

ALMADEN SAN JOSE CHINESE SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY - PAGE 4



DAR AMERICAN HISTORY AWARD PRESENTED TO THREE ALMADEN STUDENTS - PAGE 10



LOS ALAMITOS SCHOOL 'EXPECT RESPECT' PROGRAM INSPIRES STUDENTS TO SERVE AS ROLE MODELS- PAGE 15



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Almaden Times

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ALERT IN ALMADEN



CERT Training Wreckage: CERT training includes medical triage, fire safety and search and rescue.

Almaden welcome sign campaign raises \$7,770

By William Bellou
Publisher

Community response to the fund raising campaign to restore the Almaden welcoming sign has resulted in \$7,270 being raised through the website GoFundMe, and \$500 was received by a donor last week.

Ken Tavernier, a member of the Almaden Rotary Club. The funding goal was achieved when a check for \$500 was received, putting the total at \$7,770.

The Welcome the Almaden sign that was stripped the night of Jan. 16 of lettering and logos on from the organizations that helped raise more than \$18,000 to



erect the sign in 2014 should be fixed in about two weeks.

The thieves may have not been the very bright, as the stainless steel they stole cannot be recycled.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis called the vandalism "a punishment to the community. "I'm disheartened," Khamis said. "All the steel they stole cannot be recycled."
See SIGN, page 6

Almaden Valley Radio Watch Neighborhood Net: a safety net for local communities

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

They may not be superheroes, but Jon Kim and Barry Redding are crime fighters and looking for residents to join their team.

As car and house break-ins increased in the Orchard Creek neighborhood, they searched for a way to defeat the criminals. "The San Jose Police Department is stretched thin and officers often arrived after an incident occurred," says Kim. "That wasn't good enough for us."

They formed a Neighborhood Watch group, communicating first with landlines and then with cell phones.
See SAFETY NET, page 8



Barry Redding (left) and Jon Kim. "With radios, when something's happening and you need help, you can reach out to everyone in the community instantly," says Kim.

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performed at recent Unify Dance Concert: **PAGE 19**

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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.

Leland Bridge Night celebrates the Lunar New Year

This year, Leland Bridge Night celebrates not only the arrival of the Lunar New Year of the Monkey but also the 15th anniversary of Leland Bridge.

The evening was well attended by more than 300 Leland administrators, teachers, parents, students and friends, including community leaders including State Assemblyman Kansen Chu and City Councilmember Johnny Khamis. Many founding members and past presidents also attended the event.

The Leland cafeteria was transformed into a festive hall with bright red and gold colors, adorned with adorable stuffed monkeys. Guests were served dinner by student volunteers, with live music by the Leland Jazz Band.

The evening's program kicked off with the traditional lion dance. Two energetic lions grabbed the red envelopes of luck from the Principal and the Leland Bridge President, then showered the audience with candies of prosperity.

The current President Maggie Li then introduced Wenlin Chen, a founding member and Leland



Assemblyman Kansen Chu, Keynote Speaker Albert Mach, Co-founder of LB Wenlin Chen, City Councilman Johnny Khamis, Principle Dr. Mukherjee, and LB president Maggie Li.

Bridge's first President, who gave a brief history of how Leland Bridge came into existence. This was followed by the birthday song and cake cutting ceremony.

New to this year's program was a keynote speech by Leland alumni, Albert Mach. An accomplished Bioengineer, Albert was listed in

the "30 Under 30" list by Forbes Magazine. He encouraged the Chinese students to treasure their dual cultures and learn the Chinese language well.

The guests were entertained by a variety of programs, from classical ballet to modern dancing, singing by Club Allegro to a magic

show by Four Aces Magic. The hilarious skit "Just a Normal Day - in the Internet Age" portrayed 2 pairs of moms and high school students drew laughter from the audience from start to finish and won much applause. The program ended with the elegant Cheong Sam (Qipao) Show.

Almaden San Jose Chinese School celebrates Year of the Monkey

Sean Eastwood
Times Staff Writer

San Jose Chinese School's students and parents celebrated the Year of the Monkey at school headquarters on the campus of Leland High School on Feb. 6.

The event started with the school's long standing tradition of the dragon parade after which students were invited to greet the crowd reciting lucky sayings on stage.

Student performances were the highlight of the day, with performances, dancing, singing that captivated the appreciative audience.

Councilmember District 10 Johnny Khamis joined the celebration and said the event was joyful with a lot of positive energy. "I enjoyed all the cultural displays, dances, and martial arts performances at this year's New Year celebration of the San Jose Chinese School," said Khamis. "Congratulations to all of the organizers for putting on such a fantastic and successful event!"

This is the 42nd year of San Jose Chinese School serving Silicon Valley. The school provides quality Chinese language and cultural education with total immersion and Chinese as a Second Language classes for kindergarten through 12th grade students. Additionally, the school offers a wide range of extra-curricular classes and cultural activities for students and parents to further foster the community.



The dragon dance is performed by San Jose Chinese School students during festivities celebrating the Year of the Monkey.



Lake Ryan takes a turn with the year of the monkey face cutout.



Enjoying the San Jose Chinese School New Year Celebration are (L to R) are Rui Teng Lim, Anna Wu, and Uy Xuan Lim.



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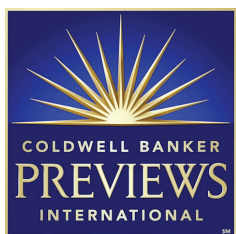
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Times **Local News**

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Coldwell Banker raises \$100,000 for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Coldwell Banker real estate services company, announced today that it raised approximately \$100,000 for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford during the company's recent fundraising campaign.

