# DEC. 21, 2018 – JAN. 3, 2019 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 26 **Evergree** lmes

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Santa takes a selfie before setting in for a pancake breakfast at Evergreen Community Center.

# Santa's sleigh spotted on radar at Reid **Hillview Airport**

'Top secret' booster rocket bolsters sleigh

By Kevin Larsen

Times Staff Writer hile rubbing his eyes, one air traffic controller said in dismay, "I've never seen anything like it."

An unidentified object glided through wispy cloud cover and was seen as a slowly moving See SANTA, page 12

# **Bulldog Tech** comes through for wildfire survivors

By Frank Shortt

Times Staff Writer ulldog Tech, at Leyva Middle

School in the Evergreen School District has been busy on an aid project which began on October 29, 2018 and will continue to the end of February, 2019.

The 7th grade class at Bulldog Tech, under the leadership of two teachers, Jim Conway and Eli Lowery, the students decided to do something about the awful devastation of the wildfires that have been plaguing California.

In the words of the two teachers involved, "Two weeks after starting our project about wildfires in California, the Camp Fire in Northern California and the Woolsey Fire in Southern California began. When we returned to school after the Veteran's Day holiday on November 11, the students in our classes made it See BULLDOG, page 11



Students working on the wildfire project count up the latest donations to their cause.



San Jose-Evergreen 2721 Aborn Road, Suite 10, San Jose, CA 95121



Top: Anthony Tappua, Michela Metra, Nicholas LeGrande, Quintin McCollum, Jesus Chavez. Middle: Assistant Coach Matthew Herrera, Wilson Tran, Willis Tran, Adan Hernandez, Head Coach Geoff Wellington, Bottom: Austin Chiu, Joel Mendivel.

## A SEASON TO REMEMBER

# LeyVa Middle School named Santa Clara **County Wrestling Team Champions**

By Aaron Brengard

LeyVa Middle School Principal Special to the Times

or the first time in its 46-year history, George V. LeyVa Middle School has won the title Santa Clara County Wrestling Team Cham-

The Santa Clara County Middle School Wrestling Championships was held at Los Gatos High School on December 13. LeyVa joined schools from all See CHAMPIONS, page 3

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#### **Times Feature**

# **Champions**

Continued from page 1

across the county sent their top wrestlers to battle for the highest honor in middle school wrestling - County Champion.

The journey for LeyVa began back in 2012 when Geoff Wellington joined the LeyVa staff and resurrected the wrestling program after a four-year absence. Mr. Wellington was a high school wrestling coach and had a vision to put the school back on the wrestling map. "Being a coach and creating a positive impact on the lives of young people is why I became a teacher," says Wellington.

To do this, they have to beat the two other teams who have largely dominated the league, section, and county championships for the last two decades; Evergreen's own Quimby Oak and South Valley from Gilroy.

Wrestling is a physically and mentally demanding sport that builds character, self-confidence, community, and the importance of failure and sacrifice in any struggle. Additionally, wrestling is both a team and individual sport with each athlete battling one at a time and the match outcome awarding team points. This year, Coach Wellington and Assistant Coach Matthew Herrera welcomed over fifty 7th and 8th grade wrestlers to the team.

Wrestling is a "no cut" sport which means anyone who wants to participate can be on the team, if they do well in school and never quit. Then the team members battle each other for varsity positions in the nineteen different weight classes. The season consists of a series of head-to-head matches with other middle schools and multi-school tournaments.

Wrestling teams in Santa Clara County are organized into northern and southern sections and also smaller divisions. LeyVa is in the Northern division of the East section with teams from East Side San Jose in nearby Alum Rock, Berryessa, Mt. Pleasant, and in Evergreen, the reigning league champions, Quimby Oak.

LeyVa's league record this season was 6-1 with the only loss to Quimby. One match this season was very special because it was only six points shy of a perfect match with LeyVa winning 108 – 0.

In the division league finals tournament, the top eight wrestlers in the league battle for the top four spots to move on to the sectional meet. The Bulldogs won seven individual titles and advanced 16 of the 19 weight classes to the sectional tournament, but the final team scores came down to a seven-point difference with LeyVa again watching Quimby claim the league championship for the 18th straight year. Then in the section finals tourna-



Quintin McCollum (1st place) takes the gold.

ment, where only the top two wrestlers in each weight, advance. LeyVa placed nine on to the podium with eight wrestlers moving on to the county championships. Nevertheless, the team placed third overall once again behind powerhouses Quimby and South Valley.

For those eight wrestlers, the entire season came down to one night at Los Gatos High School with the best wrestlers from across Santa Clara – the County Championship. The matches were exciting and fierce with fates often being decided by just a single point. A record seven Bulldogs made it to the final round. The individual results were amazing:

- Michael Metra (3rd place)
- Willis Tran (2nd place)
- Jesus Chavez (2nd place)
- Adan Hernandez (2nd place)
- Nicolas LeGrande (2nd place)
- Joel Mendivil (1st place)
- Austin Chiu (1st place)
- Quintin McCollum (1st place)

Watching the team scores before going into the finals LeyVa was projected to earn second place. Medals were awarded proudly to individuals and then the teams ranking were shared over the loudspeaker. Fifth place... Fourth... not LeyVa... Third... not LeyVa... Second place... South Valley? ... wait...And, for the first time in the its 46-year history, George V. LeyVa Middle School was named the Santa Clara County Wrestling Team Champions!

"It wasn't the ranking or the records of other teams, it was on us. We had to go earn it. We worked hard all season, and we deserved it," said Team Captain Jesus.

The County Championship was a personal goal for Coach Wellington, and he and his Bulldog wrestlers pulled it off. "LeyVa is now on the wrestling map, and we plan to stay," said Wellington. "We could not be prouder of them all for this historic 2018 season."





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# This Week:



## **EDUCATION**

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Islamic Center of Evergreen donates \$15,000 to California fire victims: P9

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# Evergreen Times

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# Valley Currents

cur-rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

# Laurelwood's first 'Dance Showcase' a great success

By Frank Shortt
Times Staff Writer

aurelwood Elementary
School in the Evergreen School District
held their first ever Dance
Showcase on Dec. 6. Gauging from the avid student
participation, as well as parent's enthusiasm, it was a
great success.

Laurelwood principal, Kameelah Green, along with Royal King Productions and Troubador Beat Lab showcased every student involved in the two week dance academy.

Parents were invited to see what their children had been learning from Xavier Viramontez, the capable instructor from Royal King Academies. Mrs. Green stated, "Our teachers have expressed how much of an impact it has had on focus and behavior and comradery amongst the students. And as I have walked in classes through the past two weeks, I've gotten chills seeing them all so engaged



Kameelah Green, with Xavier Viramontez, showing a lighter side!

and shining. My dream of giving every kid a chance to shine has become a reality."

Royal King Academies-After School Programs, offers motivational goals based upon the premise that a person's true power of self-motivation comes from believing in themselves, setting and achieving realistic goals, and the limitless will of wanting to share ones energy through positive engagement.



Every child is given a chance to shine in the dance academy.

Royal King puts this belief into manifestation by involving its participants through the avenues of music and dance, setting high standards and guiding, expecting, and rewarding the participant. They have implemented programs in some of the larger districts in the U.S. and six countries abroad, as well as, some of the smallest districts in existence. Districts in L.A., Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco, San Diego, Dallas, New York, and San Antonio are some of the larger venues. San Ardo, Richfield, and Gerber are some of the smallest dis-

Royal King CEO, Rogelio Viramontez declares, "Our

educational programs are set up on a per session per grade level basis. Each group comes to us on a set time period for a number of consecutive days. Age appropriate music and dance are instructed to the students that help develop motor and non-motor skills. The dances included range from hip-hop, ballroom, fitness based rhythm, and community based dances." He further stated that, "Royal King programs are set and surpass the California State standards for PE and dance, and include standards that focus on music, health, math, language, etc."

