

Pioneer principal  
Herb Espiritu  
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**Housing controversy**  
District 15 Senate candidates differ  
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6th Annual Family  
Fun Festival and  
Fireworks Show  
seeking volunteers  
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# Almaden Times

JUNE 14–JUNE 27, 2019 ■ VOL. 32, NO. 13

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## Santa Clara County lawmakers make no changes to ICE detainer policy

By Nadia Lopez  
*Special to the Times*

**A**nail-biting 56 days have passed since the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to explore changes to the county's sanctuary city policy, but on Tuesday, June 4, it voted unanimously against a notification policy preventing law enforcement from cooperating with ICE officials.

Emotions ran high among the public at April's grueling and nearly eight-hour long meeting that divided lawmakers on the policy following the brutal stabbing of Bambi Larson, a woman who was killed by an undocumented immigrant in her home. At the time, just one lawmaker — Supervisor Susan Ellenberg — voted in favor of no changes to the policy.

Similarly, on Tuesday, a large turnout of impassioned speakers expressed their concern over changing the policy and Supervisor Mike Wasserman — in a stunning turnaround — changed his mind on his initial call for the county to establish a notification policy that would alert ICE officials when an individual was being held in custody.

"After much investigation and research, our County Counsel, law enforcement, D.A., public defender and numerous immigrant rights organizations have proven that there is no practical and legal way of knowing if a person within our custody is truly undocumented," said Wasserman. "For that reason, I withdraw my suggestion of notifying ICE."

Supervisors Dave Cortese and Cindy Chavez followed suit, while Ellenberg said in a statement that her position remained unchanged. President Joe Simitian voted alongside his colleagues, but expressed support for cooperating

*See ICE, page 8*

## Charter schools remain controversial

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*Senior Staff Writer*

**C**harter schools remain highly controversial. Some see them as offering additional creativity and flexibility. Others contend that they're not held accountable and their test scores are skewed.

"I don't know where the concept comes from that there's no accountability for charter schools," says Janine Ramirez, Bay Area Regional Director, California Charter Schools Association (CCSA). "They're able to have more flexibility in the classroom but that came at the cost of higher accountability."

"Over 100 researchers from California Alliance of Researchers for Equity in Education called for a halt in the use of charter school test scores as they're not validated," says Dr. Roxana Marachi,



**Janine Ramirez**, Regional Director Bay Area, Calif. Charter School Assoc., believes every student is entitled to a quality education.

Associate Professor of Education, San Jose State University. "There are serious problems with them. What happens is the recruitment of higher-achieving students to give an edge on test scores."



**Barbara Vella Eagle**, Founder and Director of Discovery Charter Schools, advocates the advantage of flexibility in the classrooms.

Marachi says that a Rocketship charter school raved about their test scores to the State Board of Education, but it turns out that the school actually exacerbated the achievement gap between

students (see information online: <https://eduresearcher.com>).

"We hear a lot about the good stuff and there's a ton of good stuff," Marachi says. "One in five charter schools are awesome, but what we don't hear enough about are those doing much worse or no better than traditional public schools. It's a gamble."

Every five years, California charter schools must show their authorizing school district that they are fiscally sound and providing a quality education in order to be renewed. If the district does not feel they have proven this sufficiently, it has the option to close the school.

By law, charter schools in the state of California are public and free to attend. Teachers of charter schools are required to have the same credentials as teachers

*See CHARTER, page 18*

## Will Laura's Law help mentally ill residents in Santa Clara County?

*"They're not able to help themselves." – Johnny Khamis*

By Nadia Lopez  
*Special to the Times*

**I**t's been almost 20 years since Laura Wilcox, a 19-year-old volunteer at a mental health clinic in Northern California, was shot and killed by a mentally ill man who refused treatment.

A year later in 2002, California passed "Laura's Law", an assisted outpatient treatment program that gives counties the ability to mandate that severely mentally ill people undergo treatment.

The law, which allows a court to compel services to a mentally unstable person or a person who refuses treatment, only applies to a specific group of people who have formerly been hospitalized or incarcerated as a result of their mental illness. These indi-



Laura's Law, which allows a court to compel services to a mentally unstable person or a person who refuses treatment, only applies to a specific group of people who have formerly been hospitalized or incarcerated as a result of their mental illness.

viduals must meet specific requirements that include recent hospitalizations within the last 36 months, demonstrated violent behavior towards themselves or others, repeatedly refused treatment, or is in a "substantially deteriorating" state. Concerned family members and caregivers can also request

that an individual be referred to an assisted outpatient treatment program.

Since its inception, the law has been implemented in only 20 out of 58 counties, but the process to adopt the law has been slow due to a lack of funding and the legislation's

*See LAURA'S LAW, page 10*

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## This Week:

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**Ohio: Molly Cuevas completes day 74 of her 3,000 mile run across America: PAGE 12**

### NEWS

**Art and Wine Festival sponsorship deadline: July 14: PAGE 12**

### ACCOLADES

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### COMMUNITY

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**AlmadenTimes**

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# Valley Currents

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

## Pioneer High School principal Herb Espiritu Awarded District's Administrator of the Year

By Jane Johnson  
*Special to the Times*

Sitting across the table from his mom and assembled school officials, then younger fiery Herb Espiritu was faced with a choice: continue on the current path of suspension from schools for fighting, or carve a new path and make something of himself.

His mom couldn't attend his games or go to his school to advocate for him, so it was up to him to make it happen. Reflecting on his predicament, he made the mature choice; he turned his life around.

One can sense there's a deeper motivation that drives Principal Espiritu. Born and raised in the Philippines as the sixth of seven children, his parents emigrated to the U.S. taking in tow only four of his eldest siblings and leaving he and his two sisters behind to be raised by an extended family.

When Espiritu, a fourth grader, was finally brought to the U.S., his family sheltered in a traditional Philippine community way: one extended family member helped with the housework until all the other family members were able to get jobs of their own. Soon after, his Dad returned to the Philippines to stay, leaving his Mom to work three jobs just to stay afloat in supporting all of them.

Drifting across six schools and seven homes in just four years, he now claims himself the fortunate recipient of his older siblings' work contributions, as their family finally landed in a stable home for the remainder of his high school years. But during that time, the emotions of anger, hurt, and abandonment, and the bullying for his lack of English language skills or American cultural awareness turned him into a physical fighter to cope with the negative bag of emotions. He now reflects tongue-in-cheek "I sometimes can't believe I'm a Principal as I used to be the one to get kicked out of schools."

"You can either help a situation at home or hurt it - what I was doing at home up to that point was hurting it," Espiritu explained. "I decided to help the situation and I not only helped myself but helped my family's situation," Espiritu reflected. "Some kids who come to me now are 13 or 14 and say 'what can I do?' But they can do a lot. If kids are doing well it helps the whole situation. Kids have more power and influence than they think." The then sophomore switched schools and started anew, realizing it might be his last opportunity to make the most of it.

"Although teachers all along the way up to that time were doing and saying the right things, I just wasn't ready to hear them," Espiritu shared. "Until that day I had to choose forward. I take that lesson in today's environment and advise my own



Herb Espiritu. Photo credit Elizabeth Sinclair

teachers not to give up on any student - that what they're saying is being heard even if they're not yet seeing results. And I apply it to my students by first trying not to judge them and sharing that you can recover from any mistake. When kids make mistakes I tell them "This doesn't define you - you

can change the narratives - it's how you learn from the mistake that will ultimately define who you are and your success.' As educators especially in a secondary public school setting we tell our students 'Make the mistake, learn from it, that's why we're here, to support you.' Our hope is that you learn from it so it's not something that's going to continue to happen." After all he went through, the mistakes he made and the difficulty starting here in this country, he rose above and changed himself, his family of origin and his nuclear family: "I'm now a positive example and I'm proud of that."

### Costco run

"I tell all the educators I work with: Students are coming in with all the things they're having to deal with personally as well as their family," explained Espiritu. "I always use Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. When you think of trauma for kids - when they don't even have the basic necessities of living like shelter, food, support - it's hard for them to focus in school. Having experienced that myself - not knowing whether we were going to stay in a house for any length of time - I experienced that. I knew when my Mom got her paycheck because she'd bring home a huge Costco run. I always got excited about Costco because I knew we'd have food for a couple of days. So when educators come to me concerned that a specific student doesn't understand something in school, or

*See ESPIRITU, page 16*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Heart of the Park volunteers lauded

Dear editor,

It takes a mountain of volunteers to hold a community event in an Almaden neighborhood park.

May 18th the Martin-Fontana Parks Association held its ninth annual "Heart of the Park" celebration and fundraiser in Jeffrey Fontana Park. We thank the many volunteers who spent the day putting up canopies, arranging tables, and hosting our community informational groups. Along with a shout out to all our volunteers, we especially thank Councilmember Johnny Khamis, and his Park Relations staff member, Michele Dexter, for

their input and help over the years.