The donations were the result of a month-long community-wide raffle held throughout Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's 42 Bay Area offices. Entitled "Give Health. Give Hope" this was the company's first annual fundraiser for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

The non-profit hospital treats any child or expectant mother in the community who needs specialized care, regardless of their ability to pay. Each year, more than 71,000 children and expectant mothers throughout the Bay Area come to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for expert medical care.

"Thousands of our affiliated agents, managers and staff, along with generous supporters in the community, rallied together to make this inaugural fundraiser for Lucile Packard a spectacular success," said Mike James, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "Through their tireless efforts, Coldwell Banker is helping to create healthier, happier futures for Bay Area



children in need."

As part of the fundraiser, more than 3,000 independent sales associates, managers and staff from the North Bay to the Monterey Peninsula purchased \$2 raffle tickets on behalf of their clients, family, friends and themselves, which were in turn entered into a drawing for a number of prizes. Offices also organized individual fundraising events, many open to the public, to raise additional funds.

Blood donations needed by the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross encourages blood donors to make an appointment to give this winter. Eligible blood donors of all types are needed, especially those with O, AB, B negative and A negative.

Blood is needed to respond to emergencies large and small, across the country every day. For Heather Von Glahn, it was a personal emergency - her 8-year-old daughter's leukemia diagnosis - that inspired her to make the commitment to give blood regularly. "I've seen blood save her life at least 10 times," said Von Glahn. "When friends and family ask what they can do for my daughter, I tell them to donate blood. It matters so much!"

Blood donations are needed now and throughout the winter to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients in need. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Feb. 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at San Jose Blood Donation Center, 2731 North First St.

Feb. 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at San Jose Blood Donation Center, 2731 North First St.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

Sign

Continued from page 1

hard work that went into this was a labor of love, and now some very hateful people decided to do this."

Tavernier said he has been working with a sign company on a couple of options to make the sign less attractive to future criminals. "We're working on the lettering with Pierce Signs, and I also met with a team from Bear Electrical Solutions," Tavernier said in a statement on the GoFundMe web-

site. "To help prevent this from happening again, we're switching to non-metallic lettering and the sign will be illuminated from dusk to dawn."

Khamis said someone vandalized the VEP community room during the same weekend as the sign incident and he expressed his disappointment in the increasing amounts of vandalism being reported in Almaden Valley.

Police have no leads so far; anyone with information on the case is asked to contact the San Jose Police Department.



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CERT Training: Kim and Redding encourage residents to attend CERT training.

Safety Net

Continued from page 1

phones, but found it took too long to make calls. “We needed something that allowed for a much faster response,” says Kim. “We ended up with radios, partially because the San Jose amateur radio community works closely with officers and emergency services.”

Kim believes that Neighborhood Watch helped them to become a tighter community and radios can empower them further. “With radios, when something’s happening and you need help, you can reach out to everyone in the community instantly,” he says. “That’s the power we’re trying to take advantage of.” To this end, Kim and Redding founded Almaden Valley Radio Watch Neighborhood Net, deploying Baofeng BF-888S radios to residents at a one-time cost of \$35 and training them in their use.

One night at 1:30 a.m., a man was parked drinking and smoking in the driveway of Kim’s neighbor’s home. Instead of going out to confront the person alone, his neighbor picked up the radio for backup. “If one person responds alone he may be a target,” says Kim, “but if four or six people respond, he’ll leave and know this is an area he doesn’t want to hang around in.”

Another night, a neighbor came to Kim’s door alerting him to a stranger in the neighborhood. “I picked up the radio and had five people immediately respond and two come by in their cars,” says Kim. “It took two minutes. That’s the kind of response we could only hope to get from the San Jose police.”

When Kim’s daughter was home alone, someone was knocking at the door and wouldn’t go away. She picked up the radio and within two minutes, four of his neighbors were there.

“We’re not all home 24 hours a day, but someone in the neighborhood is,” says Kim. “If something happens, from a stranger in the neighborhood, to fixing a water heater, I can count on neighbors to come to the aid of my family. It creates a sense of community.”

Since establishing the radio network, Kim and Redding have distributed 427 radios in Almaden and have only had one break-in in Orchard Creek in the last 20 months.

Orchard Creek residents communicate on Channel 1 and can connect with the rest of Almaden Valley on Channel 5. With the aid of three repeaters, they can reach from Monterey to Hayward and South San Francisco to King City.

“People listening to our radios will be alerted to what’s going on,” says Redding, “from suspicious cars and strangers in the neighborhood to blocked roads from local accidents.”

“There are elderly people living alone and kids home alone after school,” says Kim. “We’re trying to prevent bad things from happening with neighbors helping neighbors.”

Almaden Valley Radio Watch Neighborhood Net has aided the police in apprehending several people with criminal records who were soliciting or loitering in the area. It’s also a reassuring presence. “As we walk around, people hold up their radios and wave,” says Kim, “and residents have told me that it’s really helpful knowing someone’s there.”

Kim started with amateur radios when he was a kid living in Thailand. He later picked up an amateur radio license for sailing purposes and met Redding on the radio through a Palo Alto based network. Through talking, they realized they shared the same mindset of using radios for Neighborhood Watch and lived two blocks away from each other.

Redding became involved with radios after he was a victim of a home invasion many years ago. “It turned my attention to safety, security and self-protection,” he says. “Now it’s a hobby and a passion and to be able to apply it to the community makes it a useful tool.”