Laurelwood's two week program culminated in having demonstrations from each grade level performing in front of their parents. A wonderful time was had by all as parents, grandparents, older siblings and friends of the families filled the multipurpose room to standing room only to view the progress of the children. Principal Green's parting words were, "We look forward to this first Dance Showcase becoming a yearly tradition at Laurelwood."

Kudos go out to Royal King Academies, and especially the instructor, Xavier Viramontez.



The dance academy has had an effect on focus and behavior and comradery amongst the students.

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# Christmas Eve is around the corner!



You will want to save an hour or two that evening to join with Grace and neighbors for the Community Christmas Eve Service.

Lots of music! Lots of joy! Plenty of good feeling to set the right tone for this holiday season.

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**Times Feature** 

# Disney princesses take over San Jose, with holiday style

By Julia Layne

Special to the Times

lick, click, click... is that the sound of reindeer paws up on the rooftop? No: it's the sound of extraordinarily sparkly princess heels having a holiday party up on a stage. On Thursday, Dec. 6, the "Broadway Princess Party" took over the San Jose Improv to kick off a decidedly festive version of their unique show.

Mixing the best songs of the season with the best Disney princess songs from Broadway, the Broadway Princess Holiday Party presented talented women who had been the original voices of the songs in the theater to our town for a holly, jolly evening of seasonal fun.

The show brought the talents of Laura Osnes (Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* on Broadway), Courtney Reed (the original Jasmine on Broadway for Disney's *Aladdin*), and Susan Egan (the original Belle on Broadway for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*) together for a nostalgic night of music with just the right amount of pixie dust — or was that glitter? Acting as host, accompanist, and musical director for the event was Benjamin Rauhala, who called

himself the show's "Fairy Godfairy."

"Getting to share the stage with these women is such a dream come true because, when they sing their iconic songs, I get to travel with them," Rauhala told the Evergreen Times. "I get to be trapped in the castle with Belle when Susan sings "Home," or stuck "On The Steps of The Palace" with Laura, and I get to feel like I'm on the magic carpet with Courtney when she sings "A Whole New World" - it's totally wild! And to get to travel the country with the girls is a total joy. We're truly the best of friends, so every day is its own adventure, whether we're having movie night, or playing Jenga in our hotel lobby, or just gossiping over room service. I'm the luckiest 'Fairy Godfairy' in the land!"

During the original show, every possible princess song (including some that are not from Disney productions) is sung in a non-stop performance that will make anyone in the audience smile and sing along. In the holiday version of their show, favorite holiday tunes are seamlessly woven throughout the night like a pretty ribbon on top of a present.

A trademark of the show is that in each city they visit the group invites



From left: **Courtney Reed, Nick Pitera, Laura Osnes** and **Susan Egan** brought their Broadway Princess Party to San Jose.

local talent to perform. These performers are chosen through the group's "Unleash Your Inner Princess" social media contest. On this evening, part-time YouTuber and full-time Pixar employee Nick Pitera played Prince Charming and swept the princesses off their feet. Also joining the princess posse as honorary members were 16-year-old Lili Ostojic-Gibson from Marin and 21-year-old Regine Ford from Sacramento. Both brought their own beautiful

voices to the royal occasion, and performed songs from some of the more diverse Disney princesses, namely Tiana from *Princess and the Frog* and Pocahontas.

Standout moments included Laura Osnes singing a mash-up of every Cinderella related song lovingly titled the "Cinder-epic," Courtney Reed belting out her best rendition of Mariah Carey's modern holiday classic "All I Want for Christmas is You," and Susan Egan singing a sweet mash-up of "Something There" from Beauty and the Beast with "Jingle Bell Rock." In short, there was something there for the whole family in this show.

The Broadway Princess Holiday Party will be touring throughout the month with the last show scheduled for December 17 in New York City. Don't worry about turning into a pumpkin though. If you can't make it to one of the holiday parties, the original version of the Broadway Princess Party will resume touring in January and will not disappoint. Perhaps you're still looking for that perfect gift for the princess (or prince) in your life? Upcoming dates and tickets are listed on their website at www. BroadwayPrincessParty.com.





Pictured above: Camille Baham prepares to represent Mary in the Posada procession; Right: Director Elena Robles gathers the participants as they prepare to perform. Photos by Jeff Baham

# A festive Posada celebration in San Jose



Inder the direction of founder Elena E. Robles, folklorico dance group El Grito de la Cultura celebrated the traditional Posada at St. Leo's near downtown San Jose on Saturday, December 8.

After starting the community dance company Folklórico Nacional Mexicano de Elena Robles in 1987, Robles established its academy of dance, El Grito de

la Cultura, to insure that there was a community outlet for her years of research and training in Mexican regional dances. Children as young as four perform with the group, bringing their traditional dances to various locations throughout the South Bay all year long.

For more information, visit facebook.com/fnmjuvenil.

—Jeff Baham



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- New Fares
- Clipper Cards Now Available at **Ticket Vending Machines**
- Two-Hour Fares



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Times **OpEd** 

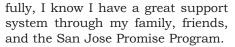
# **San Jose Promise** fosters student success at EVC

By Brenda Perez

Special to the Times

s we reach the end of the semester, our classes are get-Ling harder. We know the professors and know what to expect on

their exams and assignments, because we've done them before. However, since the semester is about to end, our schedule is filled with exams, projects, and presentations. This is what makes the end of the semester hard because unlike the first two months, our schedule is completely packed. The end of the semester is a workload. and a huge challenge for all students. Thank-



I decided to come to Evergreen Valley College because my older sister came to this school and she told me of all the great professors, staff, and students. Now that I go to EVC, I can see that the professors, staff and students are amazing. The campus is beautiful and the diversity is what makes this school unique.

When I heard about the San Jose Promise Program I could not believe it. This program sounded too good to be true. But it actually turned out to be true and I quickly applied to it. My experience from my first year in the San Jose Promise Program has been incredible. The program pays for all my tuition, and provides me with textbooks for all my classes. I no longer have to worry about searching for websites where the textbooks are more affordable or ordering textbooks ahead of time so they make it in time for the start of class. The San Jose Promise Program has not only helped me, but my parents too. Last year, my sister was about to start her last year at San Jose State University and I was about to start my first year of college. My parents knew it was going to be difficult to afford two kids in college, but they were prepared to work extra hours in order for us to reach our dream. However, since I got into the San Jose Promise Program they no longer have to worry about all that.

Apart from all this, the program also provides assigned counselors with whom we must meet at least once per semester. This allows you to create a relationship with your

counselor since they are familiar with your educational background and are always checking up on you. My assigned counselor is Rosa Pereida and she is an amazing counselor. She knows all about my educational goals, she makes it perfectly clear on what classes I have to take, and she is always referring me to other helpful resources. She is also always pushing me to try new things and join other clubs. But most importantly she motivates me with a simple "Great job kid," "Keep it up," or "Wow, I'm proud of you,

kid!" Her genuine interest in my life makes such a great difference, and I am so honored to have her as my counselor through the San Jose Promise Program.

The San Jose Promise Program does more than cheer me on. It also sets very clear expectations on what I need to do to stay in the program. The program does not let you slack off, it is always checking up on you through the

counselors or progress reports we must turn in. We are required to turn in one progress report per semester, which I feel is really helpful. This progress report allows you to see how you are doing overall and if you have to make changes or seek help. It also forces you to interact with your teacher and show them that you are interested in their class, and are serious about your education. We all have a lot of things going on in our lives, and the last thing we have is time. The San Jose Promise Program gives students time and allows students to focus on their education rather than having to work to pay for college.

I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing program that has helped me and my family so much. I want people to know that the San Jose Promise Program is an incredible program and it offers so many great resources. This program not only helps you financially, but also academically. The counselors are always there for you and always check up on you to make sure everything is going well. They will always be there to support you, but you must also do your part and put in the effort.

