

**UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS  
ARE TAUGHT COMPUTER  
PROGRAMMING BY  
NON-PROFIT KIDZ KODE  
PROGRAM - PAGE 4**



**SNOW SEASON  
MAKES CHANGES  
TO THE DROUGHT-  
AFFECTED LAND-  
SCAPE - PAGE 10**



**AWARD WINNING  
VIOLINIST CHARISSA  
LEUNG VOLUNTEERING AT  
WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL - PAGE 14**



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# Almaden Times

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FEB. 26-MARCH 10, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 5

## AN INSIDE LOOK



"We want to hold defendants accountable and help crime victims," says District Attorney Jeff Rosen, speaking to the crowd at the Almaden Valley Community Association. Photos by Lorriane Gabbert

### St. Timothy's Lutheran School receives first place award for book fair

By Sean Eastwood  
Times Staff Writer

St. Timothy's Lutheran School was recently presented a national first place award for the entire United States on Feb. 10 for its recent Scholastic Book Fair.

The Scholastic National award is given for excellence in reading and creative imagination. This year, more than 2,448 books were placed in the hands of students which generated more than 400,000 reading minutes.

St. Timothy's will be awarded \$2000 which will be used to purchase books for the school library as well as books for the school's

See BOOK FAIR, page 8



One of the preschool moms decided she was going to crochet a Monster Hat for each fifth grade student at the Book Fair, since she couldn't help paint.

### Office of the District Attorney offers transparency, integrity and service

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

Service, hard work, transparency and integrity are hallmarks of the Santa Clara County District Attorney's (DA) Office and were personified by DA Jeff Rosen in his address to the Almaden Valley Community Association.

As the largest prosecuting agency in Northern California, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office handles more than 45,000 cases a year and has a staff of about 500 people, including attorneys, investigators, forensic analysts, paralegals,

See ROSEN, page 19



Rosen says that the goal of the DA's Office is not to win a case but to do justice.

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# BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER



Momentum's Youth and Family Services department offers comprehensive mental health services to over 200 at-risk youth, ages 10 to 25, annually. The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and Raising Early Awareness and Creating Hope (REACH) programs, within the department, provide outpatient mental health services, group therapy and skill development to youth in addition to educational support, counseling, mentoring, vocational services, a safe place for self-exploration, and access to community resources.

Momentum's Youth and Family Services program also emphasizes early intervention and prevention by informing the public about the warning signs of psychosis and treating youth before a mental illness progresses and becomes more difficult to manage. This also enables Momentum to positively influence individuals at an early age and remove the perception that mental illness, family hardships or other current circumstances dictate their futures.

Momentum was founded in 1997 when four respected agencies merged together to provide better care and access to mental health treatment in the community. Today, it is the largest private nonprofit provider of youth and adult mental health services in Santa Clara County.

To learn more about their program or how to get involved, please visit  
[www.momentumformentalhealth.org](http://www.momentumformentalhealth.org)



During the months of January through April 2016, Sereno Group Real Estate and its Los Gatos agents will be contributing 1% of their gross commissions to the Momentum For Mental Health fund.

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## This Week:

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San Jose's rubbishy roadways are an irritation: **PAGE 8**

### HOME

Free fruit tree pruning techniques seminar offered Feb. 27: **PAGE 16**

### FEATURE

Documents are required to go along with your living trust: **PAGE 17**



### ↑ ARTS

Movie review: Roman soldier at a crossroads in 'Risen': **PAGE 14**

### ALSO

Realtor Guide: **PAGE 26**  
Worship Guide: **PAGE 22**

# Valley Currents

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

## Underprivileged kids taught computer programming at non-profit Kidz Kode

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

**K**idz Kode teaches underprivileged kids computer programming as a way to give back to the community.

Kidz Kode, the brain-child of three High School Juniors attending Harker School, Varun Baldwa, Parth Padurkar, and Kedar Gupta, was founded to help children think like programmers, allowing them to solve a multitude of problems efficiently.

The non-profit organization is a free program for children ages 9-14 to help master basic logic skills and build strong foundations in computer programming.

The curriculum is designed in a way such that children can start at a comfortable place and learn the material at their own pace.

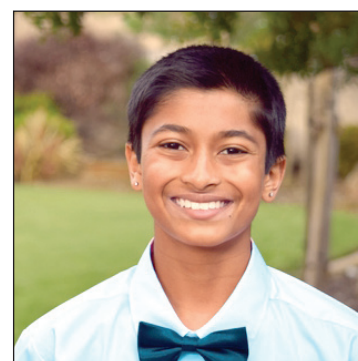
The Kidz Kode team has been teaching Java language programming at a number of libraries to kids who cannot afford computer instruction. They spend countless hours helping children and in the process discovered what it means to give back to the community and also influence upcoming high schooler at their own school to get involved and scale a beneficial cause.

The Kidz Kode program is now available at four libraries. "San Jose libraries have been extremely dedicated to Kidz Kode, providing us with all the resources we need to run the program, said Baldwa. "Kidz Kode would not be where it is now without their generosity."

"We were inspired to start the program after taking computer science classes at school, wishing to have started coding earlier in our lives" said Gupta. "We thought



Above: Children learn to solve problems with Kidz Kode. Right, top to bottom: **Varun Baldwa, Parth Padurkar, and Kedar Gupta.**



that Kidz Kode would be the best way to expose children to programming before high school."

"The kids absolutely love receiving their graduation certificates at the end of the course, since they realize how far they've come since

the beginning of the course," said Gupta.

Kidz Kode is not only looking for students but also high school volunteers with programming experience in Java. "We're looking forward to expanding our curricu-

lum and preparing to make the program more approachable for underprivileged children, said Padurkar."

High school students can register to volunteer on the Kidz Kode website [kidzkode.org](http://kidzkode.org).

**Almaden Times**

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## Mailbox



### Water bills create more questions

Editor,

Regarding the Almaden Times article (Jan 29-Feb 11, 2016) titled "Under Water: \$1,300 bill leaves property owner perplexed".

We live in Almaden as well - in the Graystone neighborhood - and recently received a water bill for \$1,200. It is simply not possible for us to use that volume of water. I have had the meter checked - twice (including removing it and checking it at their lab).