While the Almaden Valley Neighborhood Watch Radio Net was initially formed to address an increase in burglaries, Kim and Redding are committed to using it to support communications during an area-wide emergency such as an earthquake, fire or flood.

“During the Loma Prieta earthquake, within 45 seconds, cellular networks went down and stayed down for six to eight hours due to the volume of calls,” says Kim. “With the explosion of cell phones today it’s even worse, but radios can still get through. When a car ran over a power line and knocked out the transformer, our radios stayed running with battery backups and generators.”

Kim and Redding are being trained through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer program on medical triage, fire safety measures like closing gas valves and search and rescue. They encourage residents to attend CERT training on Feb. 20 at Almaden Vineyard Community Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents are also invited to attend Field Day, an annual amateur radio exercise, on

See SAFETY NET, page 10

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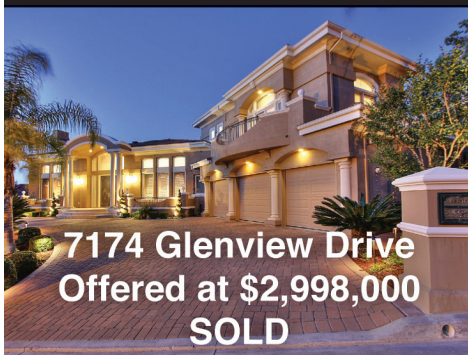
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DAR American History Award presented to Almaden students

By William Bellou
Publisher

Three Almaden students have won the American History Contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Los Gatos chapter.

The purpose of the American History Contest is to promote American History by honoring significant historical people, dates and events.

Since 1996, the NSDAR has joined with the National Italian American Foundation to sponsor an annual national essay contest on Christopher Columbus.

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

Who are DAR members? Answer: Any woman who can prove lineage to the patriot of the American Revolution.

The contest questions included two subject matters: American History and Christopher Columbus.

The American History contest is based on the 250th anniversary of the Stamp Act by the British Parliament in 1765. This new tax required all colonists to pay a tax on every printed on every piece of paper they used. The stamp Act was viewed by the colonists as "taxation without representation."

Students were asked the following question: Describe a colonial family's discussion about the new Stamp Act and what role it played in organizing the colonists against the British King and Parliament.

Almaden winners included Alex Corliss, Challenger School, and Palline Le, Challenger School.

The Christopher Columbus contest question is based on the Columbus and Lindbergh: A Journey across the Atlantic.

The question posed to students who



Sandy McCorkle, (chairman of the American History Awards) and Sue Fitzpatrick (Los Gatos Regent) pose with Palline Le (above), Jerry Peng (above right) and Alex Corliss (at right).



Who are DAR members? Answer: Any woman who can prove lineage to the patriot of the American Revolution.



entered the contest is as follows: Discuss the similarities and differences between Christopher Columbus' voyage to the new world and Charles Lindbergh's first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. What affect did the 400 years between their accomplishments have on what each man hope to achieve, the challenges they faced, and the skills essential to their success?

The winner is Jerry Peng, Harker School. All three students are also designated District VI winners.

Los Gatos Chapter DAR

The Los Gatos Chapter DAR was organized November 19, 1929. The organizing regent was Mrs. Harry B. Payne. The chapter had the distinction of holding its organizing meeting in the home of famous writer Ruth

Comfort Mitchell (Mrs. Sanford Young). In choosing the name Los Gatos Chapter, which when translated in Spanish means "The Cats," the founders sought to perpetuate the memory of the founder of the City, Jose Hernandez. In 1840, Hernandez and Sebastian Peralta had obtained a land grant from Mexico; it contained several thousand

acres on which the city of Los Gatos now stands. While exploring the holdings from the Pacific Ocean to what is now Santa Clara Valley, the party had heard the screaming of wild cats, which led to the name Los Gatos. Upon having discovered water and fertile land, Hernandez built his adobe in Los Gatos.

Safety Net

Continued from page 8

June 25 and 26 at Parma Park. Using solar power, batteries and generators, radio operators will compete to see how many contacts they can make across the nation. "We practice keeping communication going," says Kim, "especially in the event of a power outage during a disaster."

"We're trying to mobilize our neighbors and make us less isolated by building communities," says Kim.

"We can prepare people before an emergency happens," says Redding. "The more people who are involved, the better we'll all be, because this can save lives."

In the case of an emergency, Kim and Redding would like to establish command posts in Almaden to communicate with hospitals and emergency services to report on injuries and damaged homes and request fire trucks, ambulances or whatever is needed.

"We're trying to set up a wireless emergency network connected with the city and

county that's operational even with the loss of electricity," says Redding. "Many other Bay Area cities like Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale already have emergency networks in place."

"The Red Cross, city, county and hospitals have weekly emergency practices," says Kim. "We're trying to do the same for Almaden."

Kim and Redding are working with District 10 to set up 'Map My Neighborhood' to identify where elderly or disabled people live who might need help, as well as doctors, nurses, and firefighters. They also would like to compile a list of community resources such as blankets, bandages, water, chain saws, fire extinguishers and gas for generators.

They eventually hope to establish Almaden Valley Response Team (AVERT) so they can become a CERT entity authorized to receive emergency-related resources from the city.

"It's better to be prepared and have what you need, than to need it and not have it," says Redding.

See: www.almadenneighborhoodwatch.com for more information.