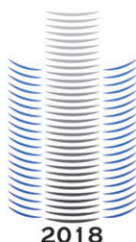
Since taking office in 2012 they have worked to support our efforts to save trees from PG&E's efforts to remove them, and promote our nonprofit's efforts to improve TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks with drought tolerant gardens. Michele has attended MFPA Board meetings to liaison between our group and the City Council, helping to bring city wide improvements in park management and maintenance. Councilman Khamis's office has helped fund our Heart of the Park annually with SAP Grants to bring community and neighborhood groups together. Michele has been our link to other Almaden groups and was instrumental in the successful Beautility Art Project that transformed the grey concrete water vaults into works of art throughout the parks.

One of the Councilman's most lasting legacies may be his actions on behalf of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, our sister park bordering Jeffrey Fontana park. This natural oak preserve needed an updated care plan including fire

*See LETTER, page 10*

## LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to [editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com) or mail to: Almaden Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124



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(i) Schwab US Broad Market ETF (SCHB) return from January 1, 2019 thru May 28, 2019.



**sean@hathawayfinancial.com**  
**www.HathawayFinancial.com**

Sean and his family have lived in Almaden for 10 years. He has an MBA from Berkeley, is a CPA and has over 20 years of finance experience. Prior to starting Hathaway Financial he led the Global Treasury team at Netflix charged with forecasting and managing Cash, Investments, Insurance and Risk Management. He also chaired the 401k committee and administered the Stock Plan and all employee benefit programs.

# The Senior Association Mexican Fiesta

**Saturday, June 22, 2019**

**1:00-3:00 pm**

**Menu to include:**

**Build your own tacos, tostadas and fajitas.**

**Spanish rice, corn, green salad,**

**macaroni salad, fruit salad,**

**margaritas and dessert.**

**Served buffet style.**

**Entertainment by:**

**Los Lupenos de San Jose Folklorico dancers.**

**Price: \$14.00 members, \$17.00 non-members.**

**Tickets on sale beginning Monday, June 3rd,**

**M, W, F 8:40-10:00 am in the ACC lobby.**

**Please bring your membership card.**

**Call 408 268-1133 for more information.**

## 6th Annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show seeking volunteers

By **Johnny Khamis**

*Special to the Times*

It's that time of year again where we are getting ready for the 6th Annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show! It's a big production to put on, and we need your help! There are two ways that you and your family can assist:

### 1. Volunteer!

We have many wonderful volunteer opportunities! We need help the evening of July 3rd for initial set up, on July 4th with event-day duties and tear-down immediately following the fireworks show, and the morning of July 5th for a clean-up of Almaden Lake Park.

Volunteering is a great way for students, scouts, and others to earn community service credit, a wonderful opportunity for families to volunteer together, and for anyone to give back to the community.

Please contact Denelle Fedor via email at [denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov) or by phone at 408-535-4993 to register to volunteer. The deadline to register is Friday, June 21st. All volunteers must sign a liability waiver. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian will need to sign a liability form for you. All volunteers must sign a liability form.

You are free to volunteer as much or as little as works for you. For example, if the volunteer time needed is 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, list the hours within this timeframe you are available (the entire time, part of the time, etc.) and/or, if want to help set up on July 3rd, volunteer on July 4th and clean up on July 5th, that is OK too!

Please be sure to volunteer ON OR BEFORE JUNE 21st - more details on volunteer opportunities below!

### 2. Donate!

As you may know, this event is paid for by private donations, we do not use any City of San Jose general fund monies for this event. Our costs are a bit higher this year so we could use your help with a tax-deductible donation!

(1) Donate online by going to the Almaden Valley Women's Club website: [www.almadenwomen.org/gallery](http://www.almadenwomen.org/gallery)

Then go to the top and click on AVWC, then scroll down and you will see a link to donate to the July 4th event

(2) Donate by writing a check to the Almaden Valley Women's Club

Send your check to:

City of San Jose/District 10

ATTN: Denelle Fedor

200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

**Details on Volunteer Opportunities  
Wednesday, July 3rd**

(1) Event Set Up 7:30 PM to 8:30/45 PM (at Almaden Lake-Winfield Side Parking Lot)

Volunteers needed to help fill up sand bags, set up and secure tables, tents.

### Thursday, July 4th

(1) Event Decoration Set Up 8:30/9:00 am to 11:30 am (at Almaden Lake-Winfield Side Parking Lot)

Volunteers needed to cover tables in festival area, put up decorations, put up remaining signage and set up a few booths and possibly misc. needs.

(2) Letters to the Soldiers Table (1:00 PM until 8:45 PM) (at Almaden Lake-Winfield Side Parking Lot) We set up tables with stationery, envelopes, crayons, and other items

for folks to write letters to our active military soldiers. Volunteers are needed to oversee the tables, ensure tables stay clean and organized, assist children and families with questions, and provide a positive and fun environment.

(3) Selling Beverages (3:00 PM to 8:00 PM) (at Almaden Lake-Winfield Side Parking Lot) We need numerous volunteers to help sell beverages. This is a fun activity for a family to do together, siblings, parent/child, etc.

(4) 9:30 PM (or immediately after the fireworks end) We need 3 volunteers (must be 18 years old or older or partnered with an adult) to turn on 3 lights stationed in 3 separate areas of the park IMMEDIATELY after the fireworks.

(5) Festival Area (Immediately after the fireworks) (at Almaden Lake-Winfield Side Parking Lot) We need help taking down the tents, tables, chairs, etc., after the event is over. With enough help, this will only take about 30 minutes or less.

(6) Misc. help (2:00 PM to 8:45 PM) If you



**District 10  
Report**

**Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember**



do not see an area where you feel you could help out, but you want to help, no worries, we can find a job for you. Please contact Denelle Fedor [Denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov) to discuss other opportunities.

### Friday, July 5th

Park Clean Up (8:00 AM to 1:00 PM) (Meet @Almaden Lake-Winfield Side Parking Lot) Please bring gloves, wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Bags, litter sticks, vests and any other items needed to pick up garbage will be provided. We have coffee, juice, and breakfast items upon your arrival.

Please contact Event Manager Denelle Fedor with any questions you may have by email [denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov) or by phone at 408-535-4993.



# Happy Father's Day

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**-Wade Boggs**



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## Times Community

### ICE

*Continued from page 1*

with immigration officials when “someone is in the country unlawfully and has committed a serious or violent felony.”

“I want to re-iterate that our immigration system is fundamentally broken in this country. No one has to persuade me that ICE is an agency and entity that all too often is a bad actor,” said Simitian. “It’s important that we agree that for the most part we don’t want our county government to be working hand and glove with immigration officials. The question is— should there ever be an exception to that policy?”

In an extensive staff report, the county’s executive and counsel recommended against making changes that would allow law enforcement and county officials to cooperate with or notify ICE, highlighting key reasons that influenced the decision.

The report’s policy recommendations weighed how the history of anti-immigrant sentiment has created hostility towards immigrant communities, the Trump administration’s “harmful” policies on immigration, the county’s leadership in welcoming immigrants into the community and skepticism behind working with a “dysfunctional” institution such as ICE.

Instead, County Executive Jeff Smith recommended abiding with California’s Senate Bill 54, which prevents law enforcement officials from honoring ICE civil detainer

requests, but complies with judicial warrants. The law also says employees cannot cooperate with ICE, law enforcement officials may not attempt to enforce immigration law, ask individuals about their immigration status or collect data on that status.

“We believe it is inadvisable to provide for any special collaboration with ICE outside of a judicial warrant process, particularly in light of ICE’s unlawful immigration enforcement practices, the likelihood of reducing immigrants’ willingness to access important County services, the complexity associated with determining what is a serious or violent felony conviction, and the fact that the County would have to rely on and could be subject to liability as a result of ICE’s questionable and/or unlawful practices,” said the report.

The decision sparked widespread cheers and applause from members in the audience, some of whom hosted a community rally outside the board’s chambers earlier that day.

“We made a really big, hard grassroots effort to get people out,” said Nicholas Hurley, a member of the group Showing Up for Racial Justice at Sacred Heart Community Service. “When the final vote came in today there was a big smile on my face. Cooperating with an agency that rips families apart not just at the border but even here in San Jose, is not the right thing to do.”

Ellenberg said she was proud to have her colleagues’ support, calling the vote Tues-

day an issue of “equal justice.”

“We must separate issues of immigration status from administration of our criminal justice system and today’s decision strengthens and clarified that separation,” added Ellenberg.

But some county leaders pushed back, calling for stronger public safety measures.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen interrupted public comment to speak, advocating for a “middle” option that would consider a notification policy, insisting that his office would help protect immigrants from deportation if they spoke up about a crime. Rosen said he’s fought to implement a notification policy since he took office eight years ago, following several incidents involving undocumented immigrants committing crimes.