They continue to tell us the meter is func-

tioning fine and is accurate. We have checked for leaks (none) and the water softener (no issues), we don't have a pool - we don't even have an aquarium. At the end of the day - with only two (2) adults living in this house (one of them gone most the day at work) - SJ Water says that was our most recent usage. Period. The meter is infallible.

Our previous bills have been: \$201, \$187, \$343, \$492 (which we also thought was wrong and questioned), \$432, \$153, \$123, \$269, \$496, \$269, \$294... and now \$1,219! We were upset with the times it went into \$400 range and have had the meter checked in the past. But we've never seen a bill as insane as this one.

The current bill says we used 107 units (vs same time last year 18 units - a 599% increase?) And says we are using (get ready) 1,194 gallons a day (vs 195 gal a day same time last year! - A 612% increase?). This means we would have to use nearly 50 gallons an hour 24 hours a day. Our 8,489 sq. ft. lot should be a lake. IMPOSSIBLE.

Not sure how many others are facing this - but I have complained and am planning to visit SJ Water Co. office with past bills and continue to fight this. In the end - what recourse do I have? How can I battle this wrong? - Because it is wrong and it's extortion.

**Malcolm Bordelon**  
Almaden

### LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

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





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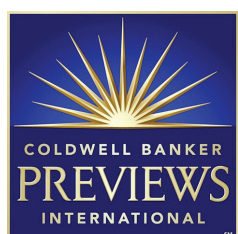
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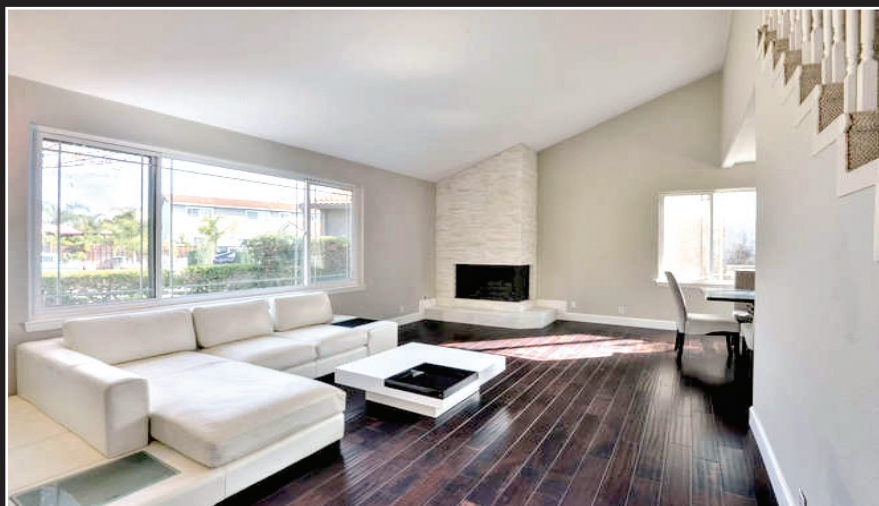


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## OP ED

## Rubbishy roadways are an irritation

By Frank Shortt

Special to the Times

Somehow it just doesn't seem right, looking from a Taxpayer's point of view, why our streets and roads in California are in such trashy condition?

We once had sweepers come by every so often to remove the rubbish from the gutters. Drains used to be cleaned before winter rains as a preventive measure. Trees used to be trimmed along roadways so one could see traffic signs.

VTa is hard put to provide even the least service to our community. They do not have the funds to also remove graffiti and the roadway trash that is unwittingly thrown out by passing motorists. It seems that there is no pride of community anymore. We pay taxes to have the trash removed, left there by careless citizens, but it remains in the gutter until it rots or rusts away.

Suggestions have been made, to the powers that be, to use incarcerated individuals to clean up the trash and graffiti. It is for certain that most folks who are locked up in our many places of detainment would rather be outside cleaning up than be inside a stuffy cell. From the taxpayer's point of view, why not? Would we rather they be 'working out' in exercise rooms building up their muscles for their next escapade? It is for sure that there are some very talented souls who are locked up in our jails. There must be gardeners, painters, and almost any profession that

could be named. These questions beg for answers.

Do we not have deputies who could be with the 'incarcerated ones' to insure they do not escape? Are there not enough funds to buy water and food for these individuals? Or, is it a union matter?

Taxes keep going up on everything we use. More is spent on jails and prisons than for the upkeep of the communities, including education.

Just driving from San Jose to Los Angeles on Highway 101 is an appalling experience. There is everything from shopping carts, to produce boxes plastic bags, etc. lying in our gutters. There is graffiti on every wall and overpass between the two cities.

Are any graffiti artists ever caught red-handed? If they are caught, is there a penalty for their pre-meditated crime? A law without a penalty is NOT a law. Would it not make much more sense to sentence these individuals to paint the whole section that they were so willing to deface, and a little besides?

These are just a few questions which cross the minds of law-abiding, caring citizens. What is the answer? Who is being held responsible? Any manager, boss, etc. has someone to answer to. Are there not certain departments appointed to these details? It seems there is a great lack of accountability.

Maybe our esteemed candidates for public office would care to answer these and other questions from our weary taxpayers.



## Book Fair

Continued from page 1  
community programs.

"What a huge honor to be recognized across America for our excellence in reading and all the creative imagination that goes into our event," said Chris Hindenes, St. Timothy coordinator for the school's book fair each year, and teacher. "St. Timothy's is one of the only schools to receive the First Place title more than once, and is the only school to receive the titles so close together," she said.

This year the book fair theme was "City of Monstropolis," with doors hanging from the ceiling. Also featured was the Child Detection Agency Vehicle, which includes working tires, and lights. There was also a scream wall, scream tubes, Boo's door, and most importantly, Boo and Mike Wazowski sitting on stage for the kids to see.

"Over the summer, one our preschool moms had surgery so she couldn't physically come in and paint, so while she was at home, she decided she was going to crochet a Monster Hat for each fifth grade student at the Book Fair," said Hindenes. "The kids love them and many of them are still wearing them every day to school. That just shows you how much the Book Fairs mean to our families."

As winners of the Scholastic First Place title, St. Timothy's has the honor of hosting Dan Santat, a New York Times best-selling and award-winning author and illustrator of numerous children's books.