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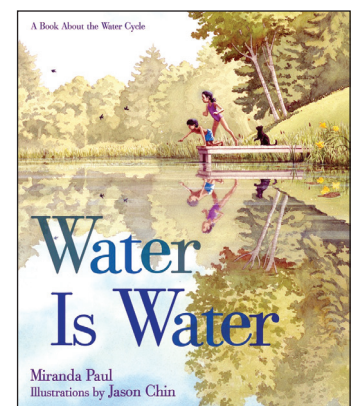
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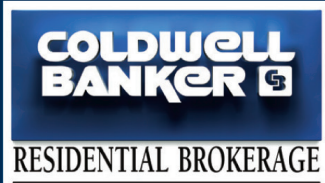
Serving Almaden Valley since 1995

Author Miranda Paul to read at local center

On Saturday Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Almaden Community Center, Miranda Paul will present and read her book "Water is Water" a book about the water cycle in celebration of Silicon Valley Reads 2016. The first 20 families to attend will receive a free book "Water is Water" as a gift from the Los Gatos chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.



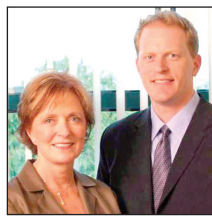
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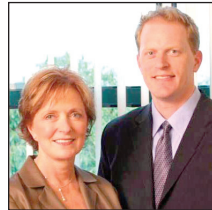
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How to Avoid Costly Housing Mistakes Before and After a Divorce

San Jose - Divorce is rarely easy and often means a lot of difficult decisions. One of the most important decisions is what to do about the house.

In the midst of the heavy emotional and financial turmoil, what you need most is some non-emotional, straightforward, specific information and answers. Once you know how a divorce affects your home, your mortgage and taxes, critical decisions are easier. Neutral, third party information can help you make logical, rather than emotional, decisions.

Probably the first decision is whether you want to continue living in the house. Will the familiar surroundings bring you comfort and emotional security, or unpleasant memories? Do you want to minimize change by staying where you are, or sell your home and move to a new place that offers a new start? Only you can answer those questions, but there will almost certainly be some financial

repercussions to your decision process. What can you afford? Can you manage the old house on your new budget? Is refinancing possible? Or is it better to sell and buy? How much house can you buy on your new budget?

To help you know what questions you should ask and how to arrive at the right answer for your specific situation, a FREE special report has been prepared by industry experts entitled "Divorce: What You Need to Know About Your House, Your Mortgage and Taxes".

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.sanjosehomeinfo.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-866-303-3002 and enter 1009. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to find out how to make this part of your current situation less stressful.

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NCL volunteers ready to graduate

Pictured above are the National Charity League's Almaden and Blossom Valley Chapter 2016 graduating seniors. This group of young women have volunteered with local organizations such as San Jose Family Shelter, InnVision, and City Team Ministries for the past six years. National Charity League (NCL) is a philanthropic mother/daughter association that supports many non-profit organizations in the San Jose community.

Leland Boys Basketball Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
02/12/16	Friday	Leigh	Leland	7:00 PM
02/17/16	Wednesday	Santa Teresa	Santa Teresa	7:00 PM
02/19/16	Friday	Willow Glen	Leland	7:00 PM

Volunteer Harriet Roy of Almaden will be missed at City Hall

Long-time San Jose City Hall volunteer and District 10 resident, Harriet Roy, recently passed away after a brief struggle with cancer.

For more than 10 years, Harriet, with her husband Dan, greeted visitors at Council meetings and lead tours for countless school groups, with a wry sense of humor. Harriet and Dan also worked with various departments in the City, and led special tours for visiting international groups.

"They became genuine experts in all aspects of City Hall and its design and construction, our civic processes, and our community as

they delighted in sharing their knowledge to help our community members feel real ownership of their City Hall," said Councilmember Johnny Khamis. "As reliable volunteers for so many years, Harriet exemplified the true commitment to public service that is an inspiration for us all."

Before Harriet passed away, she asked people at City Hall about finding a person who could replace her as a tour-guide partner.

A memorial for Harriet Roy will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 in San Jose City Hall's rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara Street.

Mayor Liccardo to deliver State of the City Address March 5 at Overfelt High School

Mayor Sam Liccardo is hosting this year's State of the City at Overfelt High School.

The Mayor's 2016 State of the City Address will outline key initiatives, budget priorities, and opportunities for residents to get engaged to make San José a better place to live, work, and play.

In addition, the City will present the Pride of San Jose Awards to exemplary City employees.

Each member of the City Council has chosen an individual or group

from their district as a 2016 Community Honoree.

The event is open to the public and concludes with a Resource Fair with information about city services and city employment.

Saturday, March 5; Doors open: 9:30 a.m. State of the City Program: 10 a.m. At Overfelt High School, 1835 Cunningham Ave., San Jose.

Members of the public who wish to attend State of the City can register at www.sjmayor.org or by calling 408.535.4800.

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Times **Community News**



Survival Sack Delivery at Sacred Heart (l to r): students **Tejal Vaghela, Ian Muller and Todd Steffler.**

Los Alamitos School ‘Expect Respect’ program inspires students to serve as role models

By **Denise Dstyerwal**
Special to the Times

Established four years ago, the *Expect Respect* program at Los Alamitos Elementary was originally started to empower students to engage positively during recess with younger students and also their own peers, through organized activities and games while serving as role models for others.

