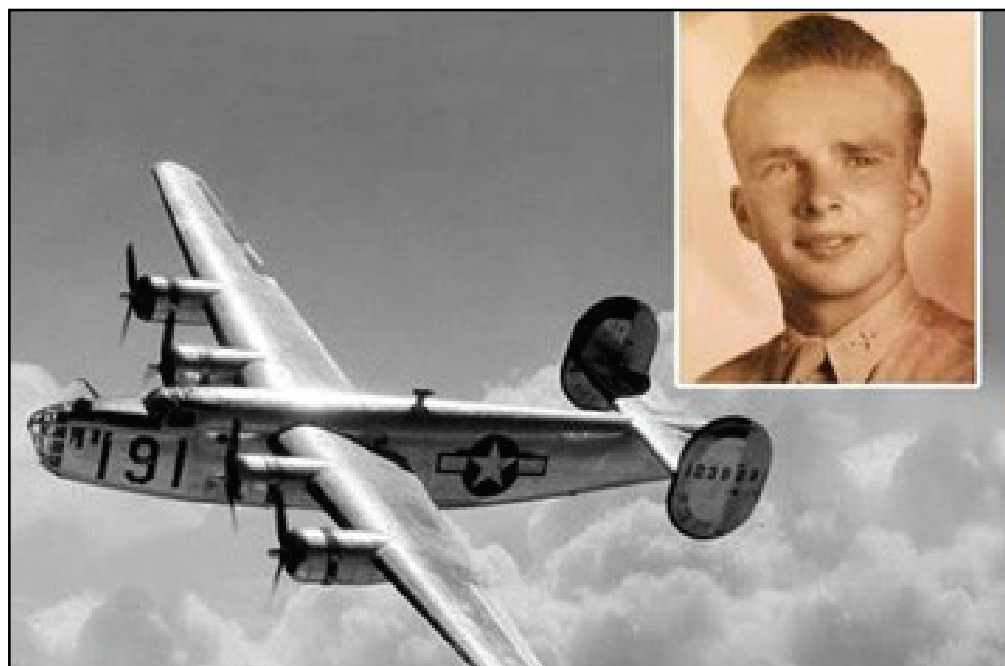
USAAF 2nd Lt. Robert T. McCollum killed in action in 1944 to be laid to rest with full military honors May 3 at noon

Community turns out for procession from SJ Airport to Oak Hill Memorial Park

The community, many waving flags, paid their respects during a procession for United States Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Robert T. McCollum April 24 from Mineta San Jose Airport to Oak Hill Memorial Park.

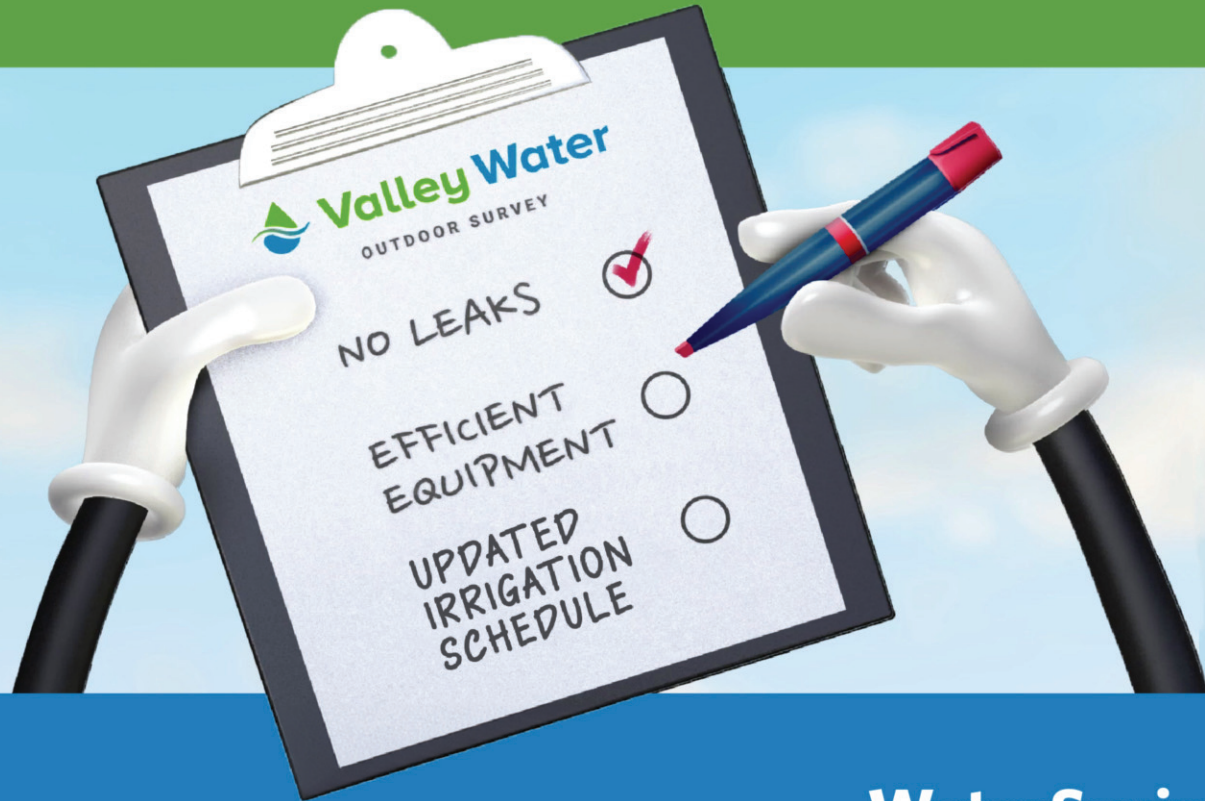
The fallen soldier's remains will be laid to rest at Oak Hill Memorial Park to be near his parents and sister with full military honors