Santat is the author of *The Adventures of Beekle, the Unimaginary Friend* which won the 2015 Caldecott medal for distinguished illustrations. He is also the creator of the Disney animated hit, *The Replacements*. Santat will be visiting St. Timothy's this coming April.

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# Is the drought over?

By Frank Shortt  
Times Staff Writer

On a recent trip to Minden and Gardnerville, Nevada, to celebrate my wife's birthday at the T&J Basque food restaurant, it was interesting to see the changes that the snow season is making.

We took Hwy. 50, from our place in Grizzly Flats, intending to take Hwy.89 South to Hwy. 88, thus ending up in Minden, Nevada. As our friend, Manuel, had never viewed Lake Tahoe, we decided to take the long way on to Carson City via Hwy. 50.

As we proceeded to Lake Tahoe, we noticed, even at lower elevations, the deepness of the snow. The American River, which traverses along Hwy. 50, is rising higher and higher as melted snow runs off the surrounding hillsides. Newscasts from Sacramento have stated that Folsom Lake is being drained down to a lower level because it is feared that should the snow banks melt too suddenly there could be flooding in the lower elevations.

As one proceeds on 50 toward Lake Tahoe, there is one landmark that is a must to see, especially at this time. Bridal Veil Falls, down to

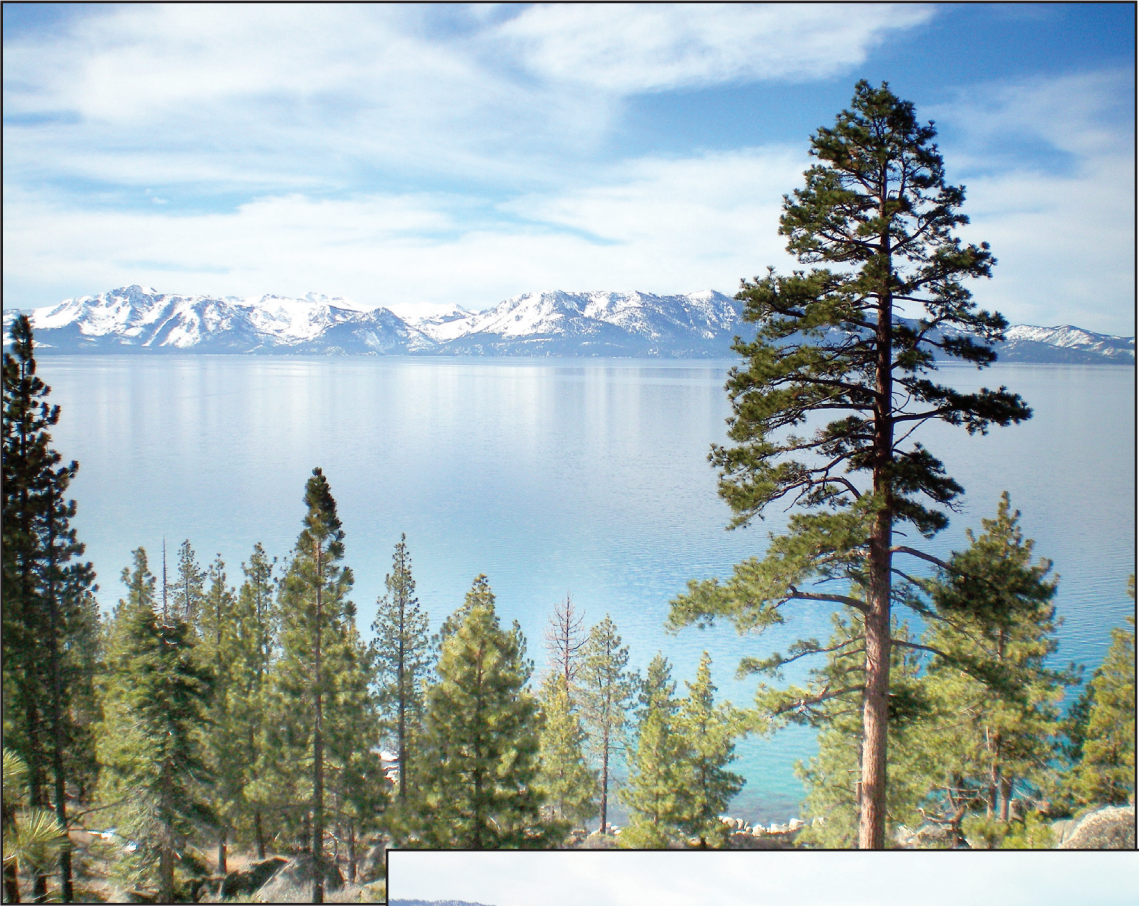
a trickle in recent years, is now a beautiful cascade and promises to be even larger as feeder snow melts in the hills above.

My wife's rejoicing resounded down the American River Canyon as she witnessed this awesome sight. There were warm feelings all around, even though chilling winds prevailed down the Canyon.

Older water marks, around Lake Tahoe, tell a tale of higher water at one time. It appears that the lake is filling up nicely as snow melts from the surrounding terrain. Temperatures there have remained in the freezing stages at night. Daytime temps have not risen high enough yet to cause flood panic.

It seems that Lake Tahoe is just about normal for this time of year. There are predictions of more snow in the higher elevations of California and more rain to come in the lower elevations. Ski resorts are proclaiming a much better year than previous years of drought. Our friend, who is from the Shasta Lake region reports that Shasta is about half full.

Heading up past the Nevada line we made several stops along the way to the forks of Hwy. 50 and 395 South. The splendor of Lake Tahoe from the Incline Village



turnoff area would be difficult to match. Blue water, reflecting the surrounding mountains, presented many photo ops of postcard quality. We almost had the beauty to ourselves as few tourists were present on this day.

The grandeur was unbelievable as we proceeded south on Rt. 395. The whole Carson Valley was surrounded by snow covered peaks with the Eastern Sierra slopes on the west side and the Pine Nut Mountains to the east. Cattle grazed lazily in grass brought on by the spring-like weather along the Carson River. Minden and Gardnerville enjoyed a boost this day in tourism and ranchers coming in from the outlying areas that have been shut in by snowdrifts.