“Since its inception, the program has greatly expanded the number of students involved, as well as in the scope of projects undertaken,” said Elizabeth Muller, program co-chair and school parent. “This school year, 2015-16, we more than doubled the number of fourth and fifth graders participating due to the large numbers of students who wanted to be involved,” said Muller. “We have approximately 70 fourth and fifth graders now, and concurrently, we started a contingent of 30 third grade *Expect Respect* students who work exclusively with our Kindergartners.”

“In the beginning, the program’s focus was to strengthen the school environment for our students to make us more cohesive through different activities,” said Dawn Steffler, program co-chair and school parent. “We organized a *Pride Day* for picking up trash, we created a “free fish” mural on a campus wall, did art activities like friendship bracelets to tie into the YMCA Project Cornerstone books we were reading and held a *Skills Day* where older kids would teach younger kids new skills like cartwheeling.”

“We hung an UPstander banner up that every student in the school had signed after saying the Project Cornerstone UPstander pledge in support of one another, distributed candy cane grams to every student during the holidays, and organized recess dance parties to get the older and younger students enjoying interacting with each other,” said Liz Vaghela, program co-chair and school parent.

Supporting causes

Although the *Expect Respect* students continue various activities focused on school spirit and in support of the YMCA Project Cornerstone curriculum, the focus has shifted somewhat over the years. This began in 2013, prompted by Typhoon Haiyan in the

Philippines when two fifth grade students Gareth Allison and Kiran Ganatra asked if they could organize a school-wide coin drive to donate funds to the American Red Cross.

At their urging, the Los Alamitos student body collected more than \$3,000 in just a few weeks. That’s when the program began directing its efforts more towards the greater community with neighborhood and global projects, combining cross-age interaction with inspiring students of all ages to become more involved in the service of others.

For example, in the past three years, the fourth and fifth grade students have led the younger students in making cat toys to donate to the Humane Society Silicon Valley. They’ve made Valentines fuzzy grams for the senior citizens at The Atrium, Carlton Plaza, and Le Mirador. Last year, they distributed 389 hand-made Valentines expressing happy sentiments and beautiful artwork, and this year, they expect to deliver even more. *Expect Respect* students have also led Los Alamitos students in making over 200 laminated place-mats with positive messages and friendly greetings for house-bound individuals receiving Meals on Wheels.

Expect Respect supported the Family Giving Tree organization for the first time in 2014 and organized an assembly with Jennifer Cullenbine, the founder, to have her speak about her background and inspiration for starting an organization that provides underprivileged youth in the Bay Area with Christmas gifts. Los Alamitos students rallied to the cause and collected: 131 toys, \$150 in gift cards and checks, and 190 toothbrushes and toothpastes. Six students volunteered that year at Family Giving Tree to help prepare the gifts for distribution.

This year, the students led two assemblies (gaining wonderful public-speaking experience) with the founder again, and collected 149 gifts with 24 students spending a Saturday volunteering at Family Giving Tree for gift distribution. In anticipation of the Family Giving Tree donating toothbrushes with each gift, *Expect Respect* students also collected over 1,730 toothbrushes with a grade-level competition that kicked off in October 2015 that the Kindergarten classes

See RESPECT, page 16

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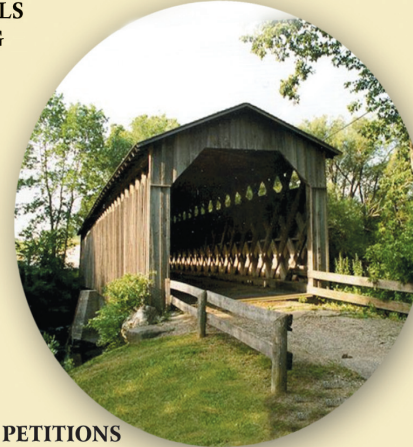
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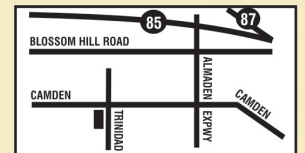
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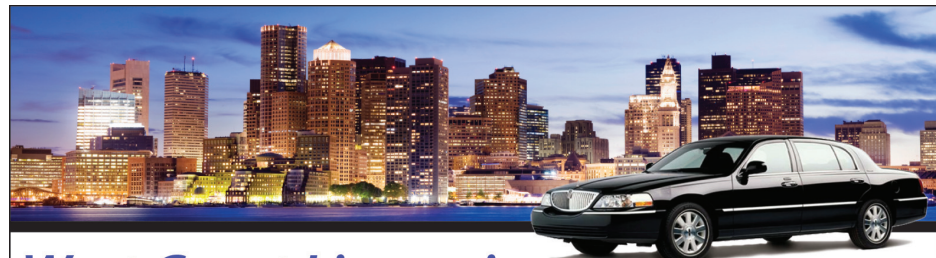
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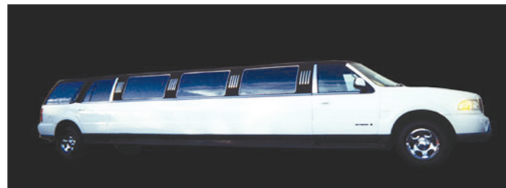
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Respect

Continued from page 15

won. Expect Respect kids got additional valuable public-speaking experience by going into every classroom to explain the reason for the drive and encouraging all students to participate.

In May 2015, Expect Respect assembled and delivered 53 "Survival Sack" backpacks stuffed with blankets, socks, underwear, towels, and toiletries to Sacred Heart Community Service. They also amassed several bags and boxes full of overflow items. The class with the most items collected was rewarded with an ice cream sundae party and the entire school celebrated with Otter Pops and free dress.

