Bright suns! Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge opens at Disneyland, and it's out of this world SEE PAGE 14



#### **Housing woes**

Google commits \$1B to address housing affordability crisis **SEE PAGE 10** 

San Jose Gurdwara invites Almaden community for ice cream, refreshments on July 4 SEE PAGE 16



JUNE 28-JULY 11, 2019 ■ VOL. 32, NO. 14



# Almaden Valley since 1986 Al

# We are the champions! Almaden Little League Juniors Team wins 2019 TOC

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

ach year, District 12—which includes Almaden Little League (LL), Willow Glen LL, San Jose American LL, Los Gatos LL, Cambrian Park LL, and Branham Hills LL—hosts the prestigious Tournament of Champions (TOC) at the Juniors level.

This year, the Almaden Brewers prevailed, bringing the championship banner back to



**Connor Elliott** throws strike three. *Photo courtesy Lisa Elliott* 

Almader

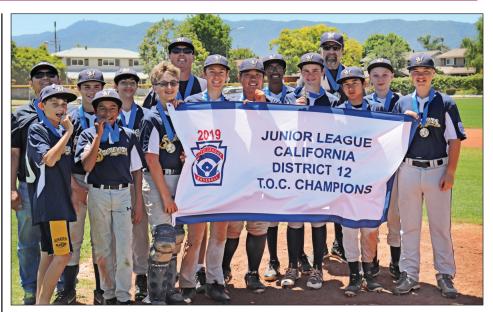
"We were a team of 14 boys and defeated the Lincoln Glen Red Sox 15-5 to win the TOC Juniors Championship!" says Lisa Elliott, whose son, Connor, pitches for the Brewers.

The Juniors level includes players age 13 through 15. This year, the district had 15 teams, with three from Almaden. The Almaden Brewers ended their regular season in fourth place, with a record of 12-4. They completed their single-elimination tournament with four additional wins.

The championship game was an exciting one, with the Brewers coming from behind to demolish the opposition in the sixth inning.

Based on a pre-game coin flip, they were the visiting team. "We started on offense with both teams scoring two runs in the first," says Manager/Coach Kristopher Neff. "We scored a pair in the second and Lincoln Glen scored three in the third to put us down by a run (4-5)."

After changing pitchers in the fourth inning, says Neff, they "finally put the Lincoln Glen bats to sleep," with Lincoln Glen only scoring three hits and no runs for the remainder of the game.



The Almaden Brewers defeated the Lincoln Glen Red Sox 15-5 to win the TOC Juniors championship. As this was the last year for graduating eighth graders in Almaden Little League, it was an especially poignant end to their season.

During the regular season, the team's strength was in their offense, averaging more than 11 runs per game. "I was patiently waiting for our explosion inning," says Neff. "We had a mini-explosion in the fifth inning (3 runs) and a large explosion in the sixth (6 runs)!" They added two additional runs in the seventh inning, reaching a final score of 15-5.

Pitcher Connor Elliott (4IP, 3H, 0R, 5K) and shortstop Tyler Craig (3 to 5, 3 RBI) were the stars of this game, says Neff. "However, everybody on the team found a way to contribute to the win." Additional team members include: Ayan Desai, Dante Fanelli, Emmett Irish, Jayson Jinguji, Matthew Jump,

Brandon Mohr, Logan Montgomery, Andy Murad, Sebastian Neff, Matthew Sauret, Olin Sogge and Aditya Srivastava. The coaching staff includes Marc Sauret and Matt Mohr.

For players and coaches alike, this game was a poignant one. "Marc Sauret and I each have three sons," says Neff. "We have coached a great number of teams in Almaden. We came close to winning it all in 2016; this was our last chance as we were coaching our youngest sons for the last time."

"For many of the boys, including my son," says Elliott, "this was their last year of Little League since they are graduating eighth See CHAMPIONS, page 19

# Celebrate Fourth of July at Almaden Lake Park: Legal and spectacular Firework Show

Presented by Councilmember Johnny Khamis
By William Bellou

Publisher

his year marks his 6th Annual Family Fun Festival and Firework Show at Almaden Lake Park on Thursday, July 4th presented by Councilmember Johnny Khamis

The Festival begins at 3 p.m. with the fireworks getting



underway at approximately 9:15 p.m. as soon as it is dark.

This event is free and open to the public and provides a perfect venue for the community to unify and celebrate the birth of our nation while watching a spectacular safe professional fireworks show with family and community.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis recognizes the importance of bringing community together to celebrate the July 4th holiday in a fun and safe surrounding. Firework shows are only allowed by a permitted and licensed professional per San Jose Municipal Code 10.17.100.

Fireworks are illegal in San Jose because they are dangerous. Each year there are numerous cases where someone shooting illegal fireworks is injured or causes a fire, or an innocent person is hurt or worse; a loss of life.

"Don't patronize illegal neighborhood firework shows and certainly don't encourage those who do," said Khamis. "Report illegal fireworks using San Jose's online reporting tool found at sanjoseca.gov."

See FOURTH, page 21













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#### This Week:

#### **SPORTS**

**Castillero's coach named** assistant coach for USA **Team Handball Junior National Team: PAGE 6** 

#### **HOLIDAY**

**Follow these Red Cross** steps for a safe 4th of **July holiday: PAGE 8** 

#### **ACCOLADES**

**Community Volunteers** come together for good: **PAGE 18** 



#### COMMUNITY

**Almaden Community Center Computer classes** for adults registration: **July 6: PAGE 18** 

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## Almaden Times

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# Valley Currents

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

# **Arin Parsa of Almaden wins national titles** at International Academics Competitions

n a rare feat, Arin Parsa, a sixth grader from Challenger Almaden, has won national titles in history, humanities, science, and overall academics at the four-day long academic tournaments by International Academics Competitions (IAC), held June 7-10 in Chicago.

Arin, a young Mensan (people with IQ's in the top 2 percent of the population), has also been accepted at an elite research workshop for budding historians to be held at Columbia University, NY by The Concord Review.

IAC is a consortium of competitions for primary and secondary students operating in over 25 countries around the world. Every year, students take online qualifying exams in areas of science, history, and geography, following which they are invited to regional competitions.

Regional tournaments feature buzzer-based "bee" tournaments for individual students as well as "bowl" tournaments for a team of students participating together. Buzzer-based format rewards students for their depth of knowledge, fast recall, and keeping calm under pressure. Winners of regional tournaments across the U.S are then invited to a four-day long national event in June as the academic year closes.

This year, about 1500 national qualifying students from all over the U.S competed in various elementary and middle divisions in a four-day long marathon event at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago.