“If you are a dangerous criminal — undocumented or not — then we don’t want you here anymore. That’s not politics, that’s protection and protection is our job,” said Rosen. “This new policy that I’m proposing is not for Bambi Larson. This amended policy is for the woman walking alone from a bus stop on the East Side of San Jose, it’s for Cupertino kids crossing the street to get to school, it’s for the Gilroy grandmother who locks herself in for the night. It’s for those who speak English as their first language and for those who don’t speak English at all. Our responsibility is to all of them.”

Contact Nadia Lopez at [nadia@sanjos-spotlight.com](mailto:nadia@sanjos-spotlight.com) or follow @n\_lopez on Twitter. Article courtesy of San José Spotlight.



### Carissa MacDonald graduates with distinguished academic achievement

Carissa MacDonald graduating with distinguished academic achievement from Pioneer High School at an awards banquet on May 30.

MacDonald, 17, will play volleyball at UC Irvine in the Fall.

Her club team Vision finished tied for 13th at Nationals in Dallas and she was outside hitter. She received MVP honors in her league which they won by beating Leland the last game of league season.

Kendra MacDonald was a starting outside hitter at Mitty as a Freshman and led the team in kills. They made the NorCal D1 championship game but lost to Bishop O’ Dowd.



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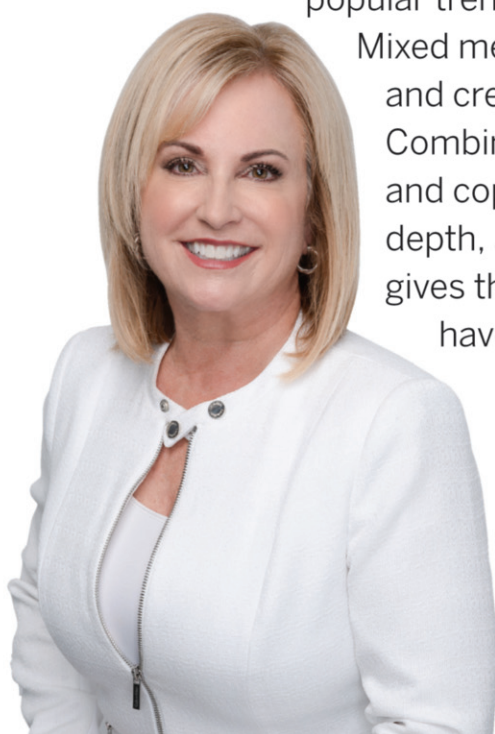
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Mixing metals in interior design decoration is a popular trend that continues to grow!

Mixed metals have great appeal and create a looking fresh. Combining silver, brass, bronze, and copper creates contrast, depth, and visual interest and gives the impression that pieces have been collected over the years. There are some key elements to help determine how to mix metals successfully.

Find more information at my blog:

**[amccafferty.com/blog](http://amccafferty.com/blog)**



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## Laura's Law

*Continued from page 1*

contentious nature. Santa Clara County is one of a handful of large California counties without the law — neighboring counties such as Alameda and Contra Costa have implemented the law, as have Southern California counties such as Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties.

Mental health advocates and government officials are split on the law's effectiveness — supporters say that the law creates the necessary pathways to get people treated, while opponents argue that it infringes on people's civil liberties without addressing bigger problems, such as the housing crisis and a lack of accessible resources.

But in a county that lacks widespread mental health services and closed its only psychiatric hospital, some lawmakers say it's Laura's Law or nothing — and people need help now.

"We hear the same stories all of the time. People need access to the system and getting help sooner rather than later, and there should be more ways that people can enter the system," said Councilmember – District 10 Johnny Khamis, who's advocated for the measure since San Jose Police Officer Michael Johnson was killed in 2015 by a suicidal man with a gun. "There's always room for improvement."

According to Khamis, the neighboring counties that have implemented the law have seen positive results.

"Every county where it is being used, it's had a good effect. If you look at San Francisco, they use it sparingly with people who have run in with the law multiple times. They're saving a lot of money — more than \$100,000 a month on about 100 or so people."

A new report on the program in San Francisco shows that the city and county saved more than \$400,000 a month in city services — an 83 percent decrease — and at least 66 percent of the participants voluntarily stayed in treatment programs. About 54 percent of the participants achieved "positive status outcomes" through successful treatment and discharge, the report said. So far, there have been 129 participants in the program since it launched in Nov. 2015.

"It's been tried, tested, and it's been working, so why wouldn't we want to use something that's working?" added Khamis. "If we're going to get serious about helping the homeless, this will help take care of a small section— one that's the hardest to take care of. I don't know why we wouldn't look at every tool possible."

### Nonprofit leaders weigh in

While the National Alliance on Mental Health — or NAMI — has not taken a position on the controversial law, local leaders say it could be a promising way to get severely mentally ill people off the streets and into treatment programs.

"From what we hear, it is very cost-effective and more importantly it engages people in treatment," said Kathy Forward executive director of Santa Clara County's NAMI. "It's not punitive at all — it's a very engaging process. (It helps people) so that they don't have to keep going in and out of jails and hospitals. It's not about forced medication, but it's about engaging the person to be involved in their life and getting help."

Still, many Santa Clara County leaders aren't convinced that the law is a "cure-all" solution to the county's mental health services, especially since Santa Clara County is working to open more mental health clinics and hire providers.

"Trying to push people to assisted outpatient treatment only works if you have the services and are prepared to deliver them. Do we have the services and are we prepared to deliver them? That's what I'm focused on right now," said Board of Supervisors President Joe Simitian.

Simitian said he was in the state Legislature when the law passed and initially supported it because it allowed local counties to exercise their own judgement and didn't force required medication.

But now Simitian said the law only helps a relatively small number of people and he's concerned about "civil liberties and due process issues."

### If not Laura's Law, then what else?

Since Santa Clara County is hesitant to pilot the law, Simitian and other lawmakers have focused their efforts on rolling out new mental health services and initiatives, though those initiatives are competing for public dollars from housing, homelessness and other social services the county provides.

Simitian pointed to several initiatives to bolster the county's behavioral health care services, including a "user-driven" Headspace program intended to provide vital mental health services to youth with mild to moderate mental health problems.

Simitian added that the county is securing beds for youth who are experiencing psychiatric crisis with plans to construct a Child and Adolescent Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Facility at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose. Both plans aim to provide better access to care and services, he added.

*See LAURA'S LAW, page 12*

## Letter

*Continued from page 4*

prevention, promotion of native plant and tree growth, and reducing invasive plant species. Johnny funded a study of the park, then provided the funding for a management team to come up with a three year plan to care for this neglected area. Now we have sheep and goats grazing periodically to reduce fire hazard and some invasive plants. This also promotes growth of

native flowers and trees. Friends of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park have planted native Valley and Blue Oaks from the acorns and saplings in the grove. The interest and action of our Councilman's D-10 office and staff has not only helped our Association's work in the parks, it has improved a natural wonder in our City, Guadalupe Oak Grove Park.

**Linda Wilson**

*President, Martin-Fontana  
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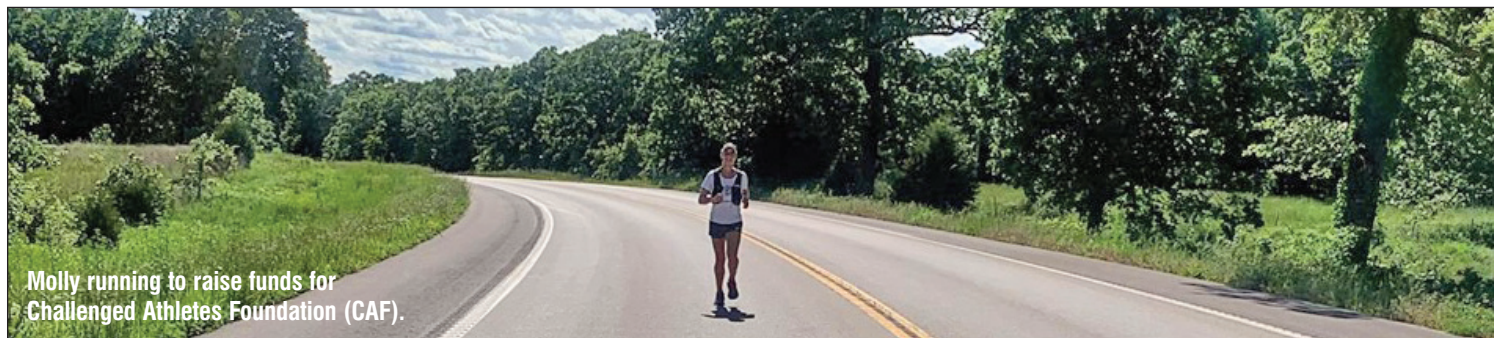
LAURA



HANNAH



MARIA



Molly running to raise funds for Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF).

