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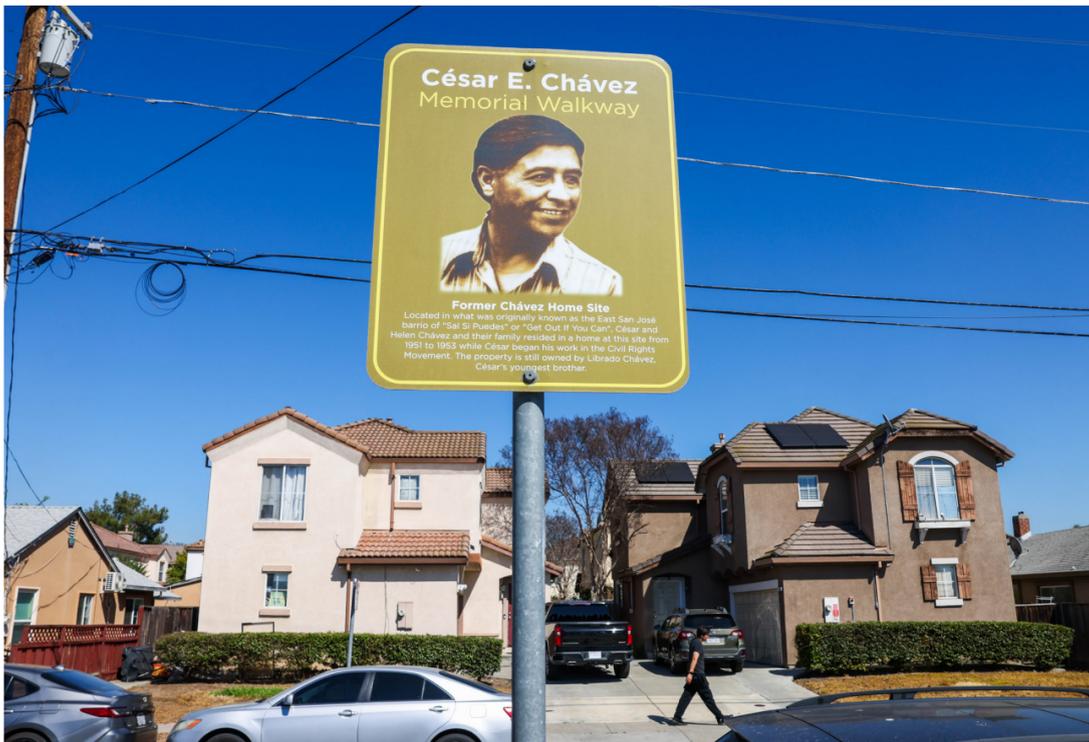
# EAST BAY TIMES

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## COMMENTARY



A photo of civil rights activist Cesar Chavez is displayed on a memorial walkway sign in front of his former home at 53 Scharff Ave. in San Jose. The Chavez family lived there from 1951 to 1953. **RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

# Chavez's name must go, but next steps are tough



**Sal Pizarro**  
COLUMNIST

With the horrific allegations against Cesar Chavez reverberating across the country, communities in California are rushing to strip the civil rights leader's image from public spaces amid accusations he sexually abused two girls and raped Dolores Huerta, his ally in the farm labor movement and an icon in her own right.

Obviously, Chavez must be removed from the parks, streets, schools and other tributes created in the decades since his death in 1993. What's less obvious is what happens next.

School districts with schools or buildings named for Chavez are weighing what to do. San Jose City College dedicated a mural featuring his image on its Cesar Chavez Library in December of 2024, and the San Jose Evergreen Community College District that oversees SJCC plans to start conversations with the community about its next steps.

In San Jose, the largest memorial to his life is Plaza de Cesar Chavez — the 2.2-acre park in the heart of the city is home to Christmas in the Park, San



One of the biggest South Bay memorials to the civil rights activist is Plaza de Cesar Chavez, a 2.2-acre park in downtown San Jose. **SHAE HAMMOND — STAFF ARCHIVES**

Jose Jazz's Summer Fest and several other community events every year. There is already buzz about renaming the park after Huerta or calling it Farmworkers Plaza. Similar solutions are proposed for schools, libraries and streets that bear Chavez's name, as if we could just cover his name and write in a new one.