See **McCOLLUM**, page 5



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Times **Community News**

Santa Clara County Office of Education appoints Toston new superintendent

By William Bellou
Publisher

Santa Clara County Office of Education's embattled elected board has found a new superintendent, David M. Toston.

Santa Clara County Board of Education Trustees have appointed David M. Toston as the new superintendent after five months of political upheaval. Toston will begin his new role May 1.

Toston previously served as senior advisor at the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. The organization focuses on statewide education initiatives focused on school equity and community engagement. Toston also served as Associate Superintendent at the El Dorado County Office of Education and Assistant Superintendent at the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools.

Santa Clara County Office of Education has been plagued with instability and division following the controversial firing of former superintendent Mary Ann Dewan last October.

Dewan's firing came after a federal investigation in February found that \$135,370 in federal funds were misallocated. The funds were earmarked for preschool education program Head Start but ended up paying for non-Head Start staff and credit card pur-



chases while Dewan was superintendent.

"I am deeply honored to serve as Superintendent of the Santa Clara County Office of Education," Toston said in an Office of Education statement announcing his appointment. "This role is both a privilege and a responsibility, and I look forward to partnering with our trustees, SCCOE teammates, districts, students, educators, families and community partners. Together, we will demonstrate what is possible through the strength of our diversity—ensuring every educator is supported in preparing students to achieve the hopes and dreams of their families and communities."

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Times **In Memory**

**Dorothy
Joan House**

02/11/1937 -03/22/25

Resident of Willow Glen

Dorothy Joan Pastorini House, born on February 11, 1937, in San Francisco, California, passed away peacefully on March 22, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was 88 years old.

Dorothy spent her earliest years attending St. Joan of Arc and All Hallows schools. Her family then moved to Sonora, California, where they opened the restaurant “Pastorini’s Longhorn.”

Dorothy continued her education at Columbia Elementary and later graduated from Sonora High School. Summers with her grandparents in Sonoma were among Dorothy’s fondest childhood memories, particularly her time spent with her beloved “Nona,” who nurtured Dorothy’s first language of Italian. Dorothy took great pride in her Italian heritage and her San Francisco roots.

It was at Sonora High where



Dorothy first met the love of her life, Stanley House. Their initial encounter was far from amicable—Stanley, an upperclassman, carried Dorothy, a freshman, into the boys’ locker room during a hazing incident. In her senior year, however, their friendship blossomed into a lifelong romance. Both Dorothy and Stanley moved to the Bay Area for college—she briefly attended San Jose State University, while he attended Santa Clara University. The two were married on June 19, 1955.