## Molly Cuevas completes day 74 of her 3,000 mile run across America

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Molly Cuevas, of Almaden Valley, has completed the 74th day of her 3,000 mile, three-month cross-country trek from California to New York and just crossed from Ohio into Pennsylvania.

Molly is running across the United States from Santa Monica to Montauk, N.Y. to raise funds and awareness for the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF), a nonprofit based in California that provides opportunities and support for athletes who face physical challenges.

Molly has run across 10 states so far: California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

"The Midwest has been up and down weather-wise," Cuevas said. "There's been a crazy amount of rain and so much flooding. Been through a lot and I just have a little bit more to go," Cuevas said. "So close, yet so far."

The Mississippi River was near its crest due to heavy rains in Illinois. The bridge over the Mississippi was at risk of being shut down as the flood waters continued to rise. "A police officer that had been seeing us for the past couple of days was waiting at the bridge for us, Milly said. "The officer closed the bridge on the Missouri side and allowed us to cross into Illinois." Luckily for Molly she crossed the bridge when she did, because the water level caused the bridge to shut down.

### Visits NCAA headquarters

Molly visited National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Headquarters in Indianapolis where she met with CAF Athlete Landis Sims and his mother Amanda. "Landis is an incredible athlete. He's 13-years-old and was born without hands and legs. He still plays basketball and



Molly Cuevas and Landis Sims at NCAA Headquarters.

baseball and excels at those two sports," Cuevas said. Cuevas and Sims toured the NCAA Headquarters and had some fun with various games on site, boosted Cuevas' spirits with less than a month to go on her fantastic journey across the United States, which is expected to end June 29.

So far Cuevas has raised close to \$30,000. "We have another month to try and get that up to our goal of \$50,000, so please consider donating. Thank you to everyone that has been following along my journey," Cuevas said. "I'm in the home stretch right now and your support has really helped me get to this point."

### Challenged Athletes Foundation

Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) provides opportunities and support to people with physical challenges, so they can pursue an active lifestyle through physical activity and competitive athletics. In 2017, CAF distributed 2,448 grants across 43 countries. The youngest grantee was five years old, and the oldest was 83.

### About Molly Cuevas

Molly attended Silver Oak Elementary School and Chaboya Middle School in Evergreen. She graduated from Leland High School in 2012 where she lettered in Tennis, Soccer, Track and Field Hockey. Molly received a scholarship from Adelphi University where she majored in Sports Management, and minored in Marketing graduating Magna Cum Laude. Cuevas was a three-time All-American, a four-time Academic All-American, captain and broke nearly every modern-era record the field hockey program had, while also setting some new ones of her own while attending Adelphi University. She also received a minor in Communications from Murdoch University while studying abroad in Perth Australia. As a student athlete Molly was Northeast Conference Rookie of the Year, three-time All-American,

Academic All-American, holds virtually all AU offensive records, numerous conference records and is currently the all-time NCAA DII Assist per game leader. After holding internships with the Major League Soccer and the San Francisco 49ers, Molly went on to manage the social media platform for Rocktape. She currently serves as Rocktape's Marketing and Communication Coordinator.

### Donations

You can be a part of the "Miles By Molly Movement" whether it's sending her a kind note, or donating to CAF. All of the current information will be on her website at [www.milesbymolly.com](http://www.milesbymolly.com)

Sponsors of "Miles by Molly" include: Marquez Brothers Foundation, CLIFF Bar, BR printers, Balega, RockTape, and Ultraspire. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of Molly's run across America, email: [molly@milesbymolly.com](mailto:molly@milesbymolly.com)

Photos by Whitney Kanavel

## Laura's Law

Continued from page 10

"My goal is getting people the help they need where they need it," said Simitian.

As for Laura's Law, he thinks it's "too soon to tell" whether it should be implemented in Santa Clara County.

"I'm keeping an open mind, but it would be a mistake to focus on Laura's Law," Simitian said. "I worry that people think it's the easy answer or a quick fix — it is neither of those. It is one possible tool."

### Misconceptions about Laura's Law

Allison Brunner, CEO of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, said misconceptions about the law continue to confuse people.

"What people think it means is that it is a mandate for automatic hospitalization for noncompliance for treatment," said Brunner. "But this is really important — it does not mandate that a person take psychiatric medication."

According to Brunner, the court-mandated order doesn't mean the person will automatically be hospitalized. It simply means they can be assessed for a 72-hour hold if they violate the order. Police already put severely mentally ill residents on 72-hour holds, Brunner said, and it's not working to address the needs of people suffering from mental illness.

Brunner believes there are better solutions to providing care. She said mentally ill residents can be engaged through voluntary programs, by providing affordable housing and relying on mobile crisis teams — rather than law enforcement.

"Treatment is always going to be more effective when it's voluntary and done on a voluntary basis," added Brunner. "We need creative solutions — a whole-person approach to care that addresses all needs and solves more problems than just the behavioral."

Khamis disagreed. Even though mentally ill residents have rights, Khamis said, "they're not able to help themselves."

"These are homeless, mentally ill people who can't take care of themselves," he said. "We cannot help with housing alone if they will not be able to take care of themselves. You see the same people all the time, hitting their heads against the wall, walking around town yelling, and nobody takes care of them."

"What's more humane — putting them in a place where they're going to be safe, or letting them stay on the streets?" he added. "Their lives are at stake — and we're afraid to do anything about it."

Contact Nadia Lopez at [nadia@sanjosespotlight.com](mailto:nadia@sanjosespotlight.com) or follow @n\_llopez on Twitter. Article courtesy of San José Spotlight.

## Art and Wine Festival sponsorship deadline: July 14

Applications for corporate sponsorships, food vendors and craft vendors are being accepted for the 43rd Almaden Art and Wine Festival.

The Festival is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 15 at Almaden Lake Park.

Opportunities for local businesses or artisans are available with corporate sponsorships, as food vendors, or as an artist exhibiting in the artists' area at the Festival.

All proceeds from the festival are donated back to the community as grants to area nonprofit organizations plus scholarships to local high school seniors.

### Corporate sponsorships available

Depending on the level of sponsorship, businesses can get exposure with signage at the main stage, inclusion in the program and a booth in the main thoroughfare of the Festival. "Sponsorships offer high visibility in all aspects of advertising," says Becky Trovato, Festival Corporate Sponsorship Chair. "This is a terrific way to get maximum exposure for your company."

The deadline for corporate sponsors is July 14. This allows time for the businesses to be included in the program and other advertising materials for the Festival. For more information on available sponsorships, please email Becky Trovato at: [sponsors@almadenwomen.org](mailto:sponsors@almadenwomen.org)

### Food and artists spots still available

Festival goers enjoy a wide variety of food each year offered by local restaurants. The Festival Food Chair works hard to avoid duplications giving the Festival attendees a lot of choices

for their food. The food slots are almost full but Festival Food Chair Jennifer Zenk says that her team could use a BBQ as well as a pizza place to complete the offerings.

The artists at the Art and Wine Festival are known for offering quality items at each Festival. Attendees will see art, photography, jewelry and clothing among other offerings. Each artist is selected after a jury session which ensures the quality of the items featured at the Festival.

For more information on becoming a food vendor, please send an email to: [food@almadenwomen.org](mailto:food@almadenwomen.org) or visit the Festival website to get an application.

For more information on being an artist vendor at the festival, please send an email to: [2019artistschair@gmail.com](mailto:2019artistschair@gmail.com) or visit the Festival website to get an application.

For more information on the festival itself, please visit: [almadenwomen.org](http://almadenwomen.org)

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# District 15 Senate candidates differ on controversial housing bill

By Nadia Lopez

Special to the Times

Three of the five candidates running for Jim Beall's state Senate (District 15) seat drew a crowd of eager voters recently at a meet-and-greet forum in Campbell, discussing crucial issues such as housing, transportation, climate change and education.

The hours-long event hosted by the Silicon Valley Democratic Club did little to sway Silicon Valley Democratic Club members' minds as they voted to endorse county Supervisor Dave Cortese, a household name in South Bay politics who has been leading in the polls.

The other two candidates included former Assemblywoman Nora Campos, a seasoned Californian politician who was the runner-up against Beall in 2016 and Ann Ravel, an attorney and former chair of the Federal Election Commission.

The last two candidates — San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis and Tim Gildersleeve, both running as independents — were not eligible to participate due to their political affiliation.

In the first round of voting, Cortese led with 65 percent of the vote, just 1 percent shy of the threshold needed to secure the endorsement, before officially securing the club's support in the second round.

Ravel, a prominent attorney whose campaign has focused on ethics, campaign finance reform and fighting for equality and a fair economy, came close to earning a duel endorsement.

Prameela Bartholomeusz, the club's finance director, asked the candidates questions about running a clean and fossil fuel-free backed campaign, how to address sexual harassment and violence against women and supporting policies that target Silicon Valley's housing and transportation woes.