Arin Parsa participated in bee events and played as a solo-player in the bowl events against teams of up to four students in the sixth grade division. In a rare feat. Arin repeated history where one

student has gone on to win national titles in more than one subject by a tremendous margin and was crowned the overall academic champion in his division. Shiva Oswal from Cupertino, California was the first student to have accomplished this feat in 2016. These phenomenal achievements demonstrate that when students combine true passion for learning with dedication, and enjoy



Arin with David Madden, Founder and Director, International Academics Competition.

Looking back at the year, Arin Parsa has had a spectacular 2019 in both IAC and NAQT tournaments. From September through March, Arin remained undefeated as the highest scoring NAQT quiz bowl middle school player, and won California IAC regionals for history bee & bowl, academic bee & bowl, and science bee. In early April, Arin became NAQT's quiz bowl champion for middle school, and later in the month, played solo at IAC's Varsity History Bowl in Arlington. Arin made upper bracket amongst 144 teams comprised of 11th and 12th graders: an unprecedented feat by a 6th grader, and received an honorable mention from David Madden, Founder and Director of IAC. It is hence no surprise that as the academic year drew to a close, Arin swept away sixth grade division

themselves, they can accomplish anything they

set their minds to.

Usha Parsa, Arin's mother, says that the academic competitions from IAC truly help students ignite a passion for lifelong learning, open their minds to new subject areas, gain confidence, develop deep friendships nationally and internationally, and also aid in their applications to prestigious enrichment opportunities.

awards at Chicago by a huge margin.

Outside of academics, Arin enjoys being a Boy Scout and devoting time to community projects. Arin is looking forward to a summer of travel, camping in the wilderness, environment cleanliness projects, and volunteering his time reading to younger children furthering the open program by Mensa for fostering reading excellence.

#### **PIANO IN** THE PARK

Music Day, June 21, hosted by the City of San Jose Parks Foundation and Almaden Rotary who had this amazing "boom box" piano placed at Almaden Lake Park. Ken Tavernier, Lila Gemellos, and James Reber of San Jose Parks Foundation worked on the project. Both pianos were a huge hit with the community!



#### **LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!**

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

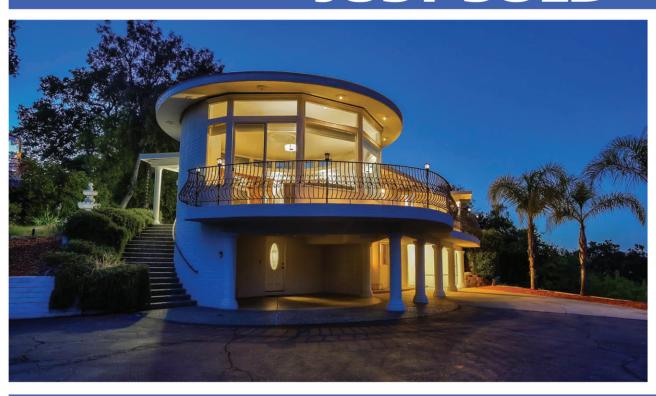






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#### US Stock market is up 17% so far this year

--- How are your investments doing? ---

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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.



#### Times Community



**Martin Bilello**, Castillero Middle School's Team Handball Coach, will join the USA Team Handball Men's Junior staff as an Assistant Coach.

#### Castillero's coach named assistant coach for USA Team Handball Junior National Team

SA Team Handball (USATH) has announced that the Men's Junior National Team will compete at the 2019 IHF Men's Junior World Championships from July 15 to July 29 in Vigo, Spain.

Martin Bilello, Castillero Middle School's Team Handball Coach, will join the team staff as an Assistant Coach. This comes not as a surprise but a validation of all the hard work coach Bilello has been doing to develop the sport in the Almaden community.

Bilello started very young playing Team Handball back in Argentina, his home country. When he found himself living in the US, where the sport was not as popular, he decided to do something about it. Four years ago he founded a group of handball enthusiast in the San Francisco CalHeat Team Handball Club and joined them, first as a player, then as a coach, and finally as a member of the Board of Directors. They started implementing a long term plan to develop and support a Youth Team Handball league in the Bay Area.

Under this plan, coach Martin Bilello visited school districts, private schools, and sport centers looking to start a youth team.

The San Jose Unified School District opened its doors for him and he started a team at Castillero Middle School two years ago. He also continued organizing clinics at middle and high schools, where some PE teachers echoed his passion and volunteered themselves to start new teams. Bret Harte Middle School was one of them, and under the leadership of Thomas Schumake they became the new Team Handball U14 California Cup Champions. Their performance was so good that they were invited to participate in the Partille Cup Tournament in Sweden this summer.

The Bay Area Team Handball Youth League is always looking for more teams to join, no experience is needed as help is always available to teach and instruct about the sport, just send an email to contact@calheat.com.

Editor's note: The Team Handball World Championship will be held in Vigo and Pontevedra, Spain, from July 15 to July 29 and the US will be participating for the first time. Make sure to follow the action at www. spainhandball19.com.

#### Day out with Thomas: The steam team tour 2019 is pulling into Roaring Camp in July

Il aboard! Thomas the Tank Engine invites little engineers to go full steam ahead for a day of engaging activities and fun adventures at Day Out with Thomas: The Steam Team Tour 2019 at Roaring Camp, Felton, CA.

Children can spend a day with their friend Thomas when the #1 Engine pulls into Roaring Camp Railroads, Felton on July 26-28 and July 31-Aug. 4, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Day Out with Thomas: The Steam Team Tour" 2019 is presented by Mattel.

This fun-filled event offers children and their



families the opportunity to take a ride with Thomas the Tank Engine, star of the popular Thomas & Friends™ series. In addition, they will meet Sir Topham Hatt, Controller of the Railway and enjoy a day of Thomasthemed activities including toy play, photo ops, and more. The tour, now in its 24th year, will make 37 stops across the U.S. and Canada and is expected to welcome nearly one million passengers in 2019.

In 2018, Mattel launched a collaboration with the United Nations to introduce Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to preschoolers through the Thomas & Friends™ animated series, as well as other platforms. New this year, Day Out With Thomas: The Steam Team Tour is incorporating the SDG of Quality Education into activities at its events, and also partnering with the United Way of Genesee County to kick off an educational initiative called the All Aboard for School Supplies Drive.

Tickets for Day Out With Thomas: The Steam Team Tour 2019 are on sale now and available by calling Ticketweb toll-free at 866-468-7630, or by visiting www.dayoutwiththomas.com. Ticket prices are \$25.00 plus tax for ages 2 and up (service charges and fee may apply).

For more information and directions, contact 831-335-4484 or www.roaringcamp.com.

Roaring Camp is located at: 5401 Graham Hill Road, Felton, CA 95018.