Early in her marriage, Dorothy held various jobs: she was a Branch Manager’s Secretary at First National Bank, managed an apartment house in Santa Clara, and even typed term papers for Stanley’s fellow students and professors—sometimes with

her “firstborn” on her lap. While Stanley pursued his law degree at Santa Clara University, Dorothy was an active member and President of the SCU Law Wives Association. She had four children, three of whom were born while Stanley was still in law school.

In 1967, Dorothy and Stanley established their permanent home in Willow Glen. Although Dorothy immersed herself in her children’s lives—joining Mothers’ Guilds and never missing her children’s extracurricular events—she still found time to volunteer at the Thrift Box, benefiting Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford. When her younger brother Dante attended Bellarmine College Prep, Dorothy was active in the Mother’s Guild there and was honored as “Bell of the Year” for her commitment and service.

In 1975, Dorothy was approached by Monsignor Healy at St. Christopher’s Parish to chair the Annual Antique Show, one of the Bay Area’s largest events at the time.

Her leadership made the show so successful that she was asked to chair it again the following year. Once her children were grown, Dorothy served as office

manager of her husband’s law firm until retirement.

A warm-hearted friend, devoted mother, and cherished “Grammie,” Dorothy was known for her gourmet cooking—especially her legendary “sugo”—and for her remarkable knack of turning even simple leftovers into a feast. She loved sharing stories, playing Bunco with dear friends, and bringing joy to every gathering in her home.

Her nurturing spirit, lively sense of humor, and infectious laughter will be remembered by all who knew her.

Dorothy and Stanley were married for 70 years and 9 months. “What a journey!”

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Stanley; her children, Barbara, John, Dionna, and Leanne; and her grandchildren, Cole, Madison, and Kevin. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Julia. A celebration of Dorothy’s life will be held on May 3, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Christopher’s Church in San Jose, California.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in her name to The American Heart Association, The American Lung Association, or the San Jose Auxiliary/Thrift Box.

**Willow Glen
Times**

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Events and Trips:

Cirque Du Soleil, ECHO, April 26, 12pm, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

We have a limited number of tickets to the latest Cirque Du Soleil show ECHO under the big top at the fairgrounds. Tickets are in section 203 and are \$90. cash or check. A 20% discount over individual tickets. Tickets are on sale in the ACC lobby, MWF 8-10am. Call Rich at 408-219-8641 for more information.

Broadway San Jose, San Jose Center for the performing arts

Tickets are available now for these shows. All tickets are \$95, cash or check
SIX: Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2pm: The story of the SIX wives of Henry VIII.
Moulin Rouge: Saturday, July 19, 2025, 2pm: With its splendor, romance, glitz and grandeur.
MJ: Saturday, August 2, 2025, 2pm: The music of Michael Jackson comes to San Jose.
To buy tickets, contact Donna Smith at dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net or 408.266.4938

Celebrate Older Americans Month: Almaden Community Center

Join the Almaden Community Center in collaboration with the Almaden Senior Association for a Barbeque Bash in celebration of Older American’s Month. Come for a BBQ with hot dogs, chips and cold lemonade. The Almaden Senior Association will serve ice cream with toppings. Music by Blue Sky Musical Group.
\$8 members, \$16 non-members. Register online at <https://www.siregistration.com> using number 2514.2002. Or... register for this event and for a free membership at the Almaden Community Center front desk. Call 408-268-1133 for more information.

Almaden Senior Association
at the Almaden Community Center
6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120
<https://almadenseniors.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/almadenseniors>

Times **Local News**

McCollum

Continued from page 1
among the community on May 3rd at noon which will include a 21-gun salute, bagpipers, a dove release, and possible fly-over.

History

McCollum, who was killed in action on June 20, 1944, where he was serving in the U.S. Army Air Forces with the 565th Bombardment Squadron, 389th Bombardment Group.

On June 20, 1944, he was the bombardier aboard a B-24J Liberator (serial number 42-100351) during a bombing mission targeting enemy facilities in Politz, Germany.

While flying over the Baltic Sea near Langeland Island, Denmark, McCollum's aircraft collided with another B-24 in the formation and spiraled into the sea. Of the ten crew members on board, two survived, were captured, and later returned to U.S. custody. The remaining eight, including Lt. McCollum, were declared missing



The community pay their respects with many waving flags during a procession for United States Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Robert T. McCollum April 24 from the Mineta San Jose Airport to Oakhill Memorial Cemetery.

in action.