This spring, the students have plans for a school-wide crayon collection to collect old, broken crayons and deliver them to a site in Oakland, Calif. where Crayola will recycle them to make new crayons to donate to underprivileged students and schools.

On campus, over the next four months of school, the students are leading a "Kindness Counts Calendar," making posters and announcements to promote weekly challenges for the entire school to meet, such as "Say hello to five people you don't already know" and "Offer to help your teacher, parent, or classmate."

"One of our main goals in Expect Respect is to utilize the greatest asset we have—the enthusiasm and fantastic ingenuity of our Expect Respect students," said Muller. "They constantly generate new ideas that prompt us to go in these different directions with our



Student **Aislinn Stenberg** signing the UPstander banner.

community service." "By having such a voice, they are simultaneously building confidence, learning the value of thinking of others, developing organizational and leadership skills, and solidifying, within themselves and in modeling for the entire school community, the concept of being an UPstander role model," said Steffler.

"I have enjoyed seeing the tremendous growth that has occurred in the program and how it has benefited our entire student body, local community and causes worldwide," said Thomas Rousseau, principal at Los Alamitos Elementary. "The *Expect Respect* program has a great team of parent volunteers, the largest we've ever had to date, and we are all excited about the path we are on."

Happy Valentine's Day!

Carol Camilli Montgomery is celebrating 15 years of selling real estate in the Bay Area.

You've probably seen me with my dogs on the hiking trails, at my open houses or all around Almaden. My past clients have given me glowing reviews. Thinking of buying or selling in the coming months? Call me to discuss your real estate needs today!

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Some things to pass on to your successor trustee, just in case

This week's question:

My husband and I have a fairly new living trust and we have a little disagreement about how much information to pass on to our successor trustee in case something happens to both of us. Do you have any ideas about that issue?

Chloe C.

Almaden Valley

Dear Chloe:

That is a very good question, Chloe. And I guess the answer depends upon several things.

Some people like to keep things pretty much private and not tell their successor trustees anything at all. I do not think that is a very good idea, since valuable information is needed by the successor trustees and often quickly because of changing circumstances, deadlines for things to do, and other factors.

Others like to pass on a lot of useful information in case something happens to both spouses, often a husband and a wife in a long-term marriage. While they are both living it is one thing, but when the second spouse passes on, important decisions need to be made.

If one of the adult children is named successor trustee after both spouse pass on, he or she could possibly gain some kind of game-playing advantage over his or siblings if he or she knows a lot of family information compared with his or her siblings. I hope you do

not have that problem in your family.

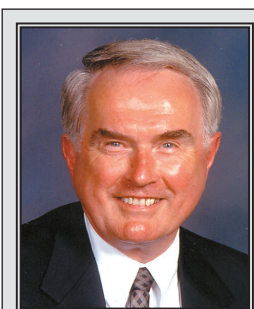
I like to think that we have responsible adult children who will do what is right when the time arises and will treat family information and all other information properly at all times.

For example, I would let the successor trustee know where all important documents are located, if not actually give him or her a copy of the documents-with updates as the years pass by. Decisions vary in that regard.

I would also make sure my Schedule "A" list of all assets in the trust is current so that it lists all trust property, including real estate, accounts, and all other assets.

A client of mine recently gave me such a list that was very impressive. It included real estate, including the assessor's parcel number, time-share location, i.d. number, contact information, and the weeks allotted to the client in the time-share. Also listed was the client's brokerage accounts and locations, account numbers, key contact information, including name of the account rep and the telephone number.

It would also be good if the successor trustee and possibly alternate or back-up suc-



Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,
Attorney at Law

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cessor trustee knew how to access tax returns, since so much important information is recorded in tax returns.

That client had all other accounts listed too in perfect detail, not over-bearing, but just the right information to add in the transition after the client and spouse would be no longer with us. (And we do know, don't we, that this will eventually happen.)

Key advisors were also listed with their contact information, the dates of prior reviews and various work with the documents, and related data. Those advisors included their attorneys over the years, insurance agents, and insurance policy information on all assets.

You might also list separate property interests of both spouses so that it can be treated properly, compared with community property.

This type of information is extremely valuable when one spouse passes on. Otherwise, panic can set in very quickly by the surviving spouse, and time and money can be lost in a hurry. Typically, one spouse might be more inclined to know where all such information is located, and the point is that he or she should share that information with the other spouse while both are alive and well.

Then, when the time comes, it is much easier for the surviving spouse to pass on all pertinent information to the attorney for the surviving trustee, the CPA for the family, and other important advisors.

If both spouses have the right attitude about retaining and sharing such information, it will be so very much better for the family when it is needed. If one spouse demands that all information stay at home locked up in a secret vault, it will almost guarantee problems and undue expense down the road.

If couples have this tug-of-war about sharing of information, they might go onto the Internet to do a little reading. There is a wealth of information available free of charge to consumers.

After that, there still may be areas of disagreement. Talk it over in a non-threatening environment with your CPA, insurance agent, or attorney. I can almost guarantee you that it will be time well-spent!!

Donald J. DeVries

Almaden Valley

You can reach Mr. DeVries with your questions by email at don@almadenvalleylawyers.com, with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, fax at (408)268-6502, telephone at (408)268-9500, or mail at DeVries Law Office, 6475 Camden Avenue, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95120. Your name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles.

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 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!

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 - 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 Sixty 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.

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 children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in

Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+(408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135. 408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofofassisipreschool.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!