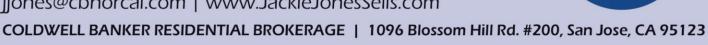


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#### Follow these Red Cross steps for a safe 4th of July holiday

he 4th of July holiday is just around the corner and many of us will take time off to enjoy a long weekend of summer fun. The American Red Cross wants everyone to have a great holiday and offers safety steps people can follow.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public firework show put on by professionals. Stay at least 500 feet away from the show. Leave any area immediately where untrained amateurs are using fireworks.

#### **Barbecue safety**

Keep perishable foods in a cooler with plenty of ice or freezer gel packs. Wash your hands before preparing the food. Don't leave food out in the hot sun. If you are going to cook on a grill, follow these steps:

- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use. Don't add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.
- Never grill indoors not in your house, camper, tent or any enclosed area.
- Make sure everyone, including pets, stays away from the grill.
- Keep the grill out in the open and away from the house, the deck, tree branches or anything that could catch fire.
- Use the long-handled tools especially made for cooking on the grill to help keep the chef safe.

#### Heat safety

Never leave children or pets in your vehicle. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach  $120\ degrees$ .

• Stay hydrated, drink plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol. Wear loose-fit-

ting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors as they absorb the sun's rays.

- Avoid extreme temperature changes.
- Slow down, stay indoors. Avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day. Postpone outdoor games and activities.
- Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat. Take frequent breaks if working outdoors
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.

Water safety

Be "Water smart." Children and adults should learn to swim so, at a minimum, they achieve the skills of water competency: be able to enter the water, get a breath, stay afloat, find an exit, swim a distance and then get out of the water safely.

Prevent unsupervised access to water. A person who is drowning has a better chance of survival if these steps are followed:

- Recognize the signs of someone trouble and shout for help;
- Rescue and remove the person from water without putting yourself in danger;
  - Call 9-1-1:

- Begin rescue breathing and CPR; and
- Use an AED, if available, and transfer care to advanced life support.

Here are a few more steps people can take as we approach the holiday:

- Go to www.redcross.org/watersafety for water safety courses, tips and resources.
- Download the free Red Cross First Aid App for instant access to information on how to treat bleeding, burns, insect bites and stings, and more.
- Give blood. The number of people donating blood often drops during the summer when people are on vacation and schools are closed. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or download the Red Cross Blood App for more information or to schedule your donation.

#### **National Night Out: Tuesday, August 6**

Hundreds of Almaden residents will join more than 38 million people across the country that will be participating in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6.

National Night Out strengthens partnerships between neighbors and local law enforcement agencies.

The annual crime prevention event and community-building campaign is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San Jose Police Department.

#### National Night Out is designed to:

- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- Heighten crime prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention efforts

Registration is now open and available online by visiting www.sjpd.org. Online registration with the San Jose Police Depart-

ment will close on Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

Neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of events ranging from small potlucks and BBQ's to large block parties. Some additional event ideas include, but are not limited to, ice cream socials, games, contests, food or clothing donations, plan a clean-up day to beautify a common area, discuss neighborhood issues or set neighborhood goals, discuss or plan a Neighborhood Watch Program. It is an opportunity to be creative, have fun and celebrate your neighborhood!

Register your neighborhood for this year's event today! You do not have to be a current Neighborhood Watch group to participate. National Night Out is for everyone. Registration is free and gives police and other city representatives an opportunity to attend local events as time and circumstances permit. Register now and begin planning your event as soon as possible.

Please visit www.sjpd.org for details about registration and other National Night Out event information.

For any further questions about National Night Out contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133 and speak with any of our National Night Out Planning Team staff members.



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#### AMY'S TIP OF THE WEEK

strong appeal!

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**Times Community** 

# Google commits \$1B to address housing affordability crisis

**By Janice Bitters** 

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight
oogle has just committed \$1 billion to address the Bay Area's crippling housing affordability crisis, an initiative that CEO Sundar Pichai says will help create at least 20,000 new homes in the region over the next decade.

The stunning announcement on Tuesday, June 18, marks the largest promise to date by a Silicon Valley company to invest in homes as a growing number of tech companies begin to seek out ways to ease the area's housing shortage, which has been exacerbated in recent years by the tech industry's breakneck growth.

Pichai released a blog post Tuesday morning outlining a three-pronged approach to provide a little more than \$1 billion in value to create and maintain housing in the Bay Area over the next decade. The initiative will focus on cities where the company currently has major office outposts: San Francisco, Sunnyvale, San Jose and its hometown of Mountain View.

"Solving a big issue like the housing shortage will take collaboration across business, government and community organizations," Pichai said in a statement. "We look forward to working alongside others to make the Bay Area a place where everyone who lives here can thrive."

Alphabet Inc.-owned Google intends to divvy out its investment three ways: setting aside company-owned land for housing development, creating a new investment fund to maintain and create affordable homes and awarding grants to organizations focused on homelessness and displacement in the region.

"This is a really big day," said Jim Wunderman, president & CEO of the Bay Area Council. "It signals that there's a new day where private companies are stepping up and recognizing that they're part of the fabric of our communities and they need to be part of the solution to the region's most pressing problem: housing affordability."

#### **Landing housing near Google**

Its largest planned contribution, valued at \$750 million, will be through developable land, an increasingly scarce and expensive resource in the Bay Area.

The company intends to work with city officials to rezone swaths of Google-owned property, changing it from land where office or commercial space are currently the only types of buildings allowed to rise, into places where new residential units can sprout up instead. Pichai estimates 15,000 new units or more could rise on the land.

And that's a key part of the plan because Google's owned land today sits primarily around its office campuses, said Alicia John-Baptiste, president and CEO of planning think-tank SPUR, short for San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association.

"The fact that Google is enabling development of residential right where the jobs are is very significant," John-Baptiste said.

"You get not just a housing benefit, which is incredibly important, but you also get a transportation and reduced congestion benefit as well."

Already, Google has worked with officials in Mountain View, where the company is by far the largest land-owner in the city's North Bayshore area, to propose mixed-use campuses that include office, housing and retail space in close proximity.

Pichai said Tuesday the tech titan is now in "productive conversations" with officials in Sunnyvale and San Jose around designating Google-owned land for housing rather than office space.

Notably, Google has been clear in the past it isn't in the business of housing development. Its approach so far to housing has been to lease the soil to a housing developer that will build and maintain the residential units. That appears to be the company's plan in this case, too.

"We'll continue to work with local municipalities to support plans that allow residential developers to build quickly and economically," Pichai said. "Our goal is to get housing construction started immediately, and for homes to be available in the next few years."

#### **Funding affordable homes**

The second part of Google's justannounced housing initiative is creating a new \$250 million investment fund that Pichai said will help build "at least" 5,000 new residential units, though the company hasn't elaborated on what that fund will look like in detail.