After enjoying a wonderful lunch at T&J's Basque Restaurant



we attempted to return on Route 89 to learn, after driving several miles, that the pass between Minden and Lake Tahoe was closed due to deep snow. It's a good thing we had decided to give Manuel a tour of the lake deferring to take Route 89 to Minden. All in all, Sharon enjoyed a very, happy birthday.

We were happy to see, that with a few more storms, we will have plenty of water for the summer season. However, we should never be careless with our water supplies!



## 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 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](http://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.

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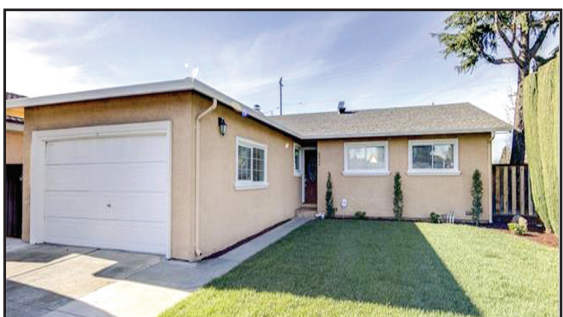
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**ALMADEN VALLEY \$950,000**  
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## Award winning violinist volunteering at Williams Elementary School

Charissa Leung, 17-year-old violinist from Almaden Valley, who won the 2015 Khuner Young Artist Concerto Competition, is volunteering as a teacher at her alma mater, Williams Elementary School.

Leung, who is giving private lessons to members of the school orchestra, said she was inspired by so many teachers at Williams. Charissa began her violin studies at the age of three with Diane Egli and has studied with Ron Waibel since the age of six.

Leung is a prizewinner in the ASTA (American String Teachers Association) San Francisco Regional Solo Competition, Pacific Musical Society Annual Competition, the Chinese Music Teachers Association of Northern California International Youth Music Competition, and the MTAC (Music Teacher Association of California) VOCE State Finals.

Leung was notably recognized for the Menuhin-Dowling Young Musicians Award and the Junior Bach Festival. In 2013, Charissa attended the Aspen Music Festival and School, where she studied with Naoko Tanaka, and returned in summer 2014 under David Halen. In September 2014, Charissa



was invited to participate in the McDuffie Center for Strings Labor Day Festival as she was one of four high school senior violinists selected from around the country. She also attended the Stradivarius International Violin Competition Advanced String Camp in 2012, where she was coached by Nicholas Mann and the late Stephen Clapp. She has participated in master classes by renowned pedagogues Paul Kantor, Robert McDuffie, and Li Lin.

Besides the violin, Leung enjoys reading, skiing, painting, and speech debate.



## MOVIE REVIEW: Risen

By Steven Leonard

Special to the Times

The new movie "Risen," is about a Roman officer searching for the resurrected Christ in the 40 days following the crucifixion. It is an old-fashioned Biblical spectacular with fresh blood in its veins. As directed by Kevin Reynolds ("Waterworld,") Roman military tribune Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) remains set in his ways after serving 25 years in the army. He arrives at a crossroad when he's tasked to investigate the mystery of what happened to Jesus (Cliff Curtis) following the Crucifixion. Accompanied by trusted aide Lucius (Tom Felton), his quest to disprove rumors of a risen Messiah makes him question his own beliefs and spirituality. As his journey takes him to places never dreamed of, Clavius discovers the truth that he's been seeking.

"Risen" is the first religious movie I've ever considered recommending to non-believers. It is centered on the search for Jesus' cadaver after his crucifixion. To what lengths should one go to prevent devout fanatics from destabilizing an already trou-

bled city?

Roman official Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) is ordered to locate the missing body - rumored to be walking around, alive once more, per its owner's prophecy - by Pontius Pilate (Peter Firth), who wants to ensure that the unhappy Jewish minority not make any trouble during the emperor's imminent visit despite the recent public execution of one of its religious leaders.

Clavius' conversion story will be a familiar one; there are unmistakable echoes of the Apostle Paul, a brutal oppressor of early Christians until he became one himself after a celestial intervention. But the delights are in the details: the world around Clavius is recognizable enough to contain guards griping about their overtime shifts and the PTSD symptoms of a witness who can't quite bring himself to believe the resurrection of Jesus (Cliff Curtis, "Fear the Walking Dead") - it's simply too reality-shattering to think about without a round of drinks.

Reynolds and Paul Aiello's script is impressive in how Christ brought a new frequency to our world; a way of looking at the world through a different kind of lens. Jesus asked the Roman officer what he

See *RISEN*, page 23



Times **Community News****NEWS BRIEFS****St Patrick's Day dinner celebration March 7**

The Almaden Senior Association is holding a traditional St Patrick's day dinner celebration at the Almaden Community Center on Thursday, March 7th, from 2 - 4 p.m.

Dinner will include corned beef and cabbage served with all the fixings. There will also be live music.

Tickets will be on sale at the Almaden Community Center beginning February 29 every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:40 -10 a.m. Wearing green is a must!

Tickets are \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

**Almaden seniors plan casino trip**

The Almaden Senior Association is planning a trip to Thunder Valley Casino, Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

The fun bus departs Almaden Community Center at 8 a.m., and those participating are encouraged to arrive no later than 7:45 a.m.

Cost: \$35.00 per person, and the package includes \$15 free slot play and a \$10 free table play.

Sign up at Almaden Community Center lobby weekday mornings, or contact Sally: 408-826-9619, or Bea: 408-761-4002.

**Cortese to deliver State of the County Speech to highlight initiatives, direction for 2016**

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese, who was elected earlier this year to serve a second term as president, will deliver the State of the County address to highlight the County's accomplishments in 2015 and initiatives for 2016.

The program and speech, which is delivered annually by the Board President, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. Doors will open at 5 p.m. A reception for the public will follow in the building's lower level.

For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at (408) 299-5030. To RSVP, email [Janice.Rombeck@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:Janice.Rombeck@bos.sccgov.org).

**Boy Scouts 4th Annual Council Recognition Dinner Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council**

More than 400 Scouting volunteers and leaders will attend the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Councils 4th annual Recognition Dinner on Feb. 27 at the San Jose Doubletree.