The San Jose Promise Program is like no other, and I strongly recommend applying to it and taking advantage of it. This program has made it possible for me to get closer to reaching my dream. The San Jose Promise Program has helped me and many more San Jose students to see college as an option rather than a financial obstacle.

Brenda Perez is a San Jose Promise student at EVC.



**Brenda Perez** 

Times Features



# Islamic Center of Evergreen donates \$15,000 to California fire victims

The Evergreen Islamic Center (EIC) located in Evergreen, donated more than \$15,000 to the California fire victims.

This is in addition to the money collected by several Bay Area Muslim communities for the fire victims. In one fund raising event attended by Congressman Ro Khanna, the targeted amount for money raised was \$100,000.

"We are heartbroken by the devastation the fires caused. We want to help our fellow citizens in any way we can," said Mr. Saeed Chaudhary, President of Evergreen Islamic Center and a longtime resident of Evergreen Valley. Some of the EIC members are also planning to visit the fire-damaged sites and offer additional support.

Evergreen Islamic Center, located in Evergreen Hills, offers several services to the community including five-time prayers, community gatherings, youth classes, women's classes and inter-faith sessions.

"Our doors are open for neighbors and people of other faiths," says Sister Henna Parekh, who heads the communication committee for the center.

For more information on Evergreen Islamic Center, visit: www.eicsanjose.org/wp

# **Jean Dresden honored by Citizens for Fiscal Responsibilty**

n Wednesday, December 5th, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility (CFR) awarded the second annual Dave Fadness Award to Jean Dresden. Named in honor of the late Dave Fadness, the award is presented to San Jose residents who best exemplify Dave's dedication to volunteerism and fiscally sound government.

Rich Crowley, who cofounded CFR with Fadness, opened the lunch-time award presentation by recounting the group's history, noting "we started as a couple of people on Dave's front porch, concerned about who would be the next representative from our city council district. We got involved and made a difference. Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility carries on the vision that Dave had. He

truly believed that dedicated, informed community members are an essential element for creating an outstanding city."

In presenting the award, Pat Waite, President of CFR, observed that "Jean's incredible commitment to building a better San Jose through volunteer activism reflects the ideals commemorated by this award." He pointed out that she focuses on fiscal responsibility by making sure that bond money is spent in the ways promised to residents. "Especially notable is her commitment to ensuring that San Jose residents have open space to enjoy recreational activities and help create a better community," he concluded.

Jean founded and runs San Jose Parks Advocates (www.sjparksadvocates.org), an allvolunteer group of neighborhood association

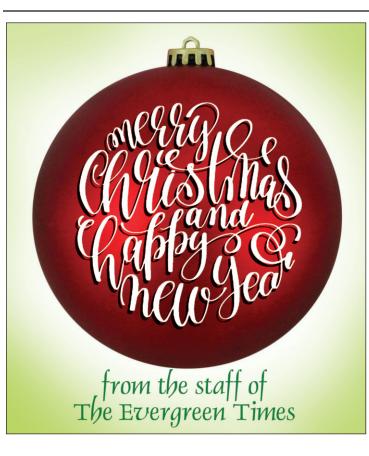


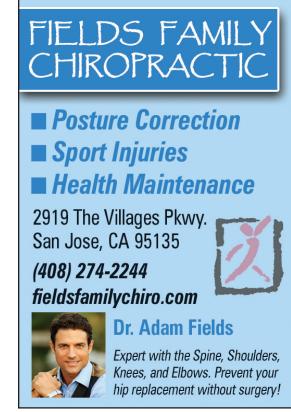
Pat Waite (left) presented the Dave Fadness Award to resident Jean Dresden.

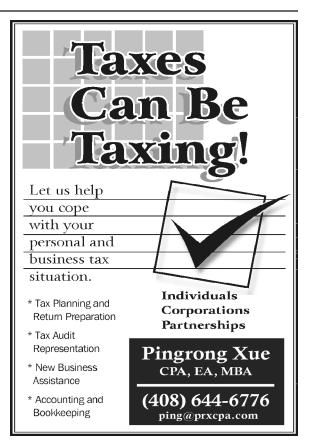
leaders, Adopt-A-Park volunteers, "Friends of" group members and community members from throughout the city. The organization is dedicated to ensuring that parks are included in all discussions of civic priorities and neighborhood services so that residents can enjoy quality parks and trails.

"When I was informed of my selection as a recipient of this award, I was both moved and humbled," Jean told CFR members and guests. "Dave was an amazing resource for our community. He seemed to be everywhere and his attention to detail was an inspiration. I am happy to see CFR continuing the community involvement that he championed."

CFR is a volunteer organization that focuses on ensuring that San Jose taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. Find out more at www.cfr-si.org.







#### **Times Community News**





(L-R) **Yohanna**, **DeForest Buckner**, and **Mariah**. Above right: **Buckner** and **Elyssa**, 8th grader, using her shopping spree money to shop for her father. Below left: Game-worn cleats from Buckner representing Beyond Difference, a non-profit focused on anti-bullying, inclusion for all, and the end of social isolation. Below right: **Alondra**, LeyVa leadership student, at the register getting her \$100 worth of clothes.







# **49ers' Buckner and Levi's team up for holiday spree with students from LeyVa**

Porty-niners DL DeForest Buckner and Levi's partnered to take 20 deserving kids from LeyVa Middle School on a shopping spree for new clothes this holiday season on Dec. 18.

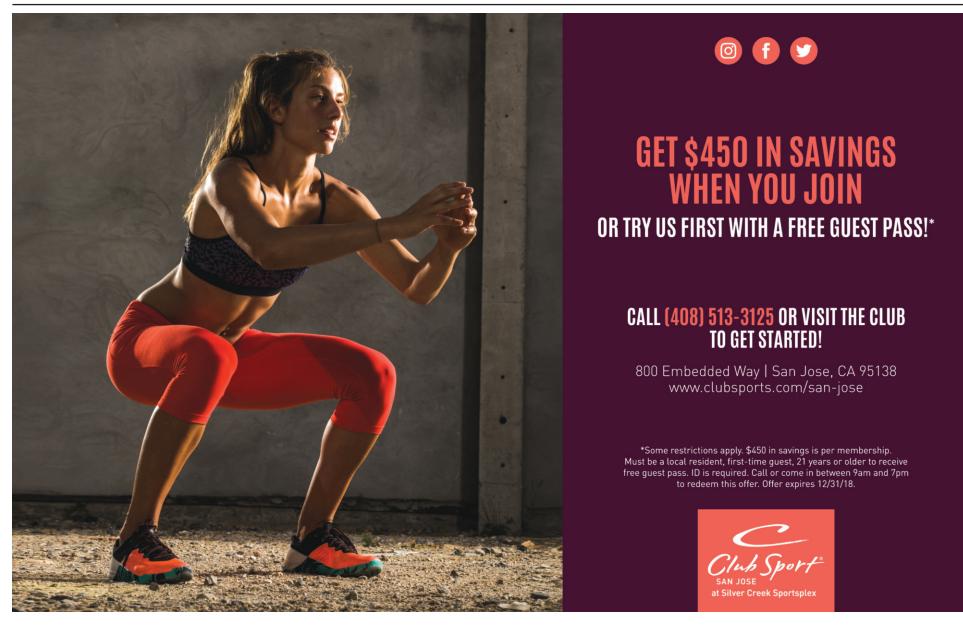
The students chosen for the event are part of the school's leadership program which leverages themes and initiatives from nonprofit partner Beyond Differences<sup>TM</sup> – the nonprofit DeForest is supporting during the NFL's My Cause My Cleats initiative, as part of his anti-bullying campaign.