In 2019, Danish divers discovered a WWII-era aircraft wreck in the area where Lt. McCollum's

plane was lost. After the site was cleared of unexploded ordnance, teams from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA),

the University of Delaware, and the Royal Danish Navy conducted an underwater survey. Human remains and other significant evi-

dence were recovered, ultimately leading to the identification of Lt. McCollum through forensic and circumstantial evidence.



Jack Whitlow of Willow Glen earns Dean's List Honors at Emerson College

Jack Whitlow of Willow Glen has earned the Dean's List Honors at Emerson College for the Fall 2024 semester.

Whitlow graduated in his major Theatre Education with a minor in creative writing last semester.

The requirement to make the Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

About Emerson College

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Barry Swenson, former chairman of Barry Swenson Builders and a local construction pioneer, died Saturday at age 85. Photo courtesy of the Swenson family.

'A true icon': San Jose developer, philanthropist dies at 85

By **B. Sakura Cannestra**
San José Spotlight

Barry Swenson, the groundbreaking developer who reshaped the city's skyline and became a household name, has died at age 85.

Swenson was the third generation leader of Swenson Builders, one of Silicon Valley's most prominent construction and development firms, known for developing iconic buildings throughout San Jose. Those who knew him remember him for his optimism and encouraging demeanor, as well as his business prowess. His cause of death has not been released.

"That's just first and foremost his real gift to everybody else, is that he was always upbeat and always encouraging people," Ron Swenson, CEO of Solar Skyways and Barry Swenson's younger brother, told San José Spotlight.

Ron Swenson said his brother's encouraging nature set him apart in a cutthroat development industry. He recalled a time when the pair ran into a friend at breakfast, who was performing in a live band at the restaurant. His brother invited the band to San Jose to play for one of their family's events.

The Swenson brothers often donned wide brimmed hats, standing out from the crowd. Barry enjoyed gardening and ranching, and raised pheasants and ducks in the family's backyard while in high school. He gave the birds away as Christmas presents to the family's business partners.

Swenson Builders was founded by Barry Swenson in 1961, but Ron and Barry Swenson's grandfather Carl Swenson began the family's first construction company in 1926. The family has a century-long history of constructing some of San Jose's most iconic buildings, including the De Anza Hotel and San Pedro Square Market.

Urban Catalyst Founder Erik Hayden said Barry's white cowboy hat and boots gave him a laid back first impression — until they started talking about business and he became a sharp and formidable

force. Hayden said he supported San Jose's culture, including Christmas in the Park and the San Jose Jazz Festival, among others.

Hayden worked with Barry about 15 years ago when he was with Republic Urban Properties. His company had partnered with Swenson Builders for the Ohlone projects, an 8.32 acre multi-family apartment project at the intersection of West San Carlos and Sunol streets. Hayden said he is fortunate for the opportunity to learn from Barry early in his career.

Land use consultant Erik Schoennauer recalled working with Barry when he was chief of staff to former San Jose Councilmember Patricia Dando, then in his current role as a consultant working with developers on San Jose projects.

He said the Swenson family has impacted Silicon Valley through revolutionary construction projects and their philanthropy.

"He was incredibly generous and engaged in the San Jose community, as a person," Schoennauer told San José Spotlight. "That legacy is of equal importance to any physical building."



Those who knew **Barry Swenson** said he was generous and affable. He often stood out in his signature white hat. Photo courtesy of the Swenson family.



State Senator Cortese's bill gives homeless youth better chances for employment, college education

Bill passes by senate human services committee

State Senator Dave Cortese's SB 33, which would establish a statewide guaranteed income pilot program providing homeless students with direct cash assistance to support their transition out of high school, cleared the Senate Human Services Committee today on a 5-0 bipartisan vote and now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"The goal of my bill is to give unhoused students access to employment and college," said Senator Dave Cortese. "The pilot program would provide \$1,000 in direct cash assistance to youth from May 1, 2026 through August 1, 2026."