An investment fund model has been the primary tack so far for major Bay Area companies looking to make a divot in the housing crisis

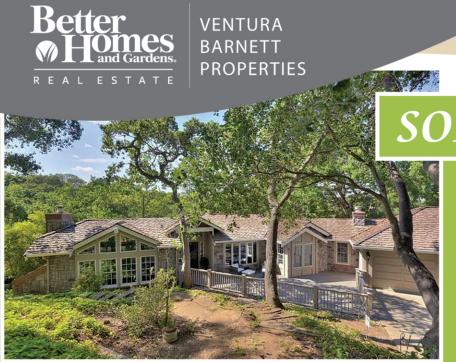
One notable exception is Facebook, which has both created and contributed to housing investment funds, but has also submitted plans in Menlo Park to build 1,500 new residential units in a proposed mixeduse development known as Willow Village.

Other major companies, including Cisco Systems, LinkedIn and NetApp, have invested millions in the Housing Trust Silicon Valley's TECH Fund in the past two years. That fund, dreamed up by the San Josebased nonprofit to encourage corporate investment in affordable housing, offers low-interest loans to developers looking to build affordable homes.

Microsoft Corp., which owns Sunnyvale-based LinkedIn, this year pledged \$500 million to tackle affordable housing woes in Seattle, where it is headquartered. Its approach is at least in part modeled after the Housing Trust's, according to reporting by the Seattle Times.

Oakland-based healthcare giant Kaiser Permanente for its part last year said it would commit up to \$200 million through its Thriving Communities Fund to address housing stability and homelessness.

"This is not something that one entity, one city or one corporation is going to See GOOGLE, page 16





#### Almaden Valley | 7182 Wooded Lake Drive | \$2,900,000 | Represented Buyer





#### Almaden Valley | 6845 Lenwood Way | \$1,700,000 | Represented Seller

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# COMPLIMENTARY EVENTS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ON THURSDAY THE 4TH OF JULY



Everyone loves attending the fantastic Rose, White and Blue Parade which we as Sikhs are so proud to participate in!

Audiences start lining up along the route at about 9 a.m. on Thursday with the 4th of July Parade starting about 10 a.m.



#### History of the Rose, White and Blue Parade

This wonderful parade was inspired by historic parades on The Alameda, such as the "Rose Carnival" which began over a hundred years ago and the "Fiesta de Las Roses" which took place in the 20's and 30's. Parades like this build on the historic roots of the area and make you and your family feel the fun and excitement of an old fashioned 4th of July parade. All cultural groups in San Jose exhibit their skills by performing in the Parade!

The Parade's staging area is Lincoln High School located at 555 Dana Avenue and it winds 1.6 miles through the charming and historic streets of the Rose Garden and Shasta/Hanchett Neighborhoods, ending up at the festival area located on The Alameda near Shasta Avenue. Schools, marching bands, dance groups, antique auto clubs, high wheel bicyclists, fire trucks, service organizations, equestrians, color guards, pets and their owners, children and many more all participate. The parade is paced with bagpipes that both lead and announce (loudly) the parade. Bay Area Sikhs will be distributing over 10,000 complementary water bottles to all at the event. You can websearch Rose, White and Blue Parade for additional information.

Parade in the morning (9 a.m. held at downtown San Jose)

#### "Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social" 7p.m.-9p.m. held at the Gurdwara on the Hill

We will not be using any fireworks but if you bring your binoculars and keen eyesight you can see the far in the distance displays which light up the sky!

There will be lots and lots of delicious ice cream with toppings that everyone of all ages will be sure to enjoy, also fresh fruit for your family and friends. Nestled up on the hill, just drive all the way up Quimby Road and you are there. You can also park and walk up the hill. The entire community loves to get together and it all begins at 7p.m. – 9p.m in front of the Gurdwara. You can take in the wonderful scenic view of the entire Evergreen Valley. We also have a new children's playground too.

We embrace the values of our American heritage strongly!
Values of justice, liberty, equality and the caring about others are enshrined in the Constitution and also form the cornerstone of our Sikh beliefs. We are the Sikh Americans and very proud to be a part of the United States of America and of course the wonderful Evergreen Valley Community!



You are also welcome to have a tour of the Gurdwara: Tours begin at 5p.m.-8p.m.

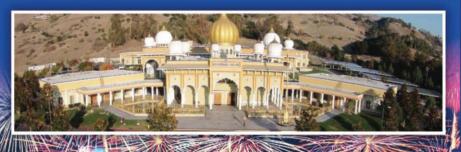
The San Jose Gurdwara open for you to visit 365 days of the year.

It is located all the way up Quimby Road on the hillside.

The Sikh religion reaches out to the less fortunate and donations are always welcome and you can find information on our website below.

The address is 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, California 95148

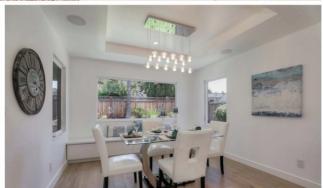
Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712 | Website: sanjosegurdwara.org











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#### 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,543 SF +/- | 9,556 SF +/- | 2 Car Garage | Offered at \$1,750,000

This Almaden Valley home has been beautifully remodeled and expanded with over \$500K in recent improvements and features 4 bedrooms; 3 full bathrooms; spacious open living room with trey ceiling, skylights, indoor-outdoor gas fireplace and double French doors; gourmet kitchen with huge center island, custom cabinets with soft close drawers, quartz counters, tile backsplash, skylight and Thermador stainless steel appliances including 6 burner gas range with griddle and double oven, built-in refrigerator and wine refrigerator; dining area with trey ceiling & bench seat; theater/media room (projector, screen and amp included!); private den/office; master bedroom suite with walk-in closet; master bath with dual sink vanity and oversize stall shower; double door entry; indoor laundry/utility room; 2 car attached garage; huge corner lot; covered rear patio with fireplace for outdoor living and beautifully landscaped rear yard with new irrigation system, raised bed, double gate access and patio area plumbed for gas barbecue. Other features include new composition roof; engineered wood flooring; raised panel doors; double pane windows; smart home enabled and wired for Cat6 and cable access; Araknis router and wireless access points for commercial grade wireless network access throughout the property; Lutron lighting; in-ceiling Triad speakers for all common living space rooms; Control4 smart home system; 4 zone amplifier to enable separate music streaming to different rooms; central forced air heating & air conditioning; tankless water heater and 200 amp electrical panel. Great location close to Greystone park, Almaden Country School and walking trails. Award winning schools: Simonds Elementary, Bret Harte Middle & Leland High.