Students were picked up at 8 a.m. and brought to the Levi's store at Westfield Valley Fair Mall before it was open to the public. The Leyva students shopped for themselves and family members, their faces beaming for the entire event. Many of the students

shared their clothing picks with DeForest and his wife, Ashlyn, who were both at the event to meet these young students who are change agents in their school.

"We are so thankful for Beyond Differences, the 49ers, Levi's, and Deforest Buckner," said Aaron Brengard, principal at LeyVa Middle School. "Our students work so hard to make our school great by being inclusive and working to end social isolation. The 20 students had such a great time shopping today, but mostly they felt appreciated."

As the students headed out, their shopping bags full and their hearts filled with holiday spirit, they thanked DeForest Buckner, his wife, the 49ers, Levi's and Beyond Differences for an unforgettable morning.



#### **Times Cover Story**



LeyVa students make presentations about donations that will help the wildfire victims.

# **Bulldog**

Continued from page 1

known that they wanted to do something to help the victims of these horrible disasters. They decided to start a campaign to raise money to donate to the Red Cross. We created a webpage through CrowdRise.com to begin accepting online donations. The students decided that they would go to each classroom in our school, Bulldog Tech, and to classrooms on the next-door campus of Leyva Middle School."

Each team of five students developed short presentations, posters, and flyers for each classroom they visited. The students also designed boxes to collect donations. The students had to plan this very quickly because they wanted to make their presentations on Tuesday, November 27, after returning from their Thanksgiving break. The students felt an urgent need to gather contributions in order to help the wildfire victims as soon as possible." These students have given themselves wholly to this project and as a result, Jim Conway states, "We started out trying to raise \$1800.00 but the final tally was \$2050.00." They exceeded all their expectations thanks to great leadership and the ingenuity of the students.

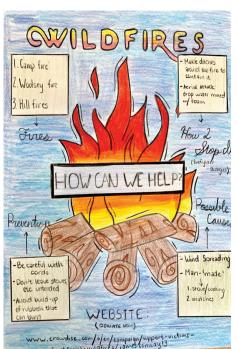
Mr. Conway has taught for 29 years in the Evergreen School District, Ms. Lowery has taught for 14 years. This took great team effort as they coached 150 seventh grade students toward their goal. Since reaching and exceeding their goal, they are no longer accepting monetary donations. Besides having an online donation site, they also solicited donations from other classes at Bulldog Tech, as well as, students at the Leyva Middle School.

The teachers mentioned also, "Our project was also highlighted in district email to parents through Charles Crosby, the Director of Communications and Community Engagement for the Evergreen School District. Mr. Crosby also published links to our donation page on Evergreen's Facebook page and Twitter account." This was very positive use of both these sites!

When asked about how the children felt after this noteworthy accomplishment the teachers replied, "The students all expressed sadness about the awful circumstances the people of these communities faced, but they were very motivated to collect, and continued asking people in their neighborhood and community to contribute!"

This project inspires all of us to contribute to the less fortunate in our society.

Giant kudos go to the seventh graders of Bulldog Tech and, last but not least, their devoted teachers!







## **Times Community**

# Santa

Continued from page 1

blip on the sophisticated airport green-screen on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Air traffic controllers gathered around and watched with awe to try to figure out just exactly where it was and at what speed it was traveling. Pilots in the area were quickly notified with this message over the radio, "Object now spotted over Evergreen Valley College.'

#### Santa arrives

"I know what it is!" someone hollered.

"It's Santa! He's come to town!"

Sure enough, they finally figured it out. The Evergreen Community Center invited Santa to their annual pancake breakfast event.

It was the smiling children, hot pancakes, pats of butter and lots and lots of maple syrup that drew Santa to accept the cordial invitation. He just couldn't say no.

"I heard he just loves cookies," said a pilot. "Chocolate chip especially," said a police officer.

Reporters and social media buffs drove up San Felipe Road and converged at Evergreen Valley College where they caught a glimpse of the sleigh gliding through the blue lit sky just above the observatory building on the hillside. Some special force pushed the storm clouds away all day just for his special visit. Something magical was in the air.

### Special morning sky

There was a special warm twinkling atmosphere of the morning light. If you took a large piece of light blue children's construction paper and rubbed a white crayon laid flat on its side across the top, you would see the wispy cloud formations seen that day. If you then spread a clear coat of glue and sprinkled purple and silver glitter on the paper clouds you'd get an idea of how wonderful the sky presented itself that morning.

The first thing that happened is they heard the increasing sleigh bell sounds of JING, JING, JING. All of the reporters looked up and saw nine reindeer that were running across the sky and the first one had a bright blinking red light on his nose. A man in a red suit and cap was directing them with the pull of stagecoach-like reigns in his hands. The reindeer seemed to be enjoying it all for they did not have to pull hard and one reporter with binoculars said he could see them smiling!

#### Super soft landing

They flew down that same hill Montgomery first took off from long ago in his glider and then the reporters said aloud, "come on, let's go, they're flying towards the Evergreen Community Center." Upon getting in their cars and arriving there the news reporters saw Santa expertly maneuvering the sometimes wild and stubborn reindeer into a super soft landing at the grassy area where the Kids Love Soccer Program plays each warm summer.

Children gathered around and could hardly believe what they saw. It was Santa and he had a big white beard and wore red pants, a jacket and cap with fluffy white fir lining. One girl said to him, "I have to ride my bike with a plastic helmet, Santa, where's your helmet?"

There was a big smile on his face and you could tell he was thinking hard while twisting his big furry whiskers. After a short time he grabbed his belly with both hands, leaned back and gave a big laugh of HO, HO, HO. Then he kindly whispered to her, "Why I think you have a good idea there little one, maybe I will get the elves to make me that special sleigh helmet at the North Pole workshop." Then a little boy said, "Santa, how about those elves make you a seat belt to go with it."

### **Top Secret**

Santa motioned with his hands for all the little ones to go in and start the breakfast while he got hay out of the back of the sleigh to tend to the reindeer. Several boys and girls just stood there frozen and pointed at the bottom of the sleigh. They noticed that here was something different about it. Just between the two rudders, a shiny silver rocket booster was bolted on and the elves had written something on it. A boy adjusted his thick black glasses and the girl next to him read aloud, "T-O-P S-E-C-R-E-T." Together they both said, "What's that all about Santa?"

Santa smiled and whispered to the children, "We're so glad your city has welcomed Google to town. Earlier this year some of their top engineers along with Tesla and Apple Computer gals and guys came up to the pole to design a top secret eco-booster that runs on secret power. Mrs. Claus had a talk with them and got them all to agree to work together on the project." The young ones said, "Tell us more." Santa responded, "HO, HO, HO... well, I can tell you that Elon said he wanted it done just right so that it wouldn't leave a jet trail. It's also quieter now and we don't scare birds so much anymore. I have come on this trip to see how it preforms on a trial run from the North Pole and back."

#### Santa happily knows mayor and others

Then Santa said to the children, "It is good you are inquisitive, the elves just love San Jose because the Silicon Valley has lots and lots of start-up companies that design new things to help others in our world." Then the children responded, "you actually know about our city Santa." To which Santa responded, "Why yes,



Mayor Sam is bringing love and hope to the season. He has always been a very good boy and good at figuring out how to make people work together to get things done. I remember he always made sure to have homemade cookies and a glass of milk when I went down the chimney."

"What about Magdalena our Vice Mayor, Santa," said an earnest girl. Did you invite her to the North Pole? "Of course," said Santa, "I know that special name. She is so good at caring about others and adds beauty and grace to the city council. Why, I remember when she got her first bicycle and how she shared and let all her friends have turns riding it. The one with the special tassels on the handle bars and the chrome fenders. Then a somewhat naughty child tried to borrow it for too long by saying to her, 'you get to ride it any time because it's yours, why not let me take it home for a week because you know I'll be sure to bring it back and besides, Santa says, don't be selfish.' Then with a big smile Santa said, "HO, HO, HO, such logic used by the little ones and Magdalena was so kind to all of them. That special bicycle taught her how to get along with the difficult ones. Toys are good because they help teach sharing.