"More than 270,000 students within California's K-12 school system are experiencing homelessness, a number that has increased by over 48 percent in the past decade. About 17,000 of these students are in the 12th grade, an increase of about 2,000 students since the committee saw this bill in the last legislative cycle."

DJ Anthony Gaffield, a former high school unhoused youth, now a youth advocate for Young Invincibles, testified that having a guaranteed income would have had a big impact on his life.

"Every day was a battle, not just for survival, but for any sort of hope. The weight of uncertainty and survival often overshadowed my ability to focus on my education, career goals and my mental health," he told the committee members. "I know how easy it is to become invisible when you're on the margins of society."

- In Santa Clara County, approximately 5,000 students in K-12 were homeless in 2023-2024, a 500 student increase from the previous year, according to the California Department of Education.

- The guaranteed income pilot program is titled the California SOAR (Success, Opportunity & Academic Resilience Guaranteed Income Program.)

- The bill also directs the Department to measure student employment and education attainment outcomes.

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TO SHARE?**



CONTACT US AT
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Times **Community News**



First Baptist Church of San Jose was the first church in the newly incorporated city of San Jose.

Church on the Hill

Continued from page 1

"We believe a healthy church creates hope-filled people who offer hope to a city, and what city doesn't want a little more hope?"

In the beginning...

The origins of Church on the Hill come from humble beginnings.

In 1848, a young preacher named Os-good Wheeler set sail from New Jersey to carry the message of Jesus to the wild and lawless land of California.

After a rigorous trip of riding horseback, canoeing and walking across the Isthmus of Panama, Reverend Wheeler finally arrived at San Francisco later that year where he founded the First Baptist Church of San Francisco. Two years later he moved to Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe.

On May 19, 1850, Reverend Wheeler, along with eight men and women, knelt in a homemade tent, and the First Baptist Church of San Jose was born, the first church in the newly incorporated city of San Jose.

Despite facing fires and storms that destroyed the church building a number of times during several decades, the congregation rebuilt and continued growing.

1906 Earthquake

Even the famous 1906 San Francisco earthquake didn't deter the flock when the trembler shook the building to its foundation and toppled the spires. Members of the congregation committed to rebuilding the church once again, steadfast in their determination to be a light and support in the community.

First Baptist Church reached an even wider audience in 1925 when it aired its first service over its own radio station, KQW, which later became KCBS of San Francisco.

By the 1960s, the ravages of time had taken their toll on the church building, and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and

Fire Marshall condemned the structure.

After a real estate committee was formed in 1963, First Baptist Church bought the 33-acre Ironwood Golf Course property. In 1970, the entire congregation moved to its new home at 500 Sands Dr, and renamed the church, Church on the Hill.

Since its inception, the church has been focused on preaching the gospel of Jesus



Christ, ministering to the less-fortunate community members and throughout the world, and ministering to the spiritual needs of San Joseans, even during the COVID19 pandemic and beyond.

"We believe a healthy church creates hope-filled people who offer hope to a city, and what city doesn't want a little more hope?" said Simmerok.



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The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library in downtown San Jose. City libraries are expected to see minimal cuts during the upcoming budget cycle. File photo

San Jose public library fights to maintain funding amid budget woes

By **Vicente Vera**

San José Spotlight

Library advocates say they expect to ride out the upcoming San Jose budget cycle without any major cuts. But trouble could be on the horizon, with the city projecting an ongoing shortfall over the next few years.

San Jose's Library and Education Commission learned April 16 of three anticipated public library budget cuts, which include cutting \$90,000 from library security, suspending the college and career pathways job position and dropping \$500,000 in the city's agreement with San Jose State University for Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Administrative Officer Fiahna Cabana said.

Anticipated cuts for the library appear to be substantially lower than the \$4.59 million suggested by the City Manager's Office in a Dec. 13, 2024 memo.

A city spokesperson said public library officials don't have any additional information to share about the 2025-26 budget beyond Mayor Matt Mahan's March budget message.

"The proposed operating budget is scheduled for release on May 1 that will include the details of all budget proposals," spokesperson Demetria Machado told San José Spotlight. "However, we remain committed to bringing strategies forward that responsibly balance the budget while also doing everything we can to minimize impacts to vital programs and services our community depends on, at the library and throughout the city, and to our employees."

Commissioner Jose Abastida said he's pleased to hear the upcoming year's cuts are expected to have a minimal service impact.