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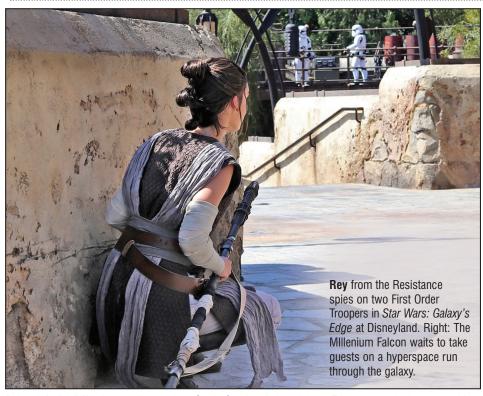




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#### Times **Travel**



Below left: DJ-R3X plays stellar tunes at Oga's Cantina; below right: a Tauntaun trophy is mounted in a den of antiquities. *Photos by Jeff Baham* 





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#### **IN A GALAXY NOT SO FAR AWAY**

## 'Galaxy's Edge' opens at Disneyland

By Jeff Baham

Special to the Times

here I stood in the summer of '77, with the warm breeze tussling my hair, even though the calendar on my iPhone said it was June of 2019.

But that couldn't be right — because the primary icon of my youth, that pancake-shaped star freighter that I'd held in my hand as a toy was standing right in front of me, life-sized, bellowing steam with winking, blinking lights, loading ramp ready as if she were goading me to join her for a 12 parsec spin around the galaxy.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge has opened at Disnevland Park in Anaheim, with an identical "land" set to open at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida at the end of August. Galaxy's Edge, the ninth "land" to be added to Disneyland since it opened in 1955, is an overwhelming 14-acre re-creation of a battle-scarred outpost at the rim of the Star Wars galaxy situated far, far away from our own Milky Way. The backstory to the land sounds complex, but is surprisingly easy to decipher once you've visited the place. Set in a period of time between Episodes VIII and IX of the Star Wars saga, the ruthless First Order (think "Empire") has come to the planet Batuu to restore an iron-fisted "peace" under the guidance of the evil Kylo Ren. However, the Resistance (think "Rebellion") has also landed on Batuu to form a secret base and spy on the ongoing tactics of the First Order, under the guidance of newly-minted Jedi Rey and the mighty Wookie Chewbacca. While exploring the land, you're apt to run into any of those characters - and you better not be up to mischief, because First Order Stormtroopers are also patrolling the land, and they are not shy about questioning any unfamiliar travelers they catch roaming through Black Spire Outpost.

Backstory notwithstanding, no Star Wars knowledge is necessary to marvel at the immersive new land, in which every loose wire, abandoned droid and blaster hole in the wall looks as ancient and timeless as you'd expect in a battle-weary village. The striking appearance of the planet's ancient-yet-futuristic techis pure Star Wars, and even the panels of flashing lights that open each sliding door replicate the architectural technology found throughout the Star Wars films.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge also invites park guests (or "travelers," in the lingo of Black Spire Outpost) to interact with itself in ways no Disney themed land ever has before. If guests have downloaded the free Disney Play app to their smartphones ("datapads"), they can take part in a myriad of activities that make the immersive land even more mysterious. Players can do reconnaissance for the Resistance, or work in tandem with local smugglers. There are QR

codes all over the land to be scanned, crates to be inspected, and locked doorways to be hacked. Lovers of role playing adventures can dive even deeper into the Star Wars rabbit hole, while other travelers can enjoy the land unaware that such an opportunity for game play even exists.

Everyone knows that Disneyland has rides, and so does this new Star Wars-themed land. *Millenium Falcon: Smuggler's Run*, the newest Disneyland attraction, allows you to actually pilot the iconic Millenium Falcon starship. The fewer secrets revealed about this experience the better, but note that smugglers with sensitive stomachs might choose to sit in the back seats and act as the ship's engineers, an opportunity afforded by the ride that allows for a less stomach-churning whiz-bang. But take it from this 1977 time-traveler: try to get an opportunity to pilot the ship in the right-hand front seat; the chance to "punch it" and throw the ship into hyperspace is pure astral magic.

Of course, there's a bigger, badder ride coming later this summer, and there are seemingly infinite nooks and crannies to explore all throughout the outpost - but two more experiences deserve mention. There's a "Droid Depot" in the outskirts of the marketplace which allows travelers to scavenge parts to build their own (Bluetooth-enabled, remote-controlled) R2 and BB 1:3 scale droids, and right around the corner from the depot is a subtlely-marked scrapyard named "Savi's Workshop" which doesn't appear to have much happening worth mentioning - at least at first glance. But to travelers in the know (who have pre-paid their 200 credits via Disneyland.com, starting at 7:00 a.m. the day of entry, so be quick!), this hidden scrapyard is actually the home base for a mysterious group who call themselves "The Gatherers," scouring the landscapes of abandoned temples, lairs and wrecked starships looking for elements which, once properly combined, create elegant weapons for a more civilized age. The half-hour experience leaves you with a souvenir that will be long remembered, and an encounter with the most powerful presence on Batuu to boot.

There's also the strangely familar *Oga's Cantina* (try the "Fuzzy Tauntaun" for an out-of-this-world, mouth-numbing experience), a Docking Bay which has been turned into a mess hall, and the marketplace selling all sorts of clothing, handmade toys and critters ... but this completes the secrets I plan to spill. Take your own tour to *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* this summer and discover the hidden secrets from that galaxy far, far away for yourself.

Jeff Baham is a co-host of the Mousetalgia Podcast, which is all about Disneyland and everything else Disney. Find it wherever podcasts are found, or visit Mousetalgia.com.





\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

































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## Thursday, July 4, 2019 3:00 PM until after Fireworks (9:30 PM)

Almaden Lake Park (Corner of Coleman/Almaden Expy) No drop off & No on-site parking. Please see rules below.



No drop off & No on-site parking. We strongly encourage taking UBER; LYFT and Yellow Checker Cab or use public transportation.

#### ★★★★★★★★ RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED & RULES WILL BE ENFORCED ★★★★★★★★ The following items WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT Almaden Lake Park at anytime on Thursday, July 4th - NO Weapons - NO Barbeques - NO Emotional support animals - NO Pets - NO Illegal Fireworks - Offenders risk being fined a minimum of \$500 or more - NO Riding bikes or moving vehicles in park

Tents MUST be secured/staked into the ground or risk being removed. Tents must be taken down at or before 6:00 PM \*\*\*\*\* ABSOLUTELY-NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES **\*\*\*\*\*\*** 

The offender runs the risk of being cited and having the items in question removed from their person and the possibility of being arrested by the San Jose Police Department.

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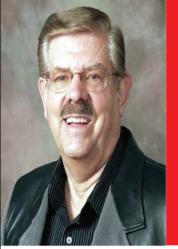


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#### **Times Community**

#### My Country tis of thee...sweet land of liberty!

# San Jose Gurdwara invites entire Almaden community up for complimentary ice cream and refreshments on July 4

By Kirpal Atwal

Special to the Times It's a great country!

We stand side by side with our American brothers and sisters.

We will be there for you and with you in any difficult situation.

We are the American Sikhs.