"I noticed the Evergreen Councilperson Sylvia Arenas and her family here today and she is so pleasant when she speaks with others. She is a good person for you children to learn from for she always makes my 'Nice List."

#### Combining the high tech with the familiar

A tall unabashed girl walked up to Santa and asked, "why not just program the sleigh to be on auto-pilot

and self-fly it, because my mom's car does; and it's not really magic anymore " "Oooooo," exclaimed all the children. Santa responded in calm measure, "HO, HO, HO, No, I love the feel of the reigns in my hand and reindeer need my special skills of leading them one direction or the other. No question about it, the entire Silicon Valley is making lots of changes and change can be good. I think too, the old fashioned things can be combined with the new too, don't you?"

"At the pole we have visitors from the companies here in the valley and we share some of our ingenious elf technology, continued Santa. "Not too much, just little by little over the years. Elon has his own room next to the workshop. He keeps being told all the time by the elves, "I can't tell you about that because it's SECRET, but I can give you some hints I guess. He may have learned some naughty things being around them too much, you see they are mischievous you know. Elves are smart, but you've always got to keep an eye on them, HO, HO, HO, and Elon too."

#### Key business leaders quizzed by Mrs. Claus

"When the leaders come visit the North Pole, each year I always have them sit down together at the kitchen table and I take all their cell phones and lock them in a workshop drawer so they can look at each other," explained Santa. "I ask Mrs. Claus to speak with them. She helps me so much and I just love her. I make sure she talks to them as I serve the hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Each year, Mrs. Claus starts out by asking them the same question. She asked, Tim, Sundar, Devin, Jeff, Reed, Renaud, Ellen and Elon, what is the most important thing in their companies. They say things like, 'it's the bottom line, innovation, patents, forecasting, and on and on,' but Mrs. Claus helped them to learn what the most important of all was. She said to them, love is the most important thing and how everyone treats each other.' Lots and lots of love is important to create and give to our world,' and you know what, she's right! Come to think about it, this year she had to grab two of them by the ears, because while she was talking they were fighting over the tiny colored marshmallows I put out in a bowl for them to take and put in their big cup of hot chocolate. Sometimes they fight over the colors so we try to get them to learn to share and split up the goodies. One of them pouted and wanted all of his marshmallows to be the same color but two business leaders were teasing him about it and laughing at him too. In the end, they stopped and looked at Mrs. Claus scowling at them and then said politely to her, 'Yes Mrs. Claus, we'll share.' She also asked them to hire more ladies to run their companies

Continued, next page

#### Times Community

too for when there are all boys things become like a wrestling match. They all nodded and Ellen looked at her and gave her a nod and a big smile."

### Best Santa Pancake Breakfast ever

Inside the community center the children busily filled out letters to Santa and placed them a special "North Pole Mailbox." There was beautifully decorated paper with snowflake boarders for the little ones to write their letter to Santa.

Each letter had some printed writing on it which said, "Dear Santa, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I have been (check box) good, very good, naughty, very naughty this year. Some of the things I would like to ask you for Christmas are\_\_\_\_\_, Thank you Santa from ."

While the breakfast was served, children walked to special elf craft tables to make their one-of-a-kind keepsakes for mom and dad. They made snowmen and hand traced Christmas trees with lots of glitter and glue. They wrote their names on them too! When the elves were asked by a child how to make things, they responded, "any way you want, really, because your way is the most important way of all!"

While Girl Scouts caroled and musical instruments played on stage, suddenly Santa strolled in and 10 little ones dashed over with tremendous excitement to greet him. He

crouched down and opened his arms wide and hugged them all ever so dearly.

He went from table to table showing great interest in each child and greeting all before he went to his special chair on stage where he would greet them one by one with their families. One family of three generations, the Houghton's, posed with Santa to take their special picture! The little ones whispered in his ear the things they wanted under the Christmas tree.

Santa was so strong and so good that it was clear he had great strength and the power to come all the way from the North Pole and do so much on Christmas Eve. His energy was limitless! He did not have a cell phone and seemed to be old fashion in his ways which gave him calmness and poise.

All the families had the most wonderful breakfast and the soft Christmas music helped create smiles and joy. Then, Santa asked everyone, "Can you feel it? It's Christmas time and there's a sense of love everywhere. It's an atmosphere of respect and care that we are experiencing all around us. Can everyone feel it?" His words sounded like poetry



#### Santa holds press conference

After he visited with the children for hours, everyone said their farewells. He then took time with reporters and answered some questions at the microphone. The journalists nodded their heads at each answer and marveled how he spoke his mind so candidly. "Why it is so hard to make fake news because he's so honest and real," they said. One by one they asked the following questions to him.

Santa, what should children be thinking about this time of year?

"Joy and happiness"

How are the reindeer doing?

"They're doing fine and I just polished Rudolf's nose for the trip back to the pole."

We have been told that the elves are a bit mischievous can you elaborate on this?

"They're always playing funny little tricks on everyone, that's for sure, HO, HO, HO."

What do you do to keep them in line so to speak?

Mrs. Claus helps me.

What is your advice to parents Santa?

"Just love and care for your child and watch for safety too."

What about the people in business in our world Santa?

"My advice to them is to remember their employees and if you work for them then they

will work for you so it is always best to treat everyone right. Treat the world as you would your family."

What advice do you have for the children of the world?

"Mainly what I want to see is them to always try to listen to their parents and feel their love and know that they love them too."

Santa can you say a few words about Mrs. Claus?

"Mrs. Claus has always been there to love and support me and bring cheer to the elves. She has had many meetings and allows the elves and reindeer to voice their concerns so everyone works happy at the pole; she's my everything!"

See SANTA, next page



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### **Times Community**



Many people congregated at the Community Center for breakfast. One family of three generations, the **Houghton's**, posed with Santa to take their special picture.



# Santa

Continued from previous page

What do you see in the eyes of the children that run to hug you?

"I see trust and hope and love and sometimes a tiny bit of fear too. I try to let them know they are loved by all."

As Santa was eating his wonderful breakfast, he was seen to pour more maple syrup on his pancakes than most. He told everyone at the Evergreen Community Center that they did a great job putting on the Breakfast with Santa event and he would love to return again next year.

With that, he made his way out to the reindeer and winked at each to let them know the quiet signal that it was time to go.

A large crowd gathered around and he said, "Remember, the Christ Child brings Peace and love to all and this truly is the message of Christmas."

# Reindeer and Santa make a wonderful team

He took off one white glove and licked his pointer finger then put it in the air slightly above his head to determine which way the wind was blowing. After a big smile and a nod he put back on his glove and put his foot on the little step just in front of the sleigh to steady him as he stepped up and sat on the comfortable seat. Mrs. Claus lovingly had sewed two nice cushions to comfort him when the wind came up and the ride got

rough. They had the embroidery of the letter "I," a red heart followed by the capital letter "U."

Then he called out in his wonderful warm booming voice, "Come Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. Away now Rudolf, take us away!

Off they went, just as quick as they had arrived and the reindeer picked up their smooth pace and began to gallop with their legs moving in unison. Santa flicked the top secret toggle switch and the super-secret-silent-eco-rocket booster started to push the sled forward too! He then pulled the reigns back real hard and up they went.

Rudolf led the way. One by one each reindeer followed and up, up, up into the sky they flew while pulling Santa's silver sleigh behind them. All of a sudden, Santa tugged the reigns to the right and caused the reindeer to circle back over the tall trees. He made one last pass and while flying over the crowd in a tilted angle so all could see his face, he said aloud, "Merry Christmas everyone! Stay off the 'naughty list.' I'll be back with presents Christmas Eve! HO, HO, HO!

As the reindeer and Santa flew away one could hear the decreasing sound of the sleigh bells as they went far away into the distance. JING, JING JING, JIng, JIng, Jing, jing, jing, jing,

Editor's Note: Just believe!