Guests will listen to keynote speaker, McKay Christensen, a retired professional baseball player, speak about his career in baseball and experience in Scouting. An Eagle Scout, McKay was drafted by the California Angels in 1994 and played professional baseball from 1997-2004 for the White Sox, Dodgers, Mets, Phillies and Reds.

The Recognition Dinner celebrates the council's achievements from the year prior, while thanking the dedicated volunteers for their continued support. Included in the celebration is an Eagle Scout March, where some of the 376 young Scouts that earned their rank of Eagle in 2015 will be recognized at the dinner.

Program: Reception viewing Eagle Scout Projects at 5:30 p.m.

The Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America is a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in San Jose, Cali, and currently serves over 13,000 youth across the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz.

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Times **Feature****West Coast Limousine****"BEST IN THE WEST!"**

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**FEMA urges homeowners to brace for flooding**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is once again warning Bay Area homeowners to brace for flooding.

El Niño weather patterns are expected to intensify in March. FEMA officials say it may not be until spring that the most damage will be inflicted.

FEMA officials say they're worried El Niño conditions could mean flooding in places residents would not normally expect it, and there are not enough residents signing up for flood insurance policies.

FEMA Deputy Regional Manager Ahsha Tribble said her agency wants to make sure all Bay Area residents understand the risks. "It's just whether it's low, medium or high risk," she said.

Many don't realize flood damage is not covered under the average homeowner's insurance policy. "Flash flooding can happen very quickly," Tribble said. "It takes a very, very small amount of water to give you very expensive damage in your home."

**FCC allows set-top box swap**

The Federal Communications Commission last week approved a new rule that would allow consumers to swap cable set-top boxes for less expensive devices in a blow to major cable operators.

The television industry is evolving amid a consumer shift to on-demand and streaming services and away from traditional cable

packages. The measure passed by a 3-2 vote.

The new rule effectively increases competition, giving upstart providers like Google and Apple a lead in the completion.

Under the rule, makers of alternate devices like Apple TV and TiVo platforms will gain access to cable and satellite programs. Most consumers currently pay large cable companies for their boxes at an average lease cost of more than \$200 per year, according to Reuters.

Cable companies like Comcast and Verizon had opposed the measure, maintaining that consumers already enjoyed more choices as the television industry evolved.

**Free fruit tree pruning techniques training Feb. 27**

Learn proper pruning techniques from Tree Amigo Charlie Key on Saturday, February 27. Watch Ley prune some of our nursery fruit trees and learn the best practices to use on your own trees.



This free one hour event will begin at 10 a.m. followed by a question and answer session.

The event will be held at the Our City Forest Community Nursery Training Center, 1000 Spring Street, San Jose, CA 95110.

Please RSVP by email to [treenursery@ourcityforest.org](mailto:treenursery@ourcityforest.org).

**EL NIÑO is here.**

Over a third of all California flood insurance claims since 1978 are from the last two El Niño events of 1982-83 and 1997-98.

**Are you flood-safe?**

Most homeowner's and renters insurance do not cover flood damage; and typically there is a 30-day waiting period for a policy to go into effect.

Don't wait for the damage to happen. Plan ahead to keep your family and property safe from the risk of flooding.

Santa Clara Valley Water District 

**Prepare with tips from the Santa Clara Valley Water District**

- Purchase flood insurance for your home.
- Examine your house and seal any cracks in the foundation, exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Know the locations of your neighborhood streams and drainage channels.
- Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris.



For more flood safety tips, text the word **WATER** to 84444, or visit [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org).



San Francisco Creek, Palo Alto  
February 3, 1998





## Times Feature

# Documents to accompany your living trust

By Donald J. DeVries

*Special to the Times*

This week's question:

My wife and I are thinking about having our living trust done since it sounds so good to do so. We called two or three law offices and they all said that they do a series of documents at that time. Is that really necessary? Aren't they just trying to make more money off us?

**Kenny K.**

*Almaden Valley*

Dear Kenny:

Having your living trust done is a great idea, Kenny. So, we are half-way home in understanding what we need to do so as to have the whole job done right.

All we need to do is to understand a little more about the other documents that are needed. When the trust is done, that is a perfect time to tackle the other documents that are needed. And, no, I would not say that your attorney is just trying to take more money from you and your wife.

In fact, if a client of ours would refuse to have one or more of the following documents done, I would have them sign a letter to the effect that it is against our advice and that we are clearly not responsible for any adverse repercussions.

Here are the documents that usually accompany your revocable living trust:

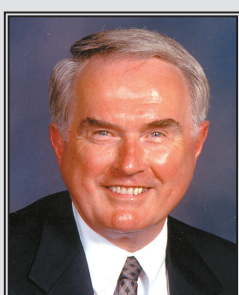
**Will.** The will is often called a "pour

over" will. You and your wife both need one, so that any property that is not governed by your trust is "poured over" into the trust through the will so as to avoid a costly and time-consuming estate process in Probate Court. You would be surprised at how often people just forget to transfer an asset to their trust.

**Durable Power of Attorney for Asset Management.**

This is a document that names your agent to act for you and handle your financial matters if you become incapacitated. Most of us have heard about friends and family members who have had a stroke or who have acquired Alzheimer's. Often in that situation, a Conservatorship is needed down at the Courthouse to take care of the person's financial affairs. This can go on for years and be very, very expensive. With this document, a Conservatorship is often not needed since the person's duly appointed agent takes care of business.

**Advance Health Care Directive.** This is a document that names an agent to act for you if you become unable to make health care decisions for yourself. It can be a very valuable document if the need arises. Your doc-



## Ask The Lawyer

**Donald J. DeVries,**  
Attorney at Law

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tor and your hospital should have a copy on file at all times.

**Community Property Declaration.** Since there generally is no tax when one spouse's 1/2 of all community property passes to the other spouse, it is wise to have this in writing. It can save a whole lot of grief and expense down the road.

**Assignment.** An assignment will legally transfer or "assign" all property to the trust. This document is quite important since many assets do not have deeds or pink slips showing ownership, such as furniture, furnishings, heirlooms, jewelry, and other items.

**Certification of Trust.** Banks and other financial institutions often require you to prove the existence of your trust, and one of the easiest ways to do that is to show them the Certification of your trust.