THE POINT CHURCH
www.ThePoint.Church
 3695 Rose Terrace Circle. San Jose CA 95148. Located at the top of Aborn Rd and Murillo Ave. Come be inspired and build your faith as we worship together this Sunday @ 10:30 AM. KidsPoint is our children's ministry, serving infants through 5th grade. It is a fun and safe experience for kids as they grow in their walk with God. ONE is our student ministry, serving 6th through 12th grades. We help lead students into a growing relationship with Jesus through conversations, fun and service. Because of the diversity of Evergreen we offer church services in 5 languages, each with their own auditorium and pastor. 10:30 AM English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Cambodian. Spanish at 1:00 PM.

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Local dancers perform at Unify Dance Concert

Dancers in our community recently performed in the Unify Dance Concert hosted by Nor Cal Dance Arts in San Jose.

The concert highlighted dances in contemporary, lyrical, hip hop and ballet. Performers were from Nor Cal Dance Arts, Archbishop Mitty High School, Aptos High School, Valley Christian High School, Silver Creek High School, Silicon Valley Ballet School, De Anza College, Step1 and The Bureau Hip Hop Company.

The show is held every January at the Montgomery Theater.

Proceeds benefit local dancers.



San Jose Unified School District board member conducts telephone 'Town Hall Meeting'

By Samantha Meckenstock
Times Staff Writer

Community members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions directly as well as answer a series of survey questions covering similar topics during Paymon Zarghami's Town Hall Meeting via a conference call held last month.

Zarghami, a San Jose Unified School District board member and former teacher, believes that great teaching and instruction, recruiting and supporting quality teachers in classrooms and placing outstanding administrators in San Jose's schools can help ensure that all children have the skills necessary to take the next step when they finish high school.

The first survey question asked was the following: Is it important that San Jose Unified School District launch a nationwide search for teachers and principals to serve in our district?

The results were that 57 percent of participants said yes, 24 percent of participants said no, and 19 percent of participants were unsure. Zarghami strongly believes in promoting a nationwide search. An example that he mentioned was an advertisement that he came across while scrolling through his Facebook news feed. This advertisement was presenting an opportunity to become a public school leader in the city of Denver, Colorado. He supports this advertisement and suggests that San Jose Unified School District present a similar case.

The second survey question asked was the following: Should San Jose Unified School District focus on eliminating the gap between those battling poverty and those who are not? The results were that 66 percent of participants said yes, 16 percent of participants said no, and 18 percent of participants were unsure. Zarghami was glad to see that people are thinking similar to his view. He mentions that the thickness of a family's wallet should not have an impact of the education of their children.

Following this topic, the next survey question asked was the following: Is it

important that San Jose Unified School District focus on bolstering teacher and principal development and performance? The results were that 88 percent of participants said yes, seven percent of the participants said no, and five percent of the participants were unsure. Zarghami was excited with the results and notices that the majority of participants have similar opinions. However, this is not the case for some of the remaining survey questions.

The fourth survey question was as follows: Is it important that all graduates are eligible to apply to college upon high school graduation? The results were that 78 percent of participants said yes, 12 percent of participants said no, and 10 percent of participants were unsure. Zarghami agrees with the popular vote and says, "I don't believe that every child has to go to college, but I do believe that every child should have the option to go to college. Many schools in San Jose Unified School District support attending college after graduation. One of these schools is Gunderson High School. In just one year, they were able to dramatically increase AP course offerings which directly correlated to an increase in college eligibility rates by 20 percent. Zarghami believes that AP course offerings and college eligibility rates go hand in hand.

The last survey question was the following, which was the most divided question of them all: Is it important for students to participate in AP courses during high school? The results were that 48 percent of participants said yes, 41 percent of the participants said no, and 11 percent of participants were unsure. Zarghami states that he supports taking these college level classes because "without them students are reducing their chances of getting into college." Although the results are divided, Gunderson High School is showing San Jose Unified School District a clear example of how these AP courses can be beneficial.

In addition to the critical survey questions being asked, community members had a lot of questions of their own. Some

of these questions include: What steps can we take to improve the stem programs at our schools? What can the community do to keep the good teachers at their jobs when they are being offered better paying opportunities in other districts? Why are so many schools throwing away valuable equipment that can be donated? What is the opinion about the common core being ruled out so soon? Why aren't there more Spanish Immersion Schools in the district? Why are children assigned absurd amounts of homework that is keeping them up late in the evening? How can the transportation problems be solved as they relate to the opportunity gap?

Zarghami provided thorough feedback to all of these questions. One question stood out to him in particular. How can children access more free reading material in English as well as in other languages? As a bilingual student, Zarghami understands the importance of having a reliable source for books. A very helpful site that he promoted for people to use is donerchoose.org. He also said that San Jose Unified School District and its teachers are working on improving their resources by creating partnerships with local libraries and other foundations. "Because of San Jose's teachers, I have been able to access a life filled with opportunity," said Zarghami. "My parents decided to build a life in this country, because they wanted the best for my sisters and me and believed in the promise of a great education. Inspired by teachers who put me on a path to success, I have dedicated my career to education, so more students in San Jose can realize their dreams".

As Zarghami brought closure to the meeting, he reminded the audience that his transformation as a teacher has made him realize his commitment to the district. Regardless of academic circumstances and regardless of financial situations that families face, he plans to make a difference for all.

"Change happens when we have a great support system," said Zarghami. "The goal is the move forward by making these changes a reality."