#### **Times Features**

# Winter pet care tips

By Dr. Raj Singh

Special to the Times

Tinter is a fabulous time of year. The holidays, cold weather, rain and snow and hopefully Santa, arrive. However, winter brings challenges and potential dangers. Here are some things to think about when preparing for the winter blast.

Cold Temperatures: winter temperatures are colder than those of any other season. Prolonged exposure to icy temperatures causes body tem-

perature to drop, called "hypothermia." People can wear layers of clothes and coats, mittens, boots, hats and scarves to keep themselves warm. Dogs can't do that, nor can they seek out their own shelter from the chill. Pets rely on their owners to keep them safe, warm and dry. All pets should have access to insulated shelter from bad weather.

Wet Weather: Rain, snow, sleet, fog, water and other liquids can dampen a pet's coat. Wet fur loses its insulating properties. The wetter a dog or cat is, the lower its body temperature becomes. Wet dogs/cats should be brought inside and dried off thoroughly. If they are cold, they should be gently warmed.

Coat Care: A pet's coat insulates it against temperature extremes. Owners should groom their dogs regularly during winter, even if they don't seem to be dirty or shedding. Brushing helps keep the coat in tiptop shape, so that it contains as much body heat as possible.

Diet: Frigid weather drains energy reserves. Even though some pets are less active in winter, most need more calories to keep them healthy.

Cars: No pet should be left unat-

tended in a closed car. Dogs left in cars with the windows up and the engine off in cold weather rapidly become hypothermic. If the engine is left on, carbon monoxide build-up can be fatal.

Antifreeze: Even small amounts of antifreeze (ethylene glycol) can kill pets within hours. Antifreeze is increasingly accessible during winter from open containers or puddles from leaky radiators, and dogs enjoy its sweet taste. Ethylene glycol is common in windshield de-icing agents.

Heat Sources: Portable heaters, gas and wood fireplaces, candles and electrical extension cords are used

most frequently during winter. They can cause fires, burns and other injuries and should be kept away from pets.

Paw Care: Paws can get sliced, punctured and abraded by cold surface. The hair between the toes should be trimmed on dogs living in snowy environments. Booties are available to protect dogs from these injuries. Petroleum jelly can be rubbed into the foot pads

to moisturize them.



Your Pet and You By Dr. Raj Singh Veterinarian

## DON'T NEGLECT EXERCISE

Idle time can lead to destructive or nervous behavior due to pent-up energy. Once you've acclimated your dog and prepared for cold weather, continue walking your dog in winter and let him play outside.

Pets are wonderful companions and loving members of the family. Snuggle up and stay warm together this winter, and remember, there's nothing like lots of cuddles to keep the winter blues at bay!

Editor's note: Questions for this column may be directed to Dr. Singh's email address: forpetvet@yahoo.com; or phone 408.270.4600. Aborn Pet Clinic is located at 3286 S White Rd., San Jose, CA 95148.

# **Villages Tennis Club Women host Silver Creek High School tennis champions**

Everyone wins on the tennis courts at The Villages, especially when you are a Silver Creek High School first place BVAL Division champ. On a cool November day, the Village Tennis Club hosted these young women in an annual round-robin match. You can spot the Silver Creek players by their orange outfits and their young faces. The Villages Tennis Club awards yearly scholarships to the school's tennis players. "This gettogether is so much fun," reports Wendy Ferguson, The Villages Tennis Club Scholarship chair, "and the generations mix so easi-



"This get-together is so much fun, and the generations mix so easily."

-Wendy Ferguson



**Board of Trustees** 

Betty A. Martinez, Antonio Perez Jr. Robert Ramirez, Brenda M. Serrano

# Mt. Pleasant School District Board of Trustees Announcement of Vacancy

A vacancy now exists on the Mt. Pleasant School District Board of Trustees due to the election of Board member Peter Ortiz to the Santa Clara County Office of Education Board of Trustees.

The Board has decided to fill the vacancy by provisional appointment until the next regularly scheduled Board election. The term of the appointment is:

# February 2019 to December 2020

Any registered voter eligible to hold public office who lives within the boundaries of the Mt. Pleasant School District may apply for the vacancy. Application packets are available at the District Office (3434 Marten Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148) and on the District's website (http://www.mpesd.org/).

The completed packet and all supporting documentation are to be returned to the Superintendent's office at the above address, or via email to the Superintendent at mengle@mpesd.org , by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2019. The Board will make its selection following the interviews.

For additional information please contact Superintendent Mariann Engle at 408-223-3710.

Administrative Office 3434 Marten Avenue, San Jose CA 95148 Phone (408) 223-3710 Fax (408) 223-3715



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400 W. Campbell Ave Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 378-4418 No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here! We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and Welcome Members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Some of our recent ministries/activities include:

- · Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM that includes communion for
- · Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM. · A Food Pantry serving anvone in need--open T/ Th 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Sat 10:00 AM to
- Noon · Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thoughtprovoking theater productions, informative lectures. and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment.
- · Our facilities also provide rental space for community based groups that promote understanding, wholeness, growth, and education. Some of these include the Old Orchard School, Orchard City Indivisible, AA, etc. Our activities flow from our
- most important values: · Extravagant Joy -
- John 15:9, 11 · Passionate Faith -
- James 2:17 • Loving Respect -
- John 13:34 Deep Connectedness -
- John 15:5
- · Intentional Growth -Acts 2:46-47 · Shared Laughter -
- I Peter 1:8 Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org

or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

#### CONGREGATIONAL **CHURCH OF ALMADEN** VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120, Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243 www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC. Open and Affirming (0&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month. San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday. Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM,

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5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118 408.265.5837 www.bibleroad.org We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying praving and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simpleiust like what one reads about in the New

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in Almaden (ECA), we are iovful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship. study, fellowship 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. All iunior high and senior high students are welcome to particinate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC, The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conver-

# **EVERGREEN VALLEY**

sation.

CHURCH Visit our Web Site at www.evcsj.com 2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121, Phone: 408-274-7422. Saturday worship is at 5 pm. Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11 am.. Excellent contemporary Christian music and Bible-based teaching. Nursery care and Children's Sunday School programs at 9 am and 11 am. Junior High students meet at 9am and High School students meet at 11am. Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en espanol. Domingo 4pm.

#### FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdown

town.com Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both con temporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and longterm, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can

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office at 408-268-0794.

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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

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We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC): Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group

and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road. San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our



website at www.church-

stanthony.com. Fr. Larry

Hendel. Pastor.

God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

#### SAN JOSE GURDWARA

San Jose, CA 95148 The

word Sikh (see-kh) means

3636 Gurdwara Ave

"disciple" or "student " A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Puniab 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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ofassisipreschool.org 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 F.C.H.O.- Jr. High. IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas, Our Chanel, 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 fol-

lowing times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Saturday 5:00PM. Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday11:00AM, 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 the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 . PM: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.250.5242

# The Secret is Out!

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**Times Features** 

# County Of Santa Clara Animal Shelter brings pets home for the holidays

The County of Santa Clara Animal Shelter is hoping to provide a forever home for all pets this season through the Home for the Holidays promotion.

From now through December 31, adoption fees for all animals have been lowered to just \$20 to reach the goal. The adoption fee covers spay/neuter surgery, microchip ID implantation and registration, age-appropriate vaccinations, de-fleaing and de-worming, and FIV/FeLV testing for cats.

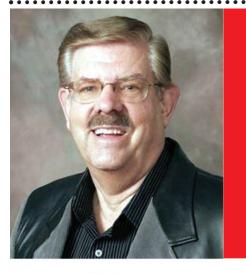
"Our family opened our home to a shelter dog who brought us much joy for 12 years," said Supervisor Mike Wasserman, County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. "We encourage our residents to take advantage of the Home for the Holidays campaign to adopt an animal companion who will bring many years of happiness to their lives."