**HIPPA Authorization.** Because of strict privacy laws now, often key people cannot see your medical records and work with your physicians and others on your behalf. By the way, "HIPPA" is an acronym for The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. With a HIPPA authorization, the key people named in your documents will have proper authority to do so, such as your

**You and your wife both need a will, so that any property that is not governed by your trust is 'poured over' into the trust through the will to avoid a costly and time-consuming estate process in court.**

spouse and your adult children. *Almaden Times* readers can learn a lot more about these privacy rules by going to their favorite search engine, like Google, and enter "HIPPA".

So, there you go, Kenny. I hope you reconsider your decision to pass on "all the other documents" since each one is important. I have a hunch that when you and your wife are all done with the process you will agree that it was time and money well spent.

**Donald J. DeVries**

*Almaden Times*

You can reach Mr. DeVries with your questions by email at [don@almadenvalleylawyers.com](mailto: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 at 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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4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy" Occasions. Tuesday, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in

our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:30AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

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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. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 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](http://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.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com)  
[www.stfrancisofassisi.org](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.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](http://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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## Times Cover Story

## Rosen

Continued from page 1

clerical workers and volunteers.

Rosen joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995 and was elected DA in 2010. One of the first cases he prosecuted involved spitting. A man in line behind an older woman pumping gas at a gas station thought she was taking too long and started yelling at her. Frightened, she quickly finished and got into her car. Still screaming, he approached her and before she could fully close her window, spit in her face. Then he put a dent in the front of her car. The woman went to the police, and through a surveillance video, they were able to track him down.

"When the case went to trial," says Rosen, "I remember thinking that woman could have been my mom, or my grandmother, or aunt and I really wanted to hold this guy accountable and try to make the victim feel a little bit better." That was the first case he prosecuted and the man was convicted. "I wanted to get justice for this woman," he says, "I didn't like what this guy did."

The last case Rosen prosecuted was a murder in Los Gatos; a love triangle in which a man hired someone to kill the other man. "It was a more serious crime, but it was the same feeling I had," says Rosen. "It's wrong what these men did and they should be held accountable for it." Those men are currently serving life in prison.

"Whether a spitter, murderer, burglar, rapist, gangster, or thief," he says, "I feel the same way about all of these cases. I don't like it when people take advantage of others. That's really why I became a prosecutor. When someone's victimized by crime, I want them to know that society cares about them and is going to try to get justice for them."

In 1940, Attorney General Robert Jackson said, "The citizens' safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility."

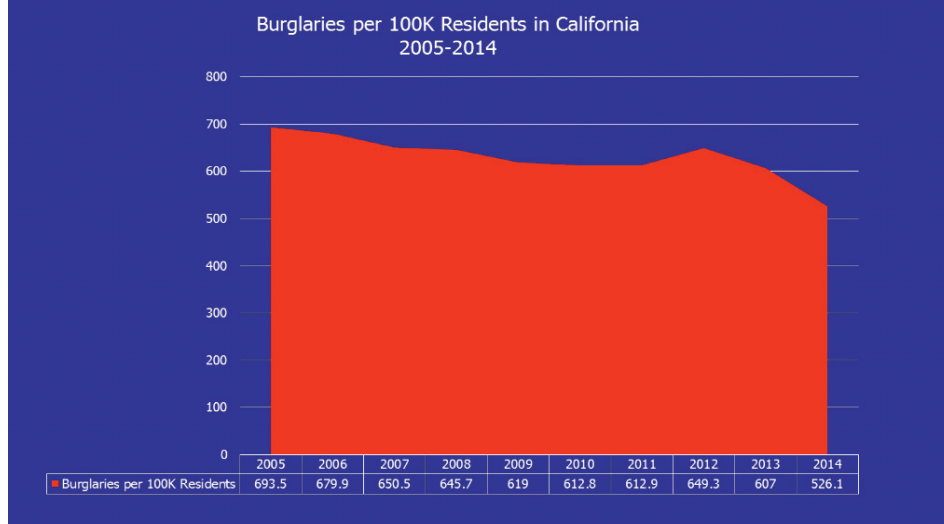
Rosen believes that humility is an important quality in a prosecutor. "It's easy for us in the DA's Office to get a little bit self-righteous and full of ourselves," he says, "but we make mistakes from time to time and try to learn from them and do better."

The DA's Office also follows Rules of Professional Conduct, which include Rights of Victims, Rights of Defendants, Duty to Review and File, Duty to Investigate and Mandate to Act Ethically. "The rules of conduct require us to act in certain ways," he says, "to be a little more mature and not as flashy as defense attorneys. There's a reason I'm wearing a dark gray suit and one of my assistants is wearing a navy suit."

Rosen says that the goal of the DA's Office is not to win a case but to do justice. They prosecute about 40,000 cases per year including homicides, sexual assaults, gang crimes, domestic violence, child abuse, major fraud and economic crimes, public integrity, burglaries, juvenile offenses and misdemeanors. About 80% are misdemeanors and 20% are felonies.

There were 41 murders in Santa Clara County last year; 30 of which occurred in San Jose. "Compared to Alameda or San Francisco County, it's many fewer murders per capita," says Rosen. "When I meet with DAs from around the country—whether Seattle, Phoenix, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Philadelphia or New York—their

## Since 2005, the burglary rate in California has dropped



Above: Burglary Rates: Overall, the burglary rate in California has dropped in the last 10 years. Below: Burglary Rates since 2005: Unlike the rest of the county, burglary rates increased in San Jose in the last 10 years.

## Burglaries since 2005 have stayed flat or fallen in most of the County — except San Jose.

- **San Jose burglaries increased from 4,049 in 2005 to 4,896 in 2015**

**Note that as previously stated, in San Jose, burglaries fell 5.2% from 2014 to 2015.**

- ↑ **San Jose: +20.9 %**
- **Santa Clara: no sig. change**
- ↓ **Morgan Hill: -51.23%**
- **Mt. View: no sig. change**
- ↓ **Palo Alto: -26.43%**
- ↓ **Saratoga: -31.30%**
- **Sunnyvale: no sig change**
- ↓ **Campbell: -40%**
- ↓ **Cupertino: -30%**
- **Gilroy: no sig. change**
- **Los Altos: no sig. change**
- **Milpitas: no sig change**
- **Monte Sereno: no sig change**
- ↓ **Los Altos Hills: -50%**
- ↓ **Los Gatos: -15.17%**

murder rates are four to five times higher than the murder rates in our county. So, it's a relatively safe county, but it could always be and should be safer."