Almaden residents, this 4th of July, please come up and visit the Gurdwara and have ice cream with us! It will be about a half hour drive for you. Everything is complementary and you will enjoy the view of the Evergreen Valley and the camaraderie of all the wonderful people in the Bay Area.

To get to the Gurdwara, drive on highway 101 north and take the Capital Expressway exit east. Then turn right on Quimby road and go all the way up the hill (about 1 mile). The Gurdwara will be on your right and many park their cars and enjoy walking up the hill to the front where we serve ice cream.

The Gurdwara on the hill is a community place and a community asset for all to use and visit.

We are so very proud as American citizens to walk hand and hand with everyone and to join the City of San Jose in the annual Rose White and Blue parade (please see the information ad in this issue of the *Almaden Times* on page 12).

Always know, in our heart we are so proud to be a part of America. The 4th of July is a very important day for us and we cherish it. This is the place of freedom in our world!

Our children get such joy in participating in the Rose White and Blue parade in downtown San Jose. They develop pride in the country and carry the American flag with strength and honor.

Our little tradition for you is each year we set up our special ice cream and refreshments under the moonlight sky at the Gurdwara on the Hill

for everyone to walk and joyfully look down at the valley (a time for all to take a break from using a cell phone and enjoy nature and sky.)

These important historical days that mark the calendar help us to educate each other about each culture's unique gifts. Understanding others combined with embracing diversity brings strength to all for overcome any stereotypes we instinctively may harbor.

What a great country. It truly is. I say that from the bottom of my heart!

In India, all say that America is the land of opportunity. It's true that any person can truly bring themselves up from the ground to gather wealth and plan well for their future in America. That is not always the case in other countries.

We believe in equality among all people with regard to cultures, race, religion, as well as between men and women too. The Sikhs were one of the first cultures in history to honor and embrace equality between men and women. The truth is, America is such a grand place to live that all one has to do is just grasp the opportunities and figure out how to make things work for each unique situation.

What is so wonderful about America is that it is a diverse country and a place where people accept one another regardless of race, creed, color or religion.

As you may know, other countries have much less than America both in wealth and freedom. People learn to adapt and get along with little. In this area of the world, there is much giving and much care for all in each community.

The sky is the limit in how one can achieve goals and live their life in this beautiful and so very special country. America.

Thank you to the Evergreen Community and beyond for accepting the Sikh Americans as your friends.

Please visit our place on the hill where we serve complimentary vegetarian food 365 days of the year. Also, we never try to proselytize (change others religion or push them towards ours called Sikhism) instead we honor and respect all religions and treat everyone as our brother and sister.

It's the 4th of July, come up and say hello!

#### Message from President Bob Dhillon of the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara

Dear Community,

We are inviting you all up to the Gurdwara to have an ice cream social this 4th of July (Thursday from 7-9 p.m.). We love the community and there is no more beautiful place than for you to take a stroll then at the Gurdwara on the Hill.

Our Gurdwara is a community center as well as a place of worship. We have many events of this kind each year and want you to know you are always welcome.

We have completed a beautiful children's playground open to the public and are in the process of designing a wonderful nature trail for the community to use in the future.

It is very heartwarming to meet and see the community come up and meet and greet each other in this annual 4th of July ice cream social. We do not have fireworks but you can see the beautiful valley view while enjoying delicious tasty ice cream. The children can go back for seconds if they wish too.

Thank you Evergreen and Almaden Community for your friendship. For more information on the Under the Moonlight 4th of July Ice Cream Social go to our website and you can get our app too; sanjosegurdwara.org

Editor's note: The Sikh Gurdwara is located at 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148. Simply travel east on Quimby Rd. and turn right at the top of the hill.

#### Google

Continued from page 10

solve," said Leslye Corsiglia, executive director at housing nonprofit SV@Home. "But the commitment of \$1 billion from one corporation is significant and it is something to celebrate."

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said the city for months has encouraged Google to "make a bold commitment to address our region's affordable housing challenge."

"We look forward to working with Google to ensure today's announcement manifests into housing that will benefit thousands of San Jose residents struggling under the burden of high rents," Liccardo said.

#### **Homelessness and displacement**

The final piece of Google's commitment is a promised \$50 million in grants through Google.org that will help fund nonprofits working on homelessness and displacement issues.

That announcement is timely, as the company seeks

to build a 6 million- to 8 million-square-foot mixeduse campus near San Jose's downtown while local residents have expressed concern about rising rents and displacement as plans move forward.

One of the most vocal critics of Google's potential impact on San Jose residents is public policy organization, Working Partnerships USA, which released a report last week that claimed Google's new San Jose campus could herald in an extra \$235 million annually in rent for existing renters without significant new housing construction.

"Our research found that Google needs to build more than 5,000 affordable homes in San Jose alone, not just regionally," said Jeffrey Buchanan, Working Partnerships' director of public policy. "There is clearly still more it needs to do, but it's a very welcome first step towards fully addressing its impact on rent hikes, evictions and overcrowding."

Contact Janice Bitters at janice@sanjosespotlight.com or follow @JaniceBitters on Twitter.



BON VOYAGE - The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra performed its Bon Voyage Concert on June 22 at the Mexican Heritage Plaza. The orchestra is currently traveling to South America on a two week International Concert Tour. The Philharmonic Orchestra is acting as San Jose's music ambassadors, communicating with others through their performance of music.

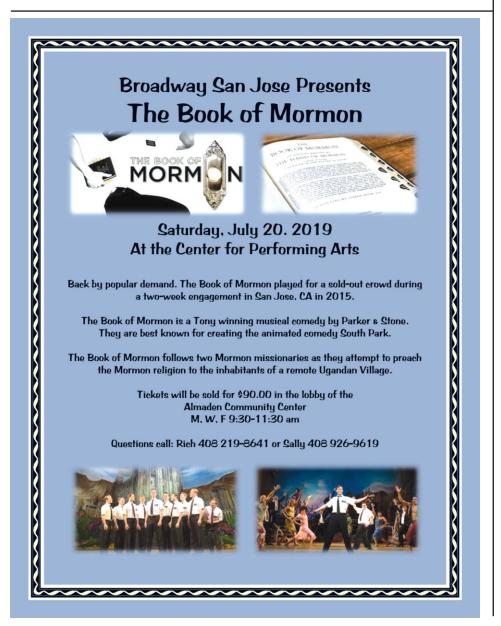
#### Six Almaden residents graduate from the **University of San Diego**

Six Almaden residents have graduated from the University of San Diego.

Receiving their degree are: Anthony Ajlouni, bachelor's degree in Marketing and Finance; Elona Bebla, bachelor's degree in Political Science: Serena Bonafede, bachelor's degree in International Business; Lau-

ren Kafka, earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering and graduated cum laude; Caroline Riedstra; bachelor's degree in Biophysics, and Miles Trudeau, bachelor's degree in Marketing.