"We have many wonderful dogs, cats, and rabbits at the Shelter waiting to find their forever homes. There are animals arriving every day and they will make the perfect addition to any family this holiday season," said Lisa Jenkins, Animal Care and Control Program Manager.

The County of Santa Clara Animal Shelter takes in approximately 3,000 dogs and cats annually, in addition to small animals and barnyard pets. The Shelter is the only facility in the county with the capability to house horses and large livestock. It accepts stray animals of all conditions and is proud of its "no-kill" live release rate of almost 93.7%, one of the best rates in the Bay Area. Caring staff and volunteers provide veterinary services, enrichment and affection to shelter pets while they wait to find their forever homes. The Shelter is a member of the WeCARE coalition that promotes life-saving and animal welfare in the community.

The County of Santa Clara Animal Shelter is located at 12370 Murphy Avenue in San Martin, CA, and can be reached at (408) 686-3900 or www.sccountypets.org. Operating hours are Monday through Friday from Noon-6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from Noon-5 p.m. To view animals ready to adopt, the public can visit: https://bit.ly/2wLHvXd.





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Times **Review** 



# **Motortrend Magazine names RAM 1500 2019 Truck of the Year**

otortrend Magazine has named the RAM 1500 2019 Truck of the year.

The magazine stated that the Ford F-Series has been the best-selling pickup for the past four decades, but the new 2019 RAM 1500 "should give pause to prospective Blue Oval loyalists (or buyers of any truck, for that matter) because there isn't a truck out there that so precisely hits the diverse needs of the segment better than the 2019 Ram 1500."

"The fifth-generation Ram 1500 is the latest in a long line of evolutionary leaps for Fiat Chrysler automobiles' bread-and-butter truck. The newest version, more than any other, seems poised to meet the needs of the 21st century truck buyer, with more variety, capability, comfort, convenience, and value than ever before."

The magazine also stated that the new RAM retains its reputation for stylish functionality. "Best-in-class: sophisticated without going over the top," said Motortend editor-in-chief Ed Loh said.

The new RAM 1500 offers buyers a choice of seven grilles and three head- and taillamp designs, allowing consumers more flexibility in creating a certain look with the truck's 15 wheel designs, ranging from an offroad-friendly 18-22 inches; and don't forget selecting choices of

extended or crew cab and bed sizes of either 5-foot-7 or 6-foot-4.

"I love the styling," road test editor Chris Walton said, eyeing the Ram 1500 Rebel. "It's like the Viper of Rams."

"The interior updates, from the volume-grade Big Horn all the way up to the luxurious Limited, are even more impressive. Every Ram cabin has the tools needed for both work and play. The Ram's configurable center console turns the space into an office, with room inside to swallow a bag and laptop, space for your phone and drinks, and a center console lid that can function as a desk."

"When it comes to technology, Ram provides three versions of its Uconnect infotainment system, including a choice of an 8.4-inch or Tesla-like 12.0-inch touchscreen. "The center stack layout is a combination Volvo (screen), Audi (switches), and Jaguar (rotary shifter)," Walton said.

"The clever center console (phone charger/pocket, sliding bins, and side pockets) is something Honda would do. Ram has done its homework on picking the benchmarks for both design and packaging."

RAM 1500 offers an option for roughly 10% better fuel economy and more responsiveness, at little cost.



**Times Feature** 



# The Fireplace of Christmas Past

The old fireplace stands so forlorn Dead coals and ashes lie about The tabby cat no longer yawns Thinking of past mice he had caught!

The old hearth broom, worn to the nubs, Stood idly by where it was placed Where grandma swept up all the mess Produced by children as they played!

Her rocker sways not anymore As she sewed, knitted, or crocheted, Grandpa's easy chair is empty Whittling, watching as he lazed.

We used to think that Santa Claus Came down that old blackened chimney We wondered if his suit was soiled, Next Noel it cleaned up mystically.

No longer snug, no longer swept, It dreams of ghosts of Christmas past The old fireplace sure misses all It thought the warmth would always last.

**By Frank Shortt** *Christmas 2018* 







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Times Feature



Travis Jones, the soul mountain, is the lead singer with a voice for the ages.

# **Foothill Community Concert Series presents The Jones Gang**

oothill Community Concert Series is pleased to present The Jones Gang on Saturday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose. Admission is \$20.00 advance / \$22.50 door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Admission includes a post-concert reception with a chance to meet the

The Jones Gang (formerly Houston Jones) is like a VW van with 310,000 miles rolling out of the shop, here we are, still trucking, with some new artist surprises and groove. A collection of misfits and malcontents who, like a Hippy transformer, assemble into something much greater than the sum of its parts. An insane collection of rock, funk (Motown and Louisiana), gospel, blues, folk and country. experience that spans from the Beau Brummels to Oral Roberts, with detours into Johnny Adams and Peter Rowan, the band covers a musical history the size of the USA, all this and more in a tight and soulful style. The gang can move seamlessly from a murder ballad to a New Orleans rhumba, first breaking your heart and then making you glad you're alive.

Travis Jones, the soul mountain, is the lead singer with a voice for the ages. Henry Salvia, the motor city misfit, plays more notes than exist on the piano. Josh Zucker is the strong and solid base and bass of the band, and Peter Tucker, is of course the best Peter-Tucker-style drummer in the world, and the only drummer officially approved by the Northern California Bluegrass soci-

Tickets are available at the door, or online at http://www.foothillpc.org/fccs. Online tickets are available up to 48 hours prior to concert start. Tickets purchased online will be waiting for you at the door.

# **HOLIDAY RECIPE Roasted Grape Gastrique**

### **Roasted Grapes:**

- 4 cups assorted grapes (picked, washed and dried)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cinnamon stick
- nonstick cooking spray Gastrique:
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with 4 tablespoons water

To make Roasted Grapes: Heat oven to 350 F. In bowl, combine grapes, olive oil, salt, pepper and



ing sheet with nonstick cooking spray. Pour grape mixture onto baking sheet. Bake 15 minutes. Remove from oven and pour into bowl.

To make Gastrique: In small saucepan, combine water and sugar. Bring to boil over mediumhigh heat, 5-7 minutes, until sugar starts to brown. Remove from heat and slowly add vinegar. Return to heat and stir until combined. Add cornstarch and water mixture; bring to boil. Remove from heat. Pour Gastrique mixture over Roasted Grapes. cinnamon stick. Lightly spray bak- | #14477 Source: Omaha Steaks

**Times Community** 

# A host's guide to creating successful and fun holiday gatherings

(Family Features) Gearing | matter how far in advance up for a big crowd at your holiday festivities can provide moments of excitement, stress, fun and plenty of other emotions as the big dinner draws near. This year, avoid any nagging feelings of doubt with this step-by-step guide to prepare for large gatherings.

Plan in advance. Even if you're typically the lastminute type, the hectic holiday season is no time to wait until a few days ahead of the celebration to throw meals and more together. Instead, be sure to put together a guest list and send invites at least a few weeks out. Take inventory of supplies like silverware, plates, serving dishes and any accessories you'd like to feature at the table. Make an outline of the food each guest is bringing, or, if you'll supply all the food, ensure there will be plenty for everyone - don't forget to take into account special diets or allergies.

Make a list. Planning only takes you so far if you don't write everything down. Once the menu is determined, list out what you'll need to make the magic happen. Don't forget to jot down easily overlooked items that can be picked up the day of, such as

Remember to thaw. One surefire way to make the big day a big disaster is to forget to thaw your main course. If you're planning to roast a turkey - perhaps the most centerpiece common remember it takes around a day to thaw for every two pounds of meat. So, for example, it could take close to a week for a 14-pound turkey to fully thaw prior to cooking.