Santa Clara County is one of the few counties in California with its own crime laboratory. "A tremendous amount of cutting edge work goes on there like DNA, toxicology, firearms, cell phones and computer analysis," says Rosen. "It's similar to what you might see on CSI. But while we work quickly, we usually don't finish in 40 minutes, and while we have 80 criminalists, when they go to crime scenes they don't normally wear tight-fitting clothing and low cut blouses; they're more professionally dressed than that."

A Deputy DA prepares for and conducts jury trials as well as negotiates the cases that don't go to trial. The Deputy DA is also responsible for deciding whether to file criminal charges, attends parole hearings at prisons and secures restitution for the victim of a crime.

"Many times holding the defendant accountable helps a victim," says Rosen, "but it may not be enough. If someone's been burglarized, they may not feel safe in their home. We want to try to help the victims

heal, whether it's restitution for lost wages, counseling or helping them if they need to testify." Rosen said that he is proud to have a Victim's Services Unit with 30 people in the DA's Office working for crime victims full-time. "This is incredibly important to me," he says, "and why many of us became prosecutors. We want to hold defendants accountable and help crime victims."

Rosen says that there are many challenges in his line of work. In addition to having to convince 12 people on a jury to unanimously agree beyond a reasonable doubt, today jurors expect more from the DA's Office, including multimedia presentations, cell phone evidence and DNA analysis. In addition, the law is always changing. When Rosen began his career in 1995, the three strikes law had recently been passed and for the next 10 years, all of the laws passed increased criminal sentences. However, in the last five years, the focus shifted to rehabilitation, partially due to the high cost of incarceration.

## Burglaries

Rosen noted that for the last 25 years, when Gallup Poll asked the public if there had been more crime this year than last year, a large majority (60 to 80%) of Americans

said yes. "Public perception is disconnected from reality," says Rosen, "partly because of the information we receive. In the early 1990s, there were 100 murders a year in San Jose. This year, there were 30 murders in San Jose, but every murder will be covered by television news and the *Mercury News*. It's hard to measure crime month-to-month or year-to-year. When you take a look at things over a 5, 10, or 15 year period, you tend to see things that are a little more significant."

During the last 10 years in Santa Clara County, every city except San Jose had the same level or a decrease in the amount of burglaries. In San Jose, there were 4,049 burglaries in 2005 and 4,896 burglaries in 2015. "While the solve rate of murders is high," says Rosen, "the solve rate on burglaries is low. It's notoriously difficult with burglaries to catch the individuals and prosecute them."

He also noted that San Jose doesn't have as many police officers as it used to. "San Jose had 1,275 officers in 2010. Today there are under 1,000 officers and projections to go under 900 this year," says Rosen. "As the number of officers fell, the number of burglaries increased. Unfortunately, when you don't have as many police officers as you'd like, the officers are just running from call to call—a burglary here, domestic violence there, graffiti here, a drunk there—and are unable to focus on problem areas. Hopefully, over the next three or four years, we'll be able to add back some of the police officers we lost in San Jose."

However, Rosen says that the DA's Office takes residential burglaries seriously and will continue to do all it can to catch the culprits. He noted that in November and December 2015, the DA's Office brought two very significant criminal grand jury indictments.

In November, they indicted an Oakland street gang for committing more than 50 auto burglaries in San Jose, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Mountain View. All 21 defendants face felony vehicular burglary charges with gang allegations. "They were a very sophisticated and violent crew," says Rosen. "The case is proceeding to trial and we expect to get convictions," he said, "and they'll go to prison for substantial amounts of time. They committed crimes all over the Bay Area, but we're the ones that did something about it."

In December, the DA's Office indicted 29 members of a San Jose gang for residential burglaries. All of the 29 defendants have been charged with felonies and will face lengthy prison terms if convicted. "We busted them a couple of days before Christmas," says Rosen, "so we called it 'Operation Grinch.' They've been indicted and are pending trial. Hopefully that will calm things a bit here."

The crimes began in 2012 when several street gangs banded together to burglarize homes in San Jose, Union City and Hillsborough. Each crew would burglarize multiple homes in a single day, kicking down front doors or smashing sliding glass doors in the backyard. They would often recruit minors to enter the house, knowing that the juveniles would face less serious criminal penalties if caught. Investigators suspect the group in hundreds of house burglaries.

"This department will do everything in its power to make sure residents are safe in their own homes," said San Jose Police Chief Larry Esquivel. "I'm proud that at the end of this challenging investigation, we are holding a brazen and dangerous criminal gang accountable." So is the DA's Office.



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CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\* ..... -\$500  
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH ..... -\$500  
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CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\* ..... -\$500  
CHRYSLER PRESIDENTS' DAY BONUS CASH ..... -\$500

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CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH ..... -\$1,000  
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CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH ..... -\$500  
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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71 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

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CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\* ..... -\$500  
CHRYSLER PRESIDENTS' DAY BONUS CASH ..... -\$500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER REBATES

## \$8,777

5 AT THIS NET SAVINGS

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71 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

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MSRP ..... \$24,535  
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CHRYSLER NON-PRIME BONUS CASH ..... -\$1,000  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\* ..... -\$500  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL RETAIL BONUS CASH ..... -\$500  
CHRYSLER PRESIDENTS' DAY BONUS CASH ..... -\$500

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CHRYSLER PRESIDENTS' DAY BONUS CASH ..... -\$1,000  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\* ..... -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

## \$16,777

2 AT THIS NET PRICE VINs #149306, 143126

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DEALER DISCOUNT ..... -\$4,708  
SALE PRICE ..... \$25,277  
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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RAM TRADE-IN BONUS CASH\* ..... -\$1,000  
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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Times **Features****Burglaries down from last year's spike**

By Councilmember  
Johnny Khamis  
*Special to the Times*

For January 2016, compared with January 2015, we have seen a 71 percent drop in burglaries. The statistics show a marked improved from last year's high of 83, to 24 this year.