"I can't remember a time in my two decades of public service where things have been as lined up in Sacramento for us to do great work," said Cortese, who touted his experience as a San Jose councilmember and Santa Clara County supervisor as preparation to begin tackling issues at the state level.

While the candidates agreed mostly on issues pertaining to education, climate change and women's rights, they differed on housing and transportation — especially on Senate Bill 50, Scott Weiner's ambitious housing bill that was recently shelved in the California Senate until next year.

Cortese strongly supported the bill, saying that something has to be done to address the housing crisis. Campos also supported the bill, calling it a "bold" effort.

But Ravel disagreed and did not support the bill.

"We clearly have a really serious housing problem in the state, but the problem with SB 50 that I see is that it shouldn't really be totally avoiding the rights of individuals who

live in various towns to have a voice," Ravel said. "To eliminate local zoning ability, to have people come before their local cities to talk about their own communities is undemocratic. There are lots of other alternatives for figuring out where housing can go in each community."

Many questions focused on the prevailing topic of climate change. Candidates were asked whether they would take a pledge to reject campaign contributions from powerful fossil fuel companies.

Cortese was openly against taking money from corporations that harm the environment, saying that it's "not just to uphold Paris," referring to the Paris Accord Climate Agreement, but that it's also about creating "100 percent renewable" energy sources. Ravel agreed, calling big oil and pharmaceutical companies "corporations that have decimated the country."

Campos also vowed to run a "clean campaign," vowing to reject money from special interests in California that are "harming the community."

Addressing sexual harassment and assault was another hot topic at the forefront of Monday night's debate. Cortese proudly called himself a feminist, saying that gender violence is one of the most serious issues that the country faces due to a lack of government funding.

"Women are under attack in this country," added Ravel, who said that sexual harassment encourages discriminatory behavior towards women. "We're going backward, not forward."

Campos mirrored those feelings, saying that "if we're going to make changes for the nation they have to happen here. The #MeToo movement is real. It is not okay for someone to get into an individual's space without permission."

"It's time to focus on the issues and have a unified front working on the same common goals," said member Vinod Menon, who voted for Cortese. The county lawmaker's "commitment and tenure" best represent the needs of the Democratic Party, said Menon, who believes that Cortese will stay true to his word on issues related to climate change and higher education.

"I think tonight's discussion was substantive," added President Art Cohen. "All of the candidates performed well and had an opportunity to dig deep into the issues, but Cortese is a right fit because of his experience."

While Cortese won the vote by a significant margin, Cohen said that it was not an easy endorsement to get.

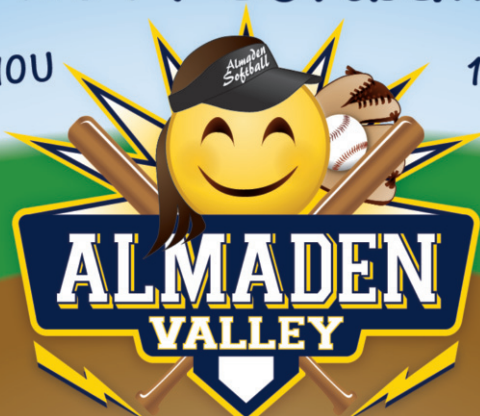
"It's not easy trying to hit the issues that are most affecting the community," added Cohen. "People are concerned about all of these issues — not one is more important than the other."

Contact Nadia Lopez at [nadia@sanjose-spotlight.com](mailto:nadia@sanjose-spotlight.com) or follow @n\_lopez on Twitter. Article courtesy of San José Spotlight.

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Times **Accolades**

**GRATITUDE:** The Student Safety Patrol award for the city of San Jose was presented to **Eric Wong** from Greystone Elementary on May 30. A Safety Award cake was presented to Wong to celebrate the occasion.

## Kira Turetzky inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

Kira Turetzky of Almaden Valley was one of 43 Hofstra University students inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this spring.

Kira, a member of the class of 2020 is majoring in English and Geology.

Phi Beta Kappa is considered an emblem of high achievement and strong potential. The society celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Its campus chapters invite for induction the most outstanding arts and sciences students at America's leading colleges and universities. The Society sponsors activities to advance these studies - the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences - in higher education and in society at large.

Approximately 10 percent of the nation's institutions of higher learning have Phi Beta Kappa chapters.

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. that is the only school to ever host three consecutive presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016).

## Buckman graduates from Tufts University

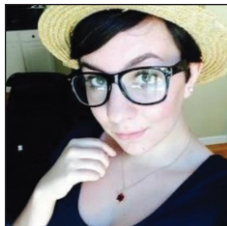
Rory Buckman of Almaden graduated from Tufts University on May 19 with a degree in Civil Engineering (BSCE), Cum Laude during a university-wide commencement ceremony that featured an address by award-winning actress and activist Alfre Woodard.

Buckman was on the Tufts University Varsity Cross-Country and Track and Field.

Buckman is a Leland High School graduate. While at Leland and he was the 2015 track Co-MVP. He was chosen as the 2014 Cross Country Most Inspirational and was awarded twice the Gabe Maze Award winner.

Buckman was president of the Leland French Club.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States.



## Dellin Zhang named to Emerson Dean's List

Dellin Zhang, a resident of Almaden Valley, has been named to the Emerson College Dean's List for the Spring 2019 semester.

Zhang is majoring in Media Arts Production. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,750 undergraduates and 750 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries.

For more information, visit [www.emerson.edu](http://www.emerson.edu).



## Kelsey Chope named to Northern Illinois University Dean's List

Kelsey Chope of Almaden Valley, has been named to Northern Illinois University's Spring 2019 Dean's List.

Kelsey is majoring in Business Marketing with an emphasis in sales and digital marketing. She is a member of the NIU Women's Soccer Team.

Kelsey is a Leland High School graduate. To earn this distinction, students must meet

a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law. For more information, visit [www.niu.edu](http://www.niu.edu).



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**Espiritu***Continued from page 4*

is not engaged, I try to remind them that the student probably has a lot going on that they don't know anything about. It could be learning disabilities that haven't been identified yet. But most of the time there's trauma, things not going well for the student personally. Not that we're going to fix it, but we're going to acknowledge it. If you can't fix it for the student, you can let them know you get it and support them anyhow. I can attest to that. When I had a teacher who acknowledged it, I felt like the burden was no longer just on me but there was a community surrounding me who knew about it and supported me. I tell educators just because they're not hearing you now doesn't mean they're not going to hear you. I'm glad there are educators all throughout the system who don't give up on kids."

Athletics helped him form a pseudo family at school each day. Espiritu recalled "I was there from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. depending on what sport I was playing that season (football, basketball or track) - summer, too. That was a family for me." It was the influence of his Yerba Buena High School (YBHS) football coach, Coach Williams, and his math teacher, Mr. Gszanka, that helped him by imparting lessons of life's wisdom and injecting him with positive beliefs and goals he was initially reluctant to believe about himself. Sometimes those pearls of wisdom came through just shooting the breeze about 49er football.

He decided he wanted to follow in Coach Williams' and Mr. Gszanka's footsteps and become an educator and coach, and set a goal to graduate high school as the first to do so in his family. Espiritu didn't stop there. Although his Mom had hoped he'd follow in his older siblings' steps and begin work upon graduation, contributing monetarily back to the family right away, he sat down with her and made a case for following his passion with a plan to finance his education through application, scholarship and resourcefulness. "If I was going to change what was going to happen to me and my family, going to college and knowing and navigating the system was the best opportunity for me to have the choices and freedom once I had my own family," Espiritu said. "That's what I tell kids: I'm not saying everybody should go to college, but college definitely gives you choices, opportunities and options. My mom didn't have choices for work. She had to take what was out there and I saw that firsthand. When you didn't have the background and education you had to take what was out there. I didn't want to be in that position. I wanted to be in a position where I was highly employable. I wanted my family to have the resources and success they were going to need so I chose to go to college."

Returning to coach football at YBHS while attending college helped make ends meet and allowed him to afford only those books which were absolutely required. "It was hard not to work right away like the friends I'd gone to high school with as they could afford going to movies, out to eat or to parties," Espiritu explained. "I didn't have the money for that. But it made me more aware of resources I had and how to spend on what was required. I also learned since I didn't have money for books

that often professors didn't require purchasing the books. They were just required to list a book for sale. So I was strategic with those I did buy." Football carried him through San Jose City College, from which he'd springboard to San Jose State University (SJSU), graduating with his bachelor's and teaching credential in only a year and a half. Espiritu then landed a job at Gunderson High as both a teacher and

football coach. This in part helped fund his Masters degree. His wife, also a teacher, suggested he concurrently pursue his Administration credential. "Initially I didn't have any interest in being an Administrator as I always wanted to work directly with kids." While in a class at SJSU "I realized I seemed to be at odds with the other views about what should be done in the presented (administrative) scenarios. One day I went to my professor, Dr. Reiss, and told her I didn't think I should

be in the class or pursuing this line of work because I was constantly debating with my colleagues in class. She reflected a moment and then told me that because of my unique background and different experiences and outlook on how Administration should be serving students, I brought a fresh perspective that the others did not have. She told me I was absolutely the right type of person to be in her class. I'd never thought about it that way. Because of the way I grew up with a lot of negatives (language barrier, not having parents around, not seeing self in higher learning) - it created deficit thinking for me and I was always asking myself 'do I belong.'