Nisei Project Book event nets more than 8,000 books by Pioneer High student

Pioneer High School student, Chris Takeuchi, donated 8,000 books and Office Max gift cards on the last day of the Nisei Project Book event at Grant Elementary School on Friday, Jan. 29.

Takeuchi brought in 70 boxes of books to the libraries. Then all the kids of Grant will come in classroom by classroom and each student be able to select books to take home for their every own.

District 10 Councilmember Johnny

Khamis expressed his appreciation for Takeuchi's efforts. "District 10 and the rest of City of San Jose value your community work and thank you," he said

Along with the books, Takeuchi raised money to present each teacher with a gift that will allow them to offset the cost of classroom supplies. This is my last effort is to help raise some funds, and I plan to present each teacher of Grant a gift card. 100 percent of the donations will go towards a gift card to Office Max, so they may purchase much needed classroom supplies.

"Asking for donations is something out of my comfort zone, but if it can help a few amazing teachers out then I will do my best to ask," said Takeuchi. "Thank you so much for your support that you have given me over the years. I'm excited for my upcoming event and excited that the Nisei Project will continue on with my cousin Jillian, who will be taking it over once I move on to college.



Chris Takeuchi's younger cousin, Jillian Takeuchi, will be taking over the Nisei Book Drive, Chris is a senior at Pioneer High School and Jillian is a sophomore at Leland. Pictured (l to r) are Jillian, Chris and Councilmember District 10, Johnny Khamis.

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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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SALE PRICE \$21,831
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CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH* -\$500
RAM TRADE-IN CASH* -\$1,000
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Times **Features**

Agricultural history and heritage are important and should be preserved

By Supervisor Mike Wasserman
Special to the Times

My best days as an elected official are when I get to spend time hearing from our youth. I appreciate the many people who came to our Board meeting last month to express their thoughts about the future of the County Fairgrounds including 9-year-old Danelle -- who proudly wore her 4H uniform to tell us how much she loves the County Fair. So do I Danelle.



County Report

Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor

Our agricultural heritage and history are important, and they need to be preserved. I am in favor of having the annual County Fair continue at its current location. We need to maintain and

enhance what we have which includes looking at how to use the remaining property to benefit our community.

The County's 155-acre Fairgrounds in San Jose attracts thousands of people to hundreds of events annually including trade shows, concerts, festivals, dog and cat shows, and of course: the annual County Fair. Our County has changed a lot since the Fairgrounds were established in 1939 when the County population was just 175,000 (compared to 2 million now), a loaf of bread cost .08 cents, a new house cost \$3,800 and our region still bore a strong resemblance to "the Valley of the Hearts Delight." The fairgrounds are a centrally

located space within our County to provide a reasonable, cost-effective way for numerous organizations to provide services and opportunities to residents of all backgrounds. If you are interested in the process of planning for the future of the Fairgrounds, please visit: www.sccphd.org/fairgrounds

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department is conducting a survey to assess the health needs of local children. The survey will run from February through May 2016. If you receive a phone call or letter from the Public Health Department, please participate! Just a few minutes of your time can help make Santa Clara County a healthier place for all children. All information provided is confidential. If you have any questions about the survey, please visit www.sccphd.org

ment, please participate! Just a few minutes of your time can help make Santa Clara County a healthier place for all children. All information provided is confidential. If you have any questions about the survey, please visit www.sccphd.org

Aristea Pettis book signing

Local author Aristea Pettis will be signing her latest book on February 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Almaden Branch Library on Camden Avenue.



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Santa Clara Valley Water District

Coyote Creek, San Jose
January 26, 1997

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- Prepare a family emergency plan and emergency kit for your home and your car.
- Learn the best route to high ground to avoid floodwaters.
- Don't walk or drive in flooded areas. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. And a foot of water will cause vehicles to float away.



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AlmadenTimes Real Estate Guide



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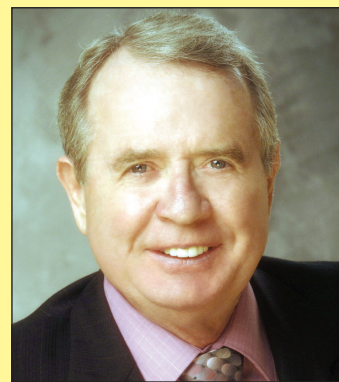
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Times **Features**

Almaden teens among those competing in South Bay Teen Idol singing semi-finals

By William Bellou
Publisher

Among the twenty talented teens remaining in the field in the fifth annual South Bay Teen Idol singing competition, three Almaden teens are set to compete in the semifinals on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center in Los Gatos.

Competitors will be trimmed to 10 at the semifinals event. Parents of the competitors say they are "very appreciative of the opportunity for their kids."

Semifinalists include Leland High School student Rithika Meka, Valley Christian Middle School student Monica Evans, Archbishop Mitty High School student Caity Redfern and Castillero Middle School student Alexia Ledesma.

The competition is open to everyone and parents report the judging has been fair the singers. Teen Idol South Bay is the signature event at the JCC, extending the center's reach throughout the Bay Area with competitors coming from San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz.

Tickets to the semi-finals are \$20 adults, \$10 students, children younger than 5 free if they sit on a parent's lap. Bring a canned food item to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank and save 50 percent off your ticket price.

Produced by the JCC, South Bay Teen Idol is an "American Idol" style competition that crowns the best teenage singer in the South Bay. Teenage vocalists in 8th-12th grades are eligible to compete. The 20 semi-finalists have spent several weeks practicing for the semi-finals. At the semi-finals, a team of judges will choose 10 finalists.

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