"We know we still have to go through the June budget discussions and things are not done — but the library and education commission's main point is that we maintain library safety and infrastructure," he told San José Spotlight. "That's where we'll keep advocating and fighting."

With a 20% increase in foot traffic and more than

3.6 million annual visitors to all San Jose libraries since the pandemic, Abastida said he wants to continue seeing minimal impacts to the public library's budget in upcoming years.

"Given the increase in library users, I think it would make for a pretty persuasive argument that our San Jose residents need more library services," he told San José Spotlight. "In the future, we would likely be advocating for an increase in funding so we can maintain staff and also library hours."

City officials projected a \$60 million 2025-26 budget deficit in December, but after reshuffling funds, the shortfall was reduced to about \$46 million, with a \$53 million budget shortfall anticipated for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Cabana said the public library's future investments will receive limited consideration, but is still able to take advantage of prior funding.

"One actual addition we have is a one-time investment of about \$500,000 in our general fund to increase funding for materials acquisitions, which is coming from prior years," she said.

The city library system has already implemented cost-control measures, including a hiring freeze and limitations on employee promotions. These measures have recently come under fire from labor organizations. Library workers rallied earlier this month to call for an increase in funding for essential city services.

Library and Education Commission Vice Chair Angelica Ramos said libraries are one of the few public spaces where families can gather, learn and grow together. They provide a space for children to learn and prepare before entering school, she added.

"The modern world demands digital literacy, yet in the self-proclaimed tech capital of Silicon Valley, tens of thousands of families lack reliable internet access and/or devices at home. Libraries have stepped in to close this gap," Ramos told San José Spotlight. "At a time when information access is under attack, we must take a standby protecting our libraries — not gutting them."

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Times **Community News**

Dasilva of Willow Glen elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Madeline DaSilva of Willow Glen has been elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

DaSilva is a senior at San José State University, majoring in



public health and minoring in Spanish.

"I strive to create a healthier population and address health disparities. I am fluent in both English and Spanish, having earned the California State Seal of Bilingualism in 2021."

Membership to Phi Kappa Phi

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.



Alexander Kobrin performs for Steinway Society - The Bay Area premiere at the Visual and Performing Arts Center in Cupertino on May 31, 2025. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Korbin 'Van Cliburn of today' to perform live in concert for Steinway Society – The Bay Area Saturday May 31

Russian—American concert pianist **Alexander Yevgenyevich Kobrin** is often referred to as the "Van Cliburn of today."

Kobrin will perform live in concert for Steinway Society - The Bay Area on Saturday, May 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m. at the Visual and Performing Arts Center in Cupertino, CA.

To meet the needs of a diverse community of patrons, Steinway Society also offers a recorded option to enjoy the concert on-demand for 48 hours.

THE PROGRAM:

Beethoven, *Sonata in E-flat Major*, Op. 7

1. Allegro molto e con brio
2. Largo, con gran espressione
3. Allegro

4. Rondo: Poco allegretto e grazioso
Brahms, *Drei Intermezzi*, Op. 117

1. Andante moderato (E-flat Major)
2. Andante non troppo e con molta espressione (B-flat Minor)

3. Andante con moto (C-sharp Minor)

Chopin, *Four Mazurkas*, Op. 24

1. Lento (G Minor)
2. Allegro non troppo (C Major)
3. Moderato con anima (A-flat Major)
4. Moderato (B-flat Minor)

Chopin, *Fantaisie in F Minor*, Op. 49

Chopin, *Berceuse in D-flat Major*, Op. 57

Chopin, *Barcarolle in F-sharp Major*, Op. 60

Chopin, *Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major*, Op. 61

TICKETS: Prices listed include all fees; Single Tickets: \$53 to \$78 (General Admission: \$78/\$68/\$58; Senior & student:

\$73/\$63/\$53; Student Rush at the door: \$20). **Recorded Tickets:** \$26.75 per household (unlimited viewing for 48 hours after release)

Tickets: <https://steinwaysociety.com>

Box Office: 408.300.5635

Email: office@steinwaysociety.com

David Patrick Stearns. The Philadelphia

Inquirer

Alexander Korbin: Called the "Van Cliburn of today" by the BBC, Alexander Kobrin has been praised for brilliant technique, musicality, and his emotional engagement with the audience. Kobrin won the Gold medal at the 2005 Cliburn International Piano Competition, and has taken top prizes at the Busoni, Hamamatsu, and Scottish International Piano Competitions. He has performed with renowned orchestras and in major concert halls worldwide.