"When teachers, educators and colleagues said 'hey you do belong!' those types of conversations have taken me a long way," Espiritu continued. "My successes from people believing in me - that's what motivates me to this day, Teachers and parents here - great teachers, great parents, great students - I just want to match their level or go beyond as their Principal. Dr. Reiss' belief in me and encouragement to continue set me on the path to ultimately become a Principal." Graduating while working full time as a teacher and coach opened up new opportunities and challenged him. He was named Head Football Coach, Activities Director, Athletic Director and eventually an Assistant Principal. He had applied to both Lincoln and Pioneer, frankly not really wanting to go to Pioneer because it was a new environment for him with his background both personally and working with almost exclusively lower socioeconomic and minority students and staff and Pioneer didn't fit that description. The then Principal Sue Walker really wanted him at Pioneer and the Superintendent agreed and sent him there. At first he was wary of the assignment - unsure of the unknown and back to that feeling of not belonging from so many years ago. He pushed himself to be open-minded, diving in head first and was rewarded with acceptance and accolades. "I didn't realize at the time I could be successful in areas I didn't previously know. And that experience propelled me to be open to things I may not know or may not be comfortable with - because ultimately if you have the right work ethic and mindset, (an uncomfortable growth experience) may be one of the best things that ever happens to you." He left for a different opportunity at San Jose High School for a time. When then PHS Principal Stefani Garino left her post as PHS Principal, parents,

**Herb Espiritu**

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Times **Community**

teachers, staff, fellow administrators and the community reached out to him asking him to apply. "I didn't think I'd be a Principal, but I really cared about this (PHS) community, and there was so much outpouring of love and support from the Pioneer community asking me to come back that that motivated me to even apply, not knowing I was even going to get the job. I really think Pioneer would've been the only school to give me that first opportunity as a Principal - it was their belief in me that is part of me to this day to always do my best."

**Believing in every student**

"I tell our teachers we need to believe in every student," explained Espiritu. "You don't put limits on young people, because you don't know what they can become with not only believing in them but educating them and doing the right things. I feel like when you have all those things in place - a teacher who believes in you, a teacher who is knowledgeable about the things they want to teach you and a teacher who wants to build rapport or are there to pick you up, there to motivate you, I think it's limitless. I think I'm a good example of that - not that I'm this great person - but from where I started, not even looking like as a high school sophomore that I was going to even graduate high school, to where I've achieved" is proof."

In all his years coaching, teaching and in administration, Espiritu learned many things to help him succeed as a Principal. One stand-out: "It's about the people. When you're a teacher it's about the students. When you're a Principal it's larger - it's about the teachers and students. It's the relational skills and caring. Obviously content knowledge is very, very important but if your students don't think you care about them, it's going to be very hard to motivate them to do their best. Granted not all kids need to feel caring from their teachers to be successful, but it certainly helps. I've carried that into my role as Principal. Trust is not always agreeing or doing what a student or teacher wants, but they know I will do my best to hear all parties and ultimately it's not about what I want. It's about what's best for the student - always."

If you didn't know better, Espiritu might confuse you. That is, his presence. He's unassuming and young-looking. Blending into the sea of teenage faces isn't hard for him. And that's exactly where you'll often find him - in amongst students not only being present and available, but actively engaging them in a supportive way. He seeks out feedback about programs and issues daily.

Taylor Edington, an alumna of the school, remembers "right after Mr. Espiritu implemented the SAT Prep sessions (which the school district offers free of charge to ensure distribution of resources fairly and equally across all groups of students) he approached our lunch table to ask us what we thought about it, how it was going, and he listened and genuinely seemed to care about what we had to say." Espiritu is at his core driven to connect with students, create a safe space for them to share their concerns and their celebrations, and to make a positive contribution to their lives.

**Hands on approach**

Espiritu is hands-on day-to-day with discipline and the workings of his school. He can be seen in high level District meetings just as equally as on the campus out amongst the community. Just recently, he was the one manning the edge of school asking to see each student's pass who was walking off campus early to make sure they were in fact permitted to leave.

Upon his return to Pioneer he embraced "The Mustang Way" created by his faculty and staff, which includes expectations of anyone coming

onto the campus exhibiting respect, open-mindedness, listening, inclusiveness and flexibility, and works daily to model that. It started with the faculty and staff becoming clear and defining how they wanted to treat their students. They were committed to hold each of their colleagues to that standard. It expanded to how the students are expected to treat each other... And it evolved to an expectation for how parents and community members both will be treated and are expected to treat Pioneer community members. Espiritu models his core set of values so that the expected culture and behaviors are clear throughout the campus. Obviously they must be reasonable but they try to remain as open-minded as possible. Keeping the vision simple, and clear, is important. Making everyone aware when it is happening is primary. But also letting people know when it's not happening, so they have an opportunity to make the change.

Site Secretary Sara Goss shared "He has a very approachable, easy-going leadership style that makes him popular with both the staff and student body. Our students appreciate that his door is always open for them and the teachers know we are lucky to have an administrator who listens to his staff and genuinely believes in the teamwork necessary to support the success of every student who walks on our campus."

**Building trust**

When he first arrived, he set out to build trust, relationships and community as his first goal. "You can know answers to everything - and I'm not saying I do - but if you don't have people who trust and believe in you and are willing to follow you, you won't get very far." He keeps that goal always in the forefront. He quickly saw areas he could make direct improvement academically through working with his staff to implement new programs. He points to the school achieving gains in SAT English of 8% and Math for 13% in just the 3 years since SAT Prep was implemented as an example of the great things his student body achieves with the correct supports.

"The kids at Pioneer all need different supports so most of our initiatives start with data and what does that speak to us," Espiritu said. "We see certain demographics though not progressing as fast as others, so we are looking at ways to there without forgetting about any of the other already advancing groups." Any initiative we start we don't limit to just the target groups. We're very proud here that we make our initiatives, like SAT preparation, available to everyone regardless of socioeconomic status."

**Mental health**

One of his many goals this next year seeks to implement a Mental Health Wellness Center on campus with a full time counselor there every day of the week. Work from Mrs. Hernandez, Ms. Brush, and Ms. Kim and many students to make that a reality. "We're very big on student experiences and support here," Espiritu said. "Students can feel they're not alone and we're here to help. I also ask my teachers to be cognizant of how their students, all their students, are perceiving them each day. And if they're reflective on how students are experiencing them, it's going to make them a better educator."

**Discipline**

A former parent community member who wishes to remain anonymous shared perspective on a disciplinary meeting attended while Espiritu was Principal: "I was impressed with his calm, professional demeanor from the start of the meeting. He had what could have been an explosive situation with attendees including teacher union reps, a teacher,

See *ESPIRITU*, page 19

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## Times Community

## Charter

Continued from page 1

of any other type of public school. In accordance with Education Code Section 47607(b)(4), the academic performance of the charter school is commensurate to the academic performance of the public schools that students would otherwise have been required to attend.

Ramirez and Discovery Charter School Founder and Director, Barbara Vella Eagle, spoke before the Almaden Valley Community Association recently on the benefits of charter schools. They believe that charter schools place an effective teacher in every classroom with the flexibility to create dynamic lesson plans tailored to kids' individual needs, resulting in their sending more kids to college and preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow.

"I want them to be strategic thinkers," says Eagle, "and question the world."

"Charter schools outperform district public schools, so a lot of parents want to put their children in these schools but there's not enough room," says Ramirez, as charter schools are capped with the number of students they can serve. "By law, we can't add additional students. This creates a wait list of up to 1,000 students at charter schools in Santa Clara County."

"If there are massive wait lists, why don't they turn some public schools into charter schools?" asks a resident.

"I agree with that sentiment," says Ramirez, "but that's not the sentiment of everyone."

Ramirez views opening a new charter school as daunting. "It's a huge, massive undertaking," she says. "People are scared to open a charter school because you get brutalized... they almost need to go to therapy afterwards because they're brutalized, criminalized, and shunned. You have to create a solid educational plan, submit it to the school board and be interviewed by the board. It goes to a public hearing at the school board meeting and the school board will decide whether to agree to your petition."

"Part of the reason charter schools get brutalized is because charter schools pull students from public schools," says a resident, "and depleting them of funds, so they may get shut down."