The University of San Diego sets the standard for an engaged, contemporary Catholic university. With more than 9,000 students from 77 countries and 44 states. USD is the youngest, independent institution on the U.S. News & World Report list of top 100 universities in the United States.





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# **Community Volunteers come together for good**

Lion's

Club

By Greg Goodman

Special to the Times

ver in the Montevideo neighborhood we had

Dumpster Day where 10 Dumpsters were filled to capacity. District 10 (Johhny Khamis) paid for the dumpsters; thank you Johnny and Michele Dexter.

However, the "people Power" was provided by: Almaden Kiwanis and their high school volunteers Leland Key Club, Boys Team Charity and their Moms and Dads, and finally Almaden Super

Lions. This project was the first Almaden Multi Service club event! Hats off to you all! Hopefully there are more to come.

Once a month members from various clubs come together and meet for an hour 7 to 8 p.m. at the Almaden Community Center. The purpose of these meetings is to see how we can come together and create synergy amongst the various service clubs in our Almaden community and surrounding communities.

Oh, and we rescued 30 bikes from the dumpster and gave them to Good Karma Bikes on Lincoln Avenue. Good Karma Bikes is a 5013c (nonprofit). Their mission is to help provide transportation and employment to those individuals who otherwise would not be able to afford a bike or are currently unemployed. They are an empowering organization. Go check them out. They are on Lincoln Avenue just North of

downtown Willow Glen. Plus, they have some really nice bikes you can buy!

Folks let me be blunt! WE NEED

YOU...without volunteers the "glue" of communities begin to fray. Conversely when we do come together on these projects we share in a common goal and have fun doing it!

So below I have listed the various names and contacts of the Service Clubs.

Please consider giving your time and talents to one of these fine service organizations, thank you.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF SAN JOSE: They can be reached at alsj.org,

BEAUTIFUL DAY: They can be reached at www.beautifulday.org or contacted at finny@beautifuld-day.org,

BOYS TEAM CHARITY: They can be reached at president.btc. almadenvalley@gmail.com,

KIWANIS CLUB OF ALMADEN: The Kiwanis can be reached at Tom sisto@hotmail.com

ROTARY CLUB OF ALMADEN VALLEY: They can be reached at avr-cgrapevine@gmail.com or web Almaden Valley Rotary.org

SAN JOSE SEARCH AND RESCUE: info@sjsar.org

ALMADEN SUPER LIONS: tsmith14857gmail.com or their website www.almadenlions.org

Michele Dexter is the contact if you wish to come to a monthly multiclub service meeting. Michele.Dexter@sanjoseca.gov.

# **Almaden Community Center Computer classes for adults registration: July 6**

Class session dates: July 22 – September 13

Computer Classes for Adults (Almaden CCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization that teaches adults how to make the most of their computers, tablets, and smartphones with classes that are both informative and fun.

Courses are designed to help you improve your computer and internet skills. The goal is to help you overcome your frustrations, have the confidence to use and enjoy your computer, smartphone, or tablet, and use technology to keep up with today's world and maybe even impress your kids and grandkids.

Registration for the next session July 22- Sept. 13, is at 11:30 a.m. on **July 6** at the Almaden Community Center, second floor. You can register that day in person, or mail in or drop off a proxy form with the infor-

mation and fee for the courses you want to take. Complete course information is available starting the last week of June at www.almadenc-ca.org, or pick up a course list at the front desk in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

You'll find Android and iPhone courses on the schedule, plus two-hour workshops on new topics and popular subjects from past sessions. If you've never taken a CCA course, a workshop is a good introduction.

Almaden CCA uses PCs that run Windows 10. Students taking Apple and Android courses bring their own devices. Course fees range from \$10 for a two-hour workshop to \$20 for an eight-week course, with no membership fee. After registration, go to www.almadencca.org to see which courses are open. Then call (408) 674-1401 to sign up, or for additional information.

#### **Champions**

Continued from page 1 graders. Many of them have been playing since t-ball for the last 9 to 10 years. It was bittersweet since their Little League years are over, but it was awesome to end with the TOC Championship, especially for our coaches who have coached for 10+ years! Some boys may go on to play for their high school team and some may not play on a baseball team ever

again."
Elliott says that she saw many friendships develop throughout her son's Little League years. "Our baseball experience was fun since it's all local kids that grew up together on the Little League field or were school classmates," she says. "We're going to miss it."

"Little League is a Youth Development League," says League President Don Dixon. "It's about raising young boys and girls to be part of a community." The league supports boys and girls ages 4 through 15 with a variety of divisions from t-ball to juniors.

"Everyone has a soft spot in their heart for it," says League Vice President Pete Fuqua. "Kids learn a lot of life lessons here: paying it forward, helping the younger ones coming up, being role models. It's not just baseball: it's where kids come to hang out and be together."

"I highly respect and appreciate the coaches for taking the time to coach our boys," says Elliott. "They have demanding high tech jobs, but they managed their schedules to be at all our practices and games, starting at 5 p.m. and going 'til dusk on weeknights. Our coaches



**Tyler Craig** making a catch at shortstop with **Ayan Desai** at 2nd base ready to turn a double play. **Sebastian Neff** backing up the play. *Photo courtesy Lisa Elliott* 

wanted to win, but also wanted it to be fun and low key for the team. They weren't super intense and never yelled at the boys."

"He took a team all the way to the TOC Championship," says Almaden LL Board Member Nick Blozan of Neff. "That is an epic achievement."

Neff says that for him, the biggest takeaway is how important character is for winning teams in sports, business or life. "We've coached teams all over the spectrum in terms of wins and losses," he says, "and I think the differentiator is more about character than physical skills."

He defines character as working your hardest, even when no one is watching; being proud of your teammates' success, but also supporting them when they fail; and holding yourself accountable so that you won't let your team down.

"On those measures," he says, "I would put the Brewers on top of all the teams we managed. We are very proud of how the team came together this year to bring the championship back to Almaden."

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Share this experience and learn how you can best pair wine with food.

Ticket sales begin June 24th, in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center 8:40-10:00 am M, W, F.



Price: \$10.00 members, \$12.00 non members

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Please bring your membership card.

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- · Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
- A Food Pantry serving anyone in need--open Tu/ Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.
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- Intentional Growth
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www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (0&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food

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God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

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#### **Times Community**

#### **Fourth**

Continued from page 1 **Sponsors** 

This year's event is provided predominately by private monies from sponsors each year. Among the many sponsors this year, the events major sponsors include: The Office of Cultural Affairs of the City of San Jose, Brandenburg Foundation; Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley, Millcreek Residential, Naprotek, Skip's Tires, KT Urban, County of Santa Clara, Westfield Oakridge Mall, Republic Services, Hunter Properties and a generous donation by Martinelli's Apple Cider among other sponsors.