This drop in burglaries came from the work of many, including the hard work of our police department who utilized Burglary Suppression cars, overtime, TABS (Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression) units, and our beat officers. It also involved the hard work of our Crime Prevention Specialists who train the Neighborhood Watch Groups throughout our district. Community Service Officers played a role in gathering fingerprints, writing burglary reports, and supporting our sworn staff so they could concentrate on the more serious crimes. Our public safety dispatchers, working 24/7, were instrumental in calming us when we witness a crime in progress and getting the right information to our officers so they can respond quickly and safely. I am grateful to the many residents who were proactive in organizing their neighborhoods into Neighborhood Watch groups. Every neighborhood needs a champion, and I'm hoping some of you reading this article will take on that challenge and call Crime Prevention at 408-277-4133 to organize your neighborhood.

Burglary remains a serious problem that requires our attention. Even though our district saw a significant drop in burglaries, the fact remains that we had 24 in January 2016. The victims of these 24 burglaries are not necessarily comforted by the fact that the burglary rate dropped by 71 percent. Their homes were broken into and trashed, and their hard-earned property was taken. In 2015 we averaged 41 burglaries per month for District Adam. District Adam is the portion of the Southern Division that includes the largest portion of Almaden. If we look at the burglary statistics for the entire Southern Division, we averaged 125 burglaries a month. It is atrocious that we have grown to expect to see 5,167 burglaries citywide in 2014 and 4,896 in 2015. What will 2016 bring?

The best way to fight back on burglaries is to become vigilant. Neighbors watching out for each other remains the nationally recognized best practice for maintaining low crime rates. If we make it a practice to engage with our neigh-

bors and find opportunities to get to know one another, then we will become familiar with each other's routines. Familiarity can help us distinguish when it is time to call the police in response to a stranger in the neighborhood or when the unfamiliar person is simply part of a construction crew working on a neighbor's backyard project. It lets us know which gates are supposed to be locked and what set of circumstances are out of the norm, warranting a call to the police.

Please commit yourselves to call the police whenever you see something suspicious - if you see something, say something. Learn how to be a good witness by describing individuals with detail. Record the license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles when you are walking the dog or leaving your home. Even though the police may not be able to respond to your call, all of the information you provide will be recorded for beat information giving police officers the ability to make contact with individuals you describe to the dispatcher. Our officers need probable cause to make contact with individuals not engaged in criminal activity at the time the officers see them, and your descriptive tips can provide that probable cause.

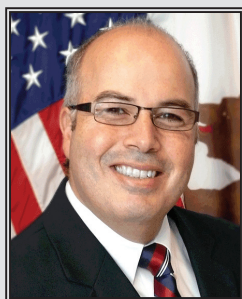
Unfortunately, we cannot cover all of the great crime prevention tips available to you on our police department's website in this column, so visit the website often so you can become informed and avoid becoming a victim of crime. Visit: [http://www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/PreventionTips/Prevent\\_Burglary.html](http://www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/PreventionTips/Prevent_Burglary.html).

**AVWC meeting date**

Almaden Valley Women's Club General Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Almaden Community Center, 6455 Camden Ave. New members welcome. "Friendship, Food & Fun!"

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### District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember

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**SUPERVISORS APPROVE ORDINANCE TO DETOUR ROAD RAGE ON COUNTY HIGHWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS - PAGE 4**

**COUNTY REPORTS EL NIÑO GOOD NEWS FOR BROUGHT, BAD NEWS FOR THE HOMELESS - PAGE 5**

**RELIEF TRAFFIC LIGHTS 'SYNCH' AT LINCOLN AVENUE AND WILLOW ST. - PAGE 6**

**Willow Glen Times**  
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**ROBOTICS WIZARDS**

Wizabotics team strive for a greener, cleaner, and zero-trash future

The Willow Glen Robotics Team is set to compete in the 2016 First Lego League (FLL) competition. The team, which is made up of students from Willow Glen Elementary School, is competing in the FLL competition. The team is made up of students from Willow Glen Elementary School, which is a public school in Willow Glen, California. The team is competing in the FLL competition, which is a global competition for students aged 9-14. The team is made up of students from Willow Glen Elementary School, which is a public school in Willow Glen, California. The team is competing in the FLL competition, which is a global competition for students aged 9-14.

**Six-story apartment proposed for Almaden Road 'too big'**

By William Delmonico

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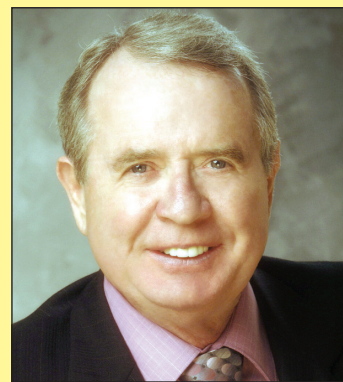
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Times **Features****Risen***Continued from page 14*

really wanted from this life. The Roman officer couldn't quite explain exactly what it was that he wanted. Jesus said, "What you really want is to live a single day without killing someone and having blood on your hands!" This was exactly what the Roman said to himself a few days earlier. Jesus knew that this Roman belonged to him because he wanted to live just one day without killing someone or having blood on his hands. The Roman began to see the world through a different frequency or lens. He felt that there must be a better way to live. The Roman officer dreamed of a paradise where there were no more enemies to kill. He dreamed of a world where he would not have to kill anyone, if only just for a day!

Clavius comes to face with face

with the dead man he'd been searching for - and is thus forced to reconcile what he used to know about the world with the new reality in front of him.

Produced under Sony's "faith based" Affirm Films banner, *Risen* stands apart from its evangelical-targeted brethren by being an actual movie with some kind of values.

*Risen* has low-wattage charm as long as it's working the supernatural mystery angle, helped by the fact that it has just enough of a sense of humor about itself. *Risen* feels like a welcome alternative, in that it feels like it was made by people who pray for something other than box office returns.

*RISEN: Director: Kevin Reynolds; Production Company: Affirm Films; Producers: Pete Shilaimon, Paul Aiello, Mickey Liddell, Patrick Aiello; Executive producers: Robert Huberman, José Luis Escobar, Scott Holroyd, David Wood.*



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