"My gut reaction," says Ramirez, "is why are parents so eager to pull their kids out of these schools? Don't parents have the right to put their child in whatever school best serves their child? It becomes about politics. Average daily attendance (ADA) money does follow the students, and when it moves to charter schools, you start feeling that friction. As enrollment has also declined significantly with the high cost of living, there are less students, so we end up fighting for those scraps. We lose sight of serving our kids well and providing high quality institutions to educate them."

There are 45 charter schools compared to 351 public schools in Santa Clara County, with about 10 percent of students enrolled in charter schools.

Ramirez says that charter schools provide new models of instruction and as they aren't unionized for the most part, their schools can offer longer days and teach more days of the school year. "No student or family is obligated to attend a charter school," she says. "It's an option, so families can

choose the best option for their child."

Ramirez views the California Charter Schools Association as an advocate of charter schools and social justice. "We believe all students deserve the right of a high-quality education," she says. "We're working with legislators to put forth legislation that supports all students by bringing more dollars. Lack of funding is the problem. California is the fifth largest global economy and 20th lowest percentile in funding education—like 43rd in the nation—it's ridiculous. We have so much money in the state and don't fund or prioritize education."

Ramirez and Vella Eagle blame the high cost of living and lack of affordable housing for causing a lack of teachers in the Bay Area in general. They also claim that teachers may avoid charter schools due to "a propaganda machine saying that charters are bad" in addition to losing their tenure with traditional public schools if they leave them for charters.

"Some teachers like the protection of being in a union with a public school," says Vella Eagle. "Some charter school teachers like being in a place where everyone wants to make an impact and the energy of a team that's on the same page."

In addition to finances and teachers, quality classrooms are another point of contention between traditional public schools and charter schools. While some charter schools rent their facilities, others are provided by the state, as required through Prop 39. "It's become an ugly war," says Ramirez. "With constant fighting for classrooms."

"The state mandates that school districts have to give a charter school a site that's comparable," says Vella Eagle. "Most are not. It's constantly fighting a hardcore, knockout fight over what's comparable. We said, 'Time out. We're tired of fighting.' They currently have a Memorandum of Understanding with the school district. 'We rent a facility and also San Jose Unified gave us a nice campus,' she says. 'We pay top dollar rent for it.'"

"The hope is that school districts will partner with charter schools to share best practices," says Ramirez. "Charter schools are doing amazing work across the state. It would be amazing if our partners in education would recognize that and want to work with us and share the best practices so all students benefit from the instruction models being tested and proven across the state rather than spending all our dollars fighting these ugly wars."

"Sharing best practices is part of the laboratories of innovation that came out of the teacher's union," notes a resident.

"Yes, it did," agrees Ramirez.

Eagle says charter schools bring competition and affect positive changes in school districts. She says that having a K through 8 school was important to Discovery, and the District followed suit, establishing two K through 8 schools. The District also implemented a Spanish immersion school following Discovery's model and incorporated some of their special education program.

"The point of our conversation today is to show all sides and share information," says Ramirez, "and to give you information so you can make your choice. If you decide to enroll your student in traditional public school, good for you. If you want a different option, you should have that option and that's what charter schools provide. We want to make sure that choice continues."

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Times **Community****Espiritu***Continued from page 17*

parents, and students in the room. Espiritu set the tone of respect, no matter how difficult the subject matter, listened intently with as much impartiality as he could, and was clearly solution-oriented. He wasn't afraid to put back on our student the areas of culpability and responsibility, but he also wasn't afraid to do the same with his employee. In the end, a sound compromise was reached, and I appreciate him for it."

Espiritu shared, "I value programs we have here at Pioneer so much - like Drama, Sports and Robotics to name a few. They're a big part of our system here to support and keep kids engaged in the community we have. I experienced how valuable someone who runs, and the people who support, programs like these are to kids because I benefitted myself from these types of programs myself. It's just all positive when you have the right person leading it. Although I no longer run programs directly myself, I do everything I can as Principal to support them. I know sometimes programs like these are the biggest difference in kids' lives." His presence and support is definitely felt and appreciated by the community. He encourages alumni and parents to get involved even more directly by joining the faculty and staff there if they feel motivated to do so and make a positive difference that way, too. He recalls "I used to get excited about seeing my coach or certain teachers and parents - because they were a positive influence in my life and were like my parents. I would not be here today without them."

Espiritu is a firm believer in agents of positive change. Those who are bought in see things that need to be improved. When they ask for change, he asks them what they are doing also to be a part of the change. "First question I ask someone who comes to me wanting a change or telling me something isn't working I ask them 'What are you doing to help the situation?' and if they're working positively towards fixing something I want to know what can I do to support that - and multiply it." He also feels like the analogy that if a plant isn't growing, it's not the plant's fault. Within his high school community, although he didn't hire two thirds of the current staff that is there, they are his to grow. If things aren't developing the way they should be he needs to reflect on that and potentially change the caring for those who maybe didn't thrive in the past so that they can reach their best potential. "Maybe if someone wasn't previously working at their best (before he got there), then just like plants they might grow differently when someone different is caring for them. They're all my teachers, all my staff members so I'm always seeking what I can do to make sure they're at their best."

Pioneer has clearly benefitted from Espiritu's presence. Leadership in any organization sets the tone. A current niche overall "A" grade rating is corroborated with not only the Principal of the Year award, but also a deep attendance waitlist, classes at full capacity, a school community filled with involved parents, teachers and staff, and a student body who is diverse, well-rounded and passionate. Although Espiritu values many, many things in his students, one that sticks out is "they're stubborn about what they care about and what they believe in. More so than any other school I think kids at Pioneer are very strong-willed when it comes to things they feel are right or wrong. I appreciate that leaders of students of various different groups will come in and advocate and



**Herb Espiritu** addresses the Freshman assembly. *Photo credit: Elizabeth Sinclair*

challenge me, which in the grand scheme of things will benefit them in life more than anything. I hope our students keep that up. I want our students to be pushed, to grow, and when they're passionate about something to not give up. Leaders need to be pushed. I want them to be agents of change and you don't make change by just giving up on something you believe in. Sometimes that's challenging me, and that's ok. If you have a leader not willing to be challenged then you have a dictator. And that's not what I aspire to be." He's also very interested in understanding what's working and what's not from the community he serves - students, teachers, staff and parents and underscored this desire for people to be honest with him and share their authentic feedback and ideas.

Some who drive by PHS may be discouraged with the way it looks. "SJUSD does a really good job of allocating their resources to what's really important - not that school beautification and building improvements are not important - but we are only given so many resources from the state," Espiritu explained. "We try to use those resources the best we can in terms of providing outcomes for kids. We're the only school district in the area that provides free SAT Prep for all students, free SAT testing for all students, modified low rate for AP testing. Other districts may have other funding streams, or have parcel taxes devoted to different things (like school building improvements), or receive different allocations from the state, etc. that allow them to complete construction - but I know SJUSD is very thoughtful about setting students up for success."

**Award ceremony**

On May 14th. Sitting on the gym's bleachers surrounded by colleagues, many with their families, Espiritu was among 41 San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) Principals honoring some of the assembled fellow Teachers of The Year, Classified Employees and other employees at the District's annual recognition event - all of whom knew in advance about their awards. The Principals, however, had no idea who had been selected as the coveted Administrator of the Year. With all other awards completed, SJUSD Superintendent Nancy Albarán began describing the winning Administrator, decided by a panel of different employees across the District without input from the Superintendent. Everyone was attuned to the description, weighing and balancing self-assessments. Although some of the characteristics

*See ESPIRITU, page 21*

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[www.bibleroad.org](http://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, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament.

Bible class at 9:30 AM  
Worship at 10:30 AM  
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club).

Come make new Christian friends!

### EAST VALLEY CHURCH

We are a Multicultural Christian Community

committed to making Christ known to our Neighbors, Community and World. Sunday Schedule: Coffee and Conversation 9:15am Worship 9:45am, Sunday School for all ages 11:15am

Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open!

Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men, Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery Please see website for details and meeting times [www.eastvalleychurch.com](http://www.eastvalleychurch.com) Senior Pastor – Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor - Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail [info@eastvalleychurch.com](mailto:info@eastvalleychurch.com) We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.convergeworldwide.org](http://www.convergeworldwide.org)

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev.

Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243 Web:[www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org) At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful 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 junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate 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 conversation.

### FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.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 contemporary 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 long-term, 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 make in your life!



### GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

[www.GraceChurchSJ.net](http://www.GraceChurchSJ.net) See you on Facebook 2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor

Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am Together let us build lives toward excellence! Music Institute (408) 791-7772 After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

### HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106.

Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.