Prep the day before. There are many tasks (big and small) that can be taken care of the day before guests arrive, making the holiday less stressful for hosts. From whipping up simple appetizers like dips to giving the house a thorough cleaning, there's plenty of pressure that can be taken off your shoulders 24 hours in advance. If you really want to make the big day a breeze, consider cooking your main dish, slicing the meat and placing it in reheating pans one day prior.

Create a schedule. No

you plan or how much prep you complete prior to the festivities, there will always be day-of work to be done. With

guests coming in and out, it | can be helpful to lay out what's known as a "fire list," which details times chronologically for when things need

oven to warm the turkey or simply remembering to lay out dessert following the tips and meal solutions at omahasteaks.com.

#14477 Source: Omaha

# **Evergreen Real Estate Directory**

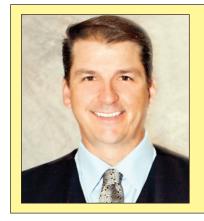
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# Evergreen Areal Meetings ( )

#### Adlibmasters Toastmasters Club

A group dedicated to helping develop communication and leadership skills. The group meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 5:15 - 7 p.m. at HGST, a Western Digital Co. and the second and fourth Tuesdays from 12 - 1 p.m. at IBM. For more information, go to www.adlibmasters.org or call Lorraine Myers at 1(408) 717-5552 weekdays or 1(408) 238-4580 weekends.

# District 8 Community Roundtable

1st Thursday of every month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Location: Village Square" library (For information, visit d8crt.org)

# CalRTA-Area V-Div. 70 Retired Teachers Organization. Meets

bi-monthly at various eastside cafes also conducts a variety of holiday socials/activities and scholarship fundraisers.
Established in 1983! All teaching levels and others welcome. This organization supports the goals and purposes of the California Teachers' Retirement System.

For more information call E. Paros at (408) 274-1609 or email parosej@ sbcglobal.net. East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the ESUHSD Education Center, 830 N. Capitol Ave. 347-5000. Check the web site for agendas and updates: www.esuhsd.org

# **The Evergreen Al-Anon meetings** held at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Church on Thursdays at 7 p.m. have been cancelled indefinitely due to lack of attendance.

# The Evergreen Business Association is a networking

group for business owners who live and work in the Evergreen and nearby areas. The purpose of the Evergreen Business Association is to develop and foster connections and to provide a forum for members to share knowledge, promote growth opportunities, and encourage referrals. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 am at the Evergreen Village Square Library, 4035 Evergreen Village Square,

San Jose. We also meet at Evergreen Coffee Company on the 4th Friday of the month for a more informal session at noon. Evergreen Coffee Company is also located at Evergreen Village Square. For more information, please refer to our website at www.ebagroup.org.

# **Evergreen-East Valley Realtors Marketing Meeting**

Meets each Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The EEVRMM invites realtors, brokers, lenders and related affiliates to its breakfast meeting. Market your listings, match buyers with sellers and share real estate success stories. Meetings are held at New Seasons 5667 Silver Creek Valley Rd San Jose Ca 95138. \$3 admission, coffee and pastries included. For more information, call David Castillo at 238-2000.

# **Evergreen School District Board of Trustees**

Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of every month, in the district boardroom at 3188 Quimby Road. For more information, call (408) 270-6800.

# The Evergreen Senior Advisory Council meets the third

Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Get involved in helping plan events for seniors, volunteering for a good cause, and getting to know your fellow seniors. For more information, call the Evergreen Community Center at (408) 270-2220.

## **Evergreen Valley Garden Club**

Meeting at the SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING CENTER, 4855 San Felipe Road (across from McDonalds). Meetings will be on the 2nd. Wednesday of the month, from 3:15-4:15 EVGC (No meetings in July or August) Membership is \$20/year or \$30 for couples. For further information, please feel free to contact Susie Henderson: susiehenderson@sbcglobal.net or (408)532-6602

#### **Evergreen Valley High School Athletic Booster Club** meets every second Wednesday of the

every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the school's administration office.

# **Evergreen Valley High School Site Council**

Meets the first Wednesday of every month on the EVHS campus in the administration building D, 3300 Quimby Rd., San Jose. Confirm meetings by visiting the school's web site,

http://ev.ca.campusgrid. net/home and clicking on school site council in the left hand toolbar or calling the school at (408) 347-7000.

# Evergreen Valley Service Organization

For more information, call (408) 274-6756.

#### Falls Creek Neighborhood Association

Homeowners from the Madison and Pulte area developments are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings. For more information go to the Web at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fallscreekneighbors or call Dave Zenker at (408) 238-2591.

### The Evergreen Community

Center offers a variety of classes and special events, for kids, adults, and seniors. For more information on our activities visit: www.sanjoseca.gov/ prns. The Senior Nutrition program serves a delicious and well balanced meal to seniors 60 and over every Monday – Friday at noon. The suggested donation is \$3 per person. Please make reservations at least one day in advance by calling (408) 270-1244. The center is located at 4860 San Felipe Road.

# Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in Group Study Room

Friends of Evergreen Library

A at the Evergreen Branch Library, 2635 Aborn Road, San Jose. Visit their website at friendsofevergreenlibrary. org or call 408-808-3060 for more information.

#### **Hidden Glen Community**

To join a neighborhood discussion egroup, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
HiddenGlenSanJose/
The Kiwanis meet regularly
every 4th Tuesday of the month
at the Red Lobster (12:00 noon).
For more information, please
contact: President of Kiwanis
East San Jose Mr. Bud
Lomonaco, Phone: (408) 9037526

#### LeyVa Community Action Team Association

This group is bounded by Barberry Lane and Monrovia Drive, Capitol Expressway, Aborn Road, and South King Road. For meeting time and location, please contact the association at (408) 795-5855.

#### Lions Club - San Jose East Valley

This local Lions group meets at the Red Lobster restaurant on Capitol at Aborn on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Dinner and fellowship start at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. Since we often meet at other places, attendees should contact Gayle Kludt at 408 531 1063 to confirm location. Guests are always welcome.

**McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Assoc.** Meets second Thursday at 7 p.m. at Tully Library. 365-1300.

### Meadowfair Neighborhood

Association meets the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 7 p.m. at Meadowfair Center, 2696 King Rd. For more information, call 539-2308.

#### Reid - Hillview Airport Association

3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hillview Airport Terminal. (For information, call (408) 251-4939 or visit rhvaa.org)

Rotary Club of San Jose East/Evergreen meets every Thursday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Drying Shed Restaurant, 402 Toyon Ave., San Jose. (408) 270-0557.

#### Story Road Business Association

Meets third Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Prusch Park, South King Road at Story. For more information, call 238-5422.

#### San Jose/Evergreen Community College District Board

Normally meets second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Meetings in the District Office, Board Room, 40 S. Market St., San Jose, CA 95113.

#### San Pedro Squares

Toastmasters Club meets every Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Jimmy's Restaurant, 222 W. Capitol Expressway in San Jose. Contact Barbara at 373-2815, or email barbaramcchesney @sbcglobal.net for further information, or check out the website at http://www.sanpedrosquares. freetoasthost.org.

#### Silver Creek (PTSA) Parent, Teacher, Student Association

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday in the Silver Creek High School Principal's Conference Room, 3434 Silver Creek Road. For more information, call 347-5830.

Silver Creek School Site Council Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in room V-1

#### Silver Oak Educational Partnership

The Silver Oak Educational Partnership is now called the Silver Oak Elementary PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). New meeting schedule will be posted soon.

#### Tully Ocala Capitol King Neighborhood Association

1st Monday of every other month from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Location: Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley - Smythe Clubhouse

#### West Evergreen Neighborhood Assn

This group represents the area bounded approximately by Flanigan Drive, South King Road, Aborn Road, and Alvin Avenue. Meets the third Tuesday at O.B. Whaley Elementary School, 2655 Alvin Ave., 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact the association at 535-8613.

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\*earlybird games; regular bingo begins at 1:15pm

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