Kobrin began his studies at age five and is now a dedicated teacher and passionate about his contributions to education both in the U.S. and abroad. He is on the faculty of the renowned Eastman School of Music. Previously he was named the L. Rexford Distinguished Chair in Piano at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University, and from 2013 until 2017 he was a member of the celebrated Artist Faculty of New York University's Steinhardt School. In 2020, he became co-director of Hiiiumaa Homecoming Festival in Estonia.

Kobrin frequently serves as a jury member for international competitions, including The Van Cliburn, Busoni, Hamamatsu, Blüthner, and Neuhaus.

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- Focus and mount your video on key points of entry or concern
- Exterior Mounting Location Options: Front door, rear door, side gate, driveway/front parking lot, second floor wide view and street view.
- Keep batteries charged in your cameras.
- Consider lighting around your cameras.

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

Times **Local News**

American charity donations up 1.9%

Charitable giving not keeping pace with inflationary pressure

Americans increased their total giving by an estimated 1.9% last year, but donations are not keeping pace with inflationary pressure.

With charitable giving actually down year over year after adjusting for inflation, the non-profit organization SmileHub just released its report on the Best Charities for 2025.

To highlight the best charities, SmileHub compared nearly 300,000 charities based on our proprietary SmileHub Rating, which evaluates organizations across five categories: financial health, management overhead, fundraising efficiency, program efficiency and transparency.

Top 20 National Charities

1. Optica
2. Aga Khan Foundation
3. Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
4. Nationwide Children's Hospital
5. American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
6. The US Olympic and Paralympic Endowment
7. Research to Prevent Blindness
8. Volunteers of America National Services
9. Veterans United Foundation
10. MAP International
11. ASTM International

12. MedShare
13. EY Foundation
14. WaterStone
15. Mather Foundation
16. Foundation Housing
17. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
18. Rockefeller Family Fund
19. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)
20. Friends of the Children

Best Charities by Category

- Animals: Friends of the Zoo of Kansas City
- Arts: Maxwell C King Center for the Performing Arts
- Children: Misericordia Foundation
- Community Support: Housing Catalyst
- Disaster Relief: Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Economic Development: Guidestream Charitable Gift Fund
- Education: Cincinnati Museums Foundation
- Environmental Protection: Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail
- Faith & Religious Support: First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Foundation
- Health & Wellness: Abington Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Homeless Support: Sacramento Steps Forward
- International Support: Interweave Solutions
- Reducing Poverty: Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)
- Research: Kacyra Family Foundation
- Rights & Activism: Follow Your Dream Foundation
- Sports & Recreation: TaxSlayer Gator Bowl
- Veterans: Louisiana National Guard Foundation

To view the full report, visit: <https://smilehub.org/blog/best-charities/97>



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OSC has opened a new program for women based upon equine interaction and equine-assisted-learning, designed to develop self-awareness and self-acceptance, confidence and resilience, and safe boundaries.

G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead. The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

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Source: University of North Carolina School of Media & Journalism



Gabby Chavez-Lopez, executive director of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley, at her election night party on April 8, 2025. *Photo by Vicente Vera.*

San Jose special election likely headed to June runoff

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

Chavez-Lopez, executive director of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley, is hold-

ing on to her lead for the San Jose City Council District 3 special election, but it's not enough of the vote to secure an election win.

Chavez-Lopez holds 29% of the vote. Matthew Quevedo, the mayor's deputy chief of staff, is in second place by one vote or 22.18% and Planning Commission Chair Anthony Tordillos is trailing in third at 22.17%.

The top two vote-getters will head to the June 24 runoff election.

If the trend holds, it will trigger an automatic recount under county election rules.

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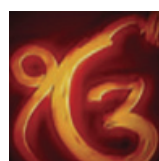
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founded in the 15th
century by Guru Nanak
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"teacher" or "enlighten-
er" completes the rela-
tionship of teaching
and learning. Sikhism
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