This year's Festival features local band, Snarky Cats led by George Nowicki, local magician, Pete G. Magic and Elvis (and possibly Priscilla) and his pink Cadillac too. Food Trucks and booths include: Falafel Fresh & Gyros; Grillzilla; Los Jarochos Grill; Sweet Rendezvous; Dippin Dots and the Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley.

Numerous festival booths include Write a Letter to a Soldier sponsored by Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley and the Brandenburg Foundation, #ActivateSJ among other children's activities provided by Westfield Oakridge Mall and Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley.

#### **Costume contest**

A "Most Patriotic Costume Contest" for the Best Family; Best Teen and Best Child (under 12) will be held this year, so dress up and participate!

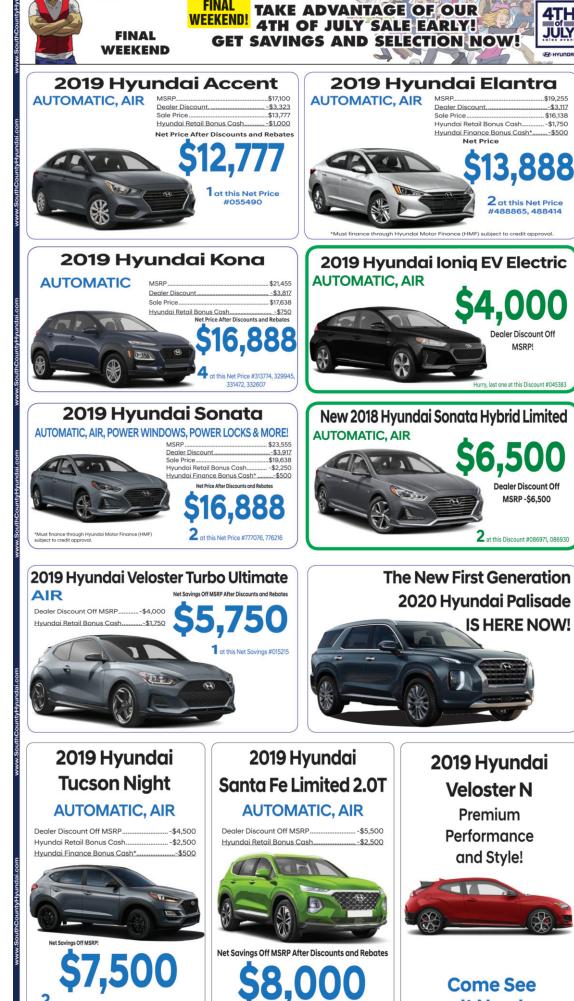
The Festival Fundraiser is selling Detroit, Michigan's own, FAYGO soda pop—featuring Cotton Candy, Rock & Rye and Red Pop flavored sodas and Martinelli's Apple Juice while supplies last! Water and other soda will also be sold. Non-profit icerv are volunteering their time to staff the booth and monies raised help pay for the event so be sure to patronize their booth!

Carpooling and public transit is encouraged. No drop offs. No on-site parking. No alcohol, No pets, No barbeques and No illegal fireworks are allowed at this event. Rules will be enforced; absolutely no exceptions.

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Almaden Lake Park is located at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road.

Interested in volunteering, visit the District 10 website at sjd10.com or contact the Event Organizer, Denelle Fedor at denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov.



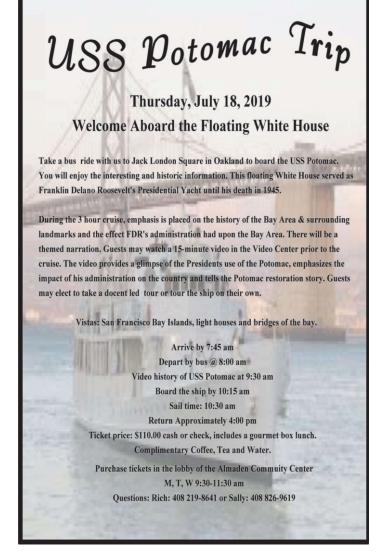
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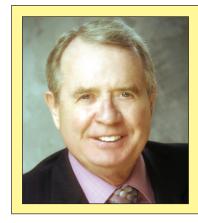
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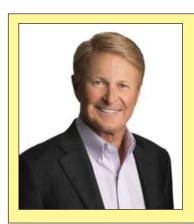
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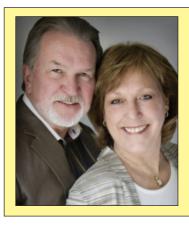


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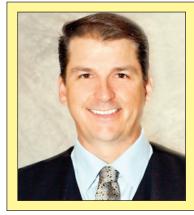
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## Almaden Valley (Senior) Singles

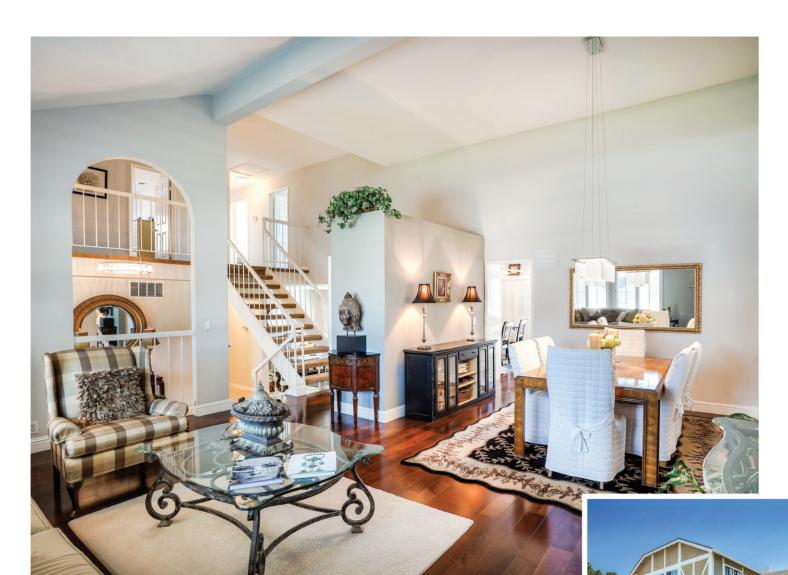
The organization that brings single residents of Almaden Valley (95120) over 65 to enjoy a social life close to home and take part in community service.

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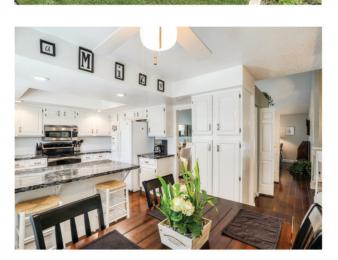


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Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 10 years as measured by Dollars per Agent per Year. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to ever have been nationally ranked and recognized by Wall Street Journal/RealTrends twice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