It's not that simple, and it shouldn't be.

Chavez's history with San Jose goes

back decades and is deeply embedded in the community.

Blanca Alvarado, then a member of the San Jose City Council, introduced the idea of naming the downtown park in Chavez's honor at a public memorial there a few days after his death in April of 1993. For five months, people weighed in on both sides of the issue, and the Mercury News published

See **PIZARRO** on Page A5

## GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS

# Trump seeks to allay oil anxiety

'It will be over soon,' he says about fuel crisis prior to Israel saying war has weakened Iran

By **Tony Romm, Isabel Kershner, Johanna Reiss, David E. Sanger and Javier C. Hernández**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The White House raced to find ways to reassure Americans as oil prices jumped at one point Thursday to \$118 a barrel and a global energy crisis deepened nearly three weeks into the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran.

President Donald Trump said that he would do whatever was necessary to ease the crisis but that it was temporary.

"It will be over soon," he said.

His comments came hours before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in Israel that Iran no longer possessed the capabilities to enrich uranium or manufacture ballistic missiles. He provided no evidence and said nothing about Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium that was buried under the country's nuclear site at Isfahan by U.S. strikes last year. The White House did not immediately comment.

Netanyahu also said the war against Iran could end "a lot faster than people think" though he did not suggest a concrete timeline. He then said, "There's still more work to do, and we're going to do it."

Oil prices have been surging since the start of the conflict on Feb. 28, with international crude futures up close to 50% in less than three weeks. On Thursday afternoon, after Trump spoke, it had dropped to \$102. The concern at first was Iran's effort to halt oil and natural gas exports out of the Persian Gulf, but in the past 24 hours, the attacks and counterattacks on oil and gas production have injected new uncertainty.

While an end to the conflict would reopen the shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, serious damage to oil infrastructure would be longer lasting. That outcome is what economists fear most,

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## SEVENTH AVENUE BAPTIST

# Woman, 73, accused of stealing nearly \$500K from church

By **Shomik Mukherjee**  
SMUKHERJEE@BAYAREANEWSGROUP.COM

OAKLAND — A woman who worked for an Oakland church secretly sold off its parking lot, prosecutors say in new charges alleging the woman stole as much as \$480,000 from the congregation's coffers.

Hayward resident Eva Bowen Brown, 73, is accused of committing fraud and grand theft by embezzlement during the years she served as financial secretary of the Seventh Avenue Baptist Church.

The alleged theft in this case dealt a financial blow to the small brick-and-mortar place of worship nestled in Oakland's diverse Eastlake area. The building's doors were padlocked from the outside on Thursday, while a past-due water bill lay on the front step.

Down the street, a handful of vehicles sat in the church's former parking lot, where a blue sign that reads "7th Avenue Church" still sits over a chain-link fence.

The Rev. Jeffrey Kirton, the church's pastor, fired Brown in 2023 after discovering the church's bank accounts were overdrawn and that its funds were being misspent, according to the Alameda County District Attorney's office.

Reached this week, a woman who identified

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## COMMENTARY

# Warriors have pieces, but future is puzzling



**Dieter Kurtenbach**  
COLUMNIST

The Warriors' East Coast trip has gone as well as you'd expect with Steph Curry sidelined by injury.

Moral victories (nice losses), blowout defeats (bad losses), and amid all those losses, hey, an actual win in Washington, D.C. It was Steve Kerr's 600th win, in fact.

In that win over the Wizards, De'Anthony

Melton and Kristaps Porzingis combined for 57 points. They provided a tantalizing glimpse of what the Warriors' future could be.

Because if you add Curry, Jimmy Butler and Draymond Green to that pairing this time next year, you just may have a team that can go on winning streaks, with a hope of contending in the West.

If only such a future were realistic. But with this Warriors team, even the good stuff comes with a catch.

The outline of a roster

See **KURTENBACH** on Page A5



Kristaps Porzingis (7) and De'Anthony Melton of the Warriors celebrate against the Washington Wizards on Monday. Both players provide intrigue for the team's future as it tries to assemble a competitive roster. **GREG FIUME — GETTY IMAGES**

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**WEATHER**  
H: 82-96 L: 54-62  
Full report on **B12**



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