### thepoint.church

### THE POINT CHURCH

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

### SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 chil-

dren'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.churchstanthony.com](http://www.churchstanthony.com). Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One  
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

### SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.San-JoseGurdwara.org>

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. [www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) or [www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org](http://www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.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 E.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 Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations: 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, Sunday 11:00AM, 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 408.483-5458**

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## Times Community

## Espiritu

Continued from page 19

seemed to match, Espiritu was reluctant to believe it could be him. Surrounded by two former Assistant Principals, Ms. Burton and Mr. Weber, now themselves Principals at SJUSD schools, they chirped in that it couldn't possibly be him and must be this principal or that - continuing the good-natured humor and ribbing they'd all developed working with each other for years. But it soon became obvious to everyone in attendance when Ms. Albarrán rang out the name "Pioneer High School's Herb Espiritu!" Shocked, he stood to approach and accept the award, making his way through the packed bleacher seats.

For anyone whose taken time to get to know Mr. Espiritu, this award would not be a shock at all. As Goss stated "His recent recognition by SJUSD is something that Pioneer faculty and families have known for a long time."

## Espiritu reflects on his award

Reflecting on his award, Espiritu said "The most important thing I do is facilitating and supporting programs to thrive; setting the tone for the culture here. Like any teacher or coach would say - it's not one particular thing I do, it's what everyone around me is doing. This award means what I'm doing and what our team is doing here at Pioneer HS is validated a little bit. It's nice groups outside of the school acknowledge

some of the things important to us as a school and as an administration team - caring about people - I think it's apparent when you come to Pioneer, we care. Obviously students are number one, but parents and other community members when they walk in feel the care. Everyone's different and everyone has different needs, but our team here will find a way for everyone to have a way to have success and flourish differently. I tell my staff me being recognized as Administrator of the Year is really Pioneer being recognized as an outstanding school community. It's easy for me to look good when people are doing their jobs correctly. I'm humbled by the whole thing. I think I'm lucky to be at a school with all of those supports in place." And in his self-deprecating, humorous way "I just don't want to mess it up."

Espiritu knows it took a tapestry of his youthful experiences to get where he is today. "Besides being thankful to my mom and siblings, I always try to connect with my own previous teachers and coaches - some of whom are retired now - and thank them for the time they give to students. Some of them are shocked to find out I'm a Principal, as their memory is of someone who didn't appear to have that in their future. But I'm proof that transformation is possible, and they're all so happy for and proud of me. And I'm here to help all of my students and educators know anything is possible."

## USS Potomac Trip

Thursday, July 18, 2019

## Welcome Aboard the Floating White House

Take a bus ride with us to Jack London Square in Oakland to board the USS Potomac. You will enjoy the interesting and historic information. This floating White House served as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht until his death in 1945.

During the 3 hour cruise, emphasis is placed on the history of the Bay Area & surrounding landmarks and the effect FDR's administration had upon the Bay Area. There will be a themed narration. Guests may watch a 15-minute video in the Video Center prior to the cruise. The video provides a glimpse of the Presidents use of the Potomac, emphasizes the impact of his administration on the country and tells the Potomac restoration story. Guests may elect to take a docent led tour or tour the ship on their own.

Vistas: San Francisco Bay Islands, light houses and bridges of the bay.

Arrive by 7:45 am

Depart by bus @ 8:00 am

Video history of USS Potomac at 9:30 am

Board the ship by 10:15 am

Sail time: 10:30 am

Return Approximately 4:00 pm

Ticket price: \$110.00 cash or check, includes a gourmet box lunch.

Complimentary Coffee, Tea and Water.

Purchase tickets in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center

M, T, W 9:30-11:30 am

Questions: Rich: 408 219-8641 or Sally: 408 826-9619

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JEEP COAP NON-PRIME BONUS CASH\*\* -\$750  
CA CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2018 BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500  
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DODGE COAP NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$750  
DODGE CA 2019 RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000  
CA CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES  
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5 AT GILROY

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JEEP FAST START REBATE\*\* -\$1,000  
CA CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2019 BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000

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RAM CA 2019 RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$750  
RAM CA 2019 BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000

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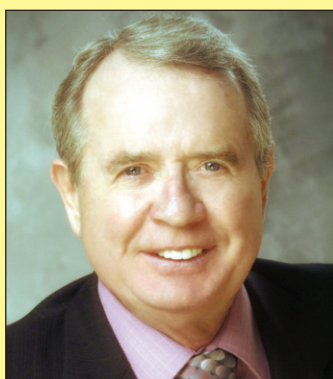
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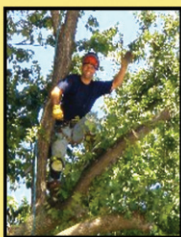
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- Windowholics separates itself from the traditional soap and sponge technique by using new pure water technology.
- Innovated screen washer for a faster and thorough cleaning.
  - Indoor glass cleaning that is 25% faster and uses 39% less chemicals than traditional cloth cleaning.

What are you waiting for?

Call Windowholics today for a free quote!

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Locate and Request available caregiver  
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https://www.phlex65.com/#/home  
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## Caregivers Here

## Shoe Repair

**ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR**  
408-270-0850

No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

Hours:

**Mon-Fri**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Saturday**  
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## Dental Insurance

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physi-  
cians Mutual Insurance Company.  
NOT just a discount plan, REAL  
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Call 1-866-956-9058 for details.  
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**Property Management  
Services**

Tenant-Finding  
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Available

Call Jill Curry  
CURRY & ASSOCIATES  
REALTORS

408-223-3220  
DRE # 01700460

## Employment

**Software Systems Engineer**  
Elo Touch Solutions, Inc. in  
Milpitas, California is looking  
for a Software Systems Engineer  
to define and create test plans,  
test strategies, test cases,  
scripts, and manage defects.  
Travel required: 10% domestic  
and international. Send resume  
to Cindy Pipes, HR, Elo Touch  
Solutions, 670 N. McCarthy  
Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035.

## Music

**Music  
Lessons**  
**\$15 per  
lesson**

Piano, guitar,  
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and flute

(408) 268-6703

## Driving School



Advantage Driving School is the premier driving school in northern Califor-  
nia. Advantage Driving School has trained more than  
300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete  
programs for both traditional classroom and online courses.

Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your  
child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs  
for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some  
supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the  
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combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email:  
info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

## Singles

## Almaden Valley (Senior) Singles

The organization that brings single  
residents of Almaden Valley (95120)  
over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and  
take part in  
community service.

Come and join us for our monthly breakfast  
which are held at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of  
each month at  
Cup and Saucer,  
Princeton Plaza Mall, 1375  
Blossom Hill Road.

## Employment

**Sr. Investment Officer - San Jose, CA**  
Customary duties of Sr. Investment Officer  
including performing financial due diligence,  
monitoring financial investments, developing  
and implementing investment and hedging  
strategies for investment portfolio, and relat-  
ed professional duties. Reqs: Master's degree  
in Management or related + 3 years of expe-  
rience which includes performing financial  
due diligence and managing financial assets.  
Send CV to Altamont Pharmaceutical Hold-  
ings LLC at altamont@altamontpharma.com.

# The Swan



## SELLING ALL NEIGHBORHOODS IN ALMADEN VALLEY



### 6017 Blackbird Court

\$1,599,000

4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2008 SF | 10,400 SF

This home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac in Almaden Valley. Beautiful hardwood flooring and designer touches throughout. Upgraded kitchen and baths. Enormous backyard is an oasis for entertaining. Wooden deck covered by a pergola with built-in bench seating. Stamped concrete patio around a sparkling pool. Separate niches for chaise lounge chairs, conversation areas plus a barbecue area with outdoor table and seating.



### 6805 Shearwater Drive

\$1,625,000

4 Bed | 2 Bath | 2029 SF | 8050 SF Corner Lot

Beautifully updated Almaden Valley single-story with lush landscaped yards and views of the foothills. Granite slab counters, hardwood flooring, stainless appliances, newer central air conditioning, NEST thermostat, 5.1 surround speaker system, dual pane windows plus more. San Jose Unified School District: Graystone Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.



### 992 Wallace Drive

\$1,399,000

4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2050 SF | 7052 SF

Spacious living room with views of the hills. Kitchen has tile counters and backsplash. Family room with wood-burning fireplace. Simonds Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.



### 6525 Leyland Park Drive

\$1,475,000

4 Bed | 2 Bath

This home is in Almaden Valley's popular Pierce Ranch neighborhood. Updated kitchen with quartz countertops. New carpet, new front and back lawn and fresh interior paint. Close to schools and Quicksilver County Park.



### 6518 McAbee Road

Coming Soon

5 Bed | 3 Bath | 2582 SF

Situated in Almaden Valley's desirable Pierce Ranch neighborhood. Downstairs bedroom perfect for guests. Upgraded kitchen. Entertain in the secluded backyard with deck overlooking large grassy area.



#### Therese Swan

408.656.8240

tswan@tswan.com

AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com

DRE 01355719



Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 10 years as measured by Dollars per Agent per Year. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to ever have been nationally ranked and recognized by Wall Street Journal/RealTrends twice for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.