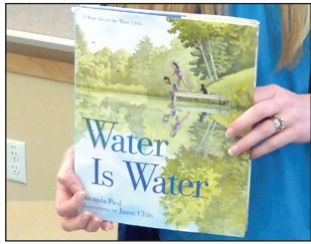


**AUTHOR DEBUTS  
BOOK 'WATER  
IS WATER'  
AT ALMADEN  
LIBRARY - PAGE 4**



**CASTILLERO  
COBRAS 8TH  
GRADE BOYS  
BASKETBALL TEAM  
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**EASTER PASSION PLAY  
SET TO BE PERFORMED  
AT SIX ENGAGEMENTS  
AT CATHEDRAL OF  
FAITH - PAGE 22**



MARCH 11-MARCH 24, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 6

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# Almaden Times

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## STATE OF THE CITY



"Together, we'll provide a model to the world for civic innovation, but also for civic commitment," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. *Photos by Lorraine Gabbert*

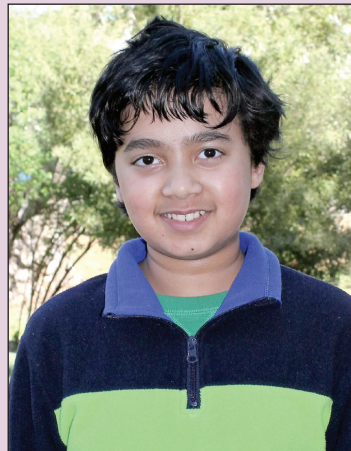
### Almaden siblings named semifinalists in prestigious bees: National Geographic, CBS Bay Area Scripps

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Two Almaden students have been named as semi-finalists in prestigious National Geographic Bee and Scripps Spelling Bee contests. Both students are twin brothers and attend Challenger School - Almaden as fifth graders.

Rohit Vasantha is participating as a semifinalist in the 2016 California National Geographic State Bee presented by the National Geographic Society. There are only 100 semifinalists

See BEE BROTHERS, page 8



Rohit Vasantha (left) and Amith Vasantha (right) are bee semi-finalists.

### Mayor's address focuses on public safety, innovation and inclusivity

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo focused on public safety, innovation and inclusivity in his State of the City Address to a receptive audience of about 1,500 at Overfelt High School on Saturday.

"Together, we'll provide a model to the world for civic innovation, but also for civic commitment," he said. "With our minds, we'll unleash our geek, but with our hearts, we'll ignite the power of our imaginations to transform our city. We can embrace a bolder vision and a more magnanimous

See ADDRESS, page 12



Mayor Liccardo with Vice Mayor Rose Herrera: The Mayor praised the Council and city workforce for rising above the acrimony of the past to work collaboratively.

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## This Week:

### NEWS

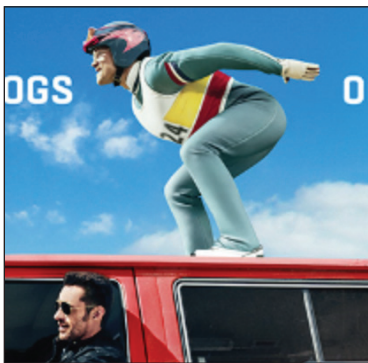
**YMCA partners with National Inclusion Project to create opportunities for children with disabilities: PAGE 10**

### GOVERNMENT

**Volunteer to serve with the County; many opportunities available: PAGE 16**

### FEATURE

**Attorney fee arbitration may work for you: PAGE 17**



### ARTS

**Movie review: Eddie the Eagle soars: PAGE 19**

### ALSO

**Realtor Guide: PAGE 26**

**Worship Guide: PAGE 18**

# Valley Currents

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

## Author debuts book 'Water is Water' at Almaden Library

By Samantha Meckenstock  
Times Staff Writer

Author Miranda Paul held a reading to debut her new book "Water is Water" at the Almaden Library on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Voted Best Creative Nonfiction 2015 by the Huffington Post, "Water is Water" follows two children as water moves and changes form throughout the seasons of the year. This depiction of the water cycle from a child's perspective is a great introduction to the importance of water for the youth.

Not only does the book go into creative detail in its words, but the illustrations by Jason Chin are remarkable. "Water is Water" was voted SCJ Best Book Of The Year 2015, New York Public Library's 100 Notable Titles 2015, Chicago Public Library's "Best Of The Best" 2015, and Capital Choices Nominee Seven to Ten 2015. During the reading, Miranda showed the audience the music video to the song "Water is Water." The song was written based on the book by song writer Emily Arrow. Children in the audience were able to dance along to the song during the presentation. A key lesson that the children took along with them is the importance of water to the planet.

A Wisconsin native, Miranda has been a writer since her teen years. One of her most influential works to date is "One Plastic Bag," the story of Isatou Ceesay and the recycling women of Gambia. Miranda expresses her interest in the environment and other social justice issues through



Author **Miranda Paul** held a reading to debut her new book "Water is Water" at the Almaden Library on Saturday, Feb. 27.

**Not only does the book go into creative detail in its words, but the illustrations by Jason Chin are remarkable.**

her books. Her goal is to merge poetry and the environment for creative picture books to enlighten others.

An avid environmentalist, Miranda has deep respect for nature and the well-being of our planet. She used to run an eco-friendly fair trade store and also volunteers at a Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition, she visits schools often to talk about some of the environmental issues around the world and encourages children to make choices that have less impact on the environment.

Closer to her home, she has a rain barrel, a vegetable garden, a compost barrel, and a bee garden. She says that starting with small steps or leading by example can be powerful in terms of community progress.

Currently, Miranda is working on several other books to be released soon. Miranda will continue to tour around the U.S. doing readings. For more information about the author, visit her website: [www.mirandapaul.com](http://www.mirandapaul.com).

## Almaden Times

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## St Patrick's Day dinner celebration March 17

The Almaden Senior Association is holding a traditional St Patrick's Day Dinner Celebration at the Almaden Community Center on Thursday, March 17th, 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 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.



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### 20765 Monte Sunset Drive

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### 6883 Goldpine Court

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**May your blessings be many,  
your worries be few,  
and the luck of the Irish  
be always with you!**



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St. Patrick's Day  
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### Outstanding Features

- ◆ Formal living room with LED recessed lighting, wide crown and base boards, marble slab remote control gas fireplace with blower and custom mantle
- ◆ Formal dining with beveled glass pocket door closure to kitchen and picture window overlooking pool
- ◆ Bedroom on main floor with dual closets
- ◆ Family room with built-in media cabinetry, flat screen T.V., granite slab fireplace, wide plank hardwood floor, LED recessed lighting and glass slider to rear yard
- ◆ Casual eating area features well-appointed wine bar with granite slab counter, custom tile backsplash, N'FINITY by Wine Enthusiast temperature controlled wine refrigerator with additional 40 bottle wine rack
- ◆ Chefs Kitchen is equipped with DCS stainless appliances, 5 burner gas range, cabinetry with custom pull outs, soft close full extension drawers, double drawer dishwasher, Anderson bay window, custom paneled hood, and glass slider to rear grounds
- ◆ Master bedroom with coffered ceilings, recessed lighting, beautiful cased double hung windows, over-sized walk-in closet with window and custom organizers
- ◆ Master bath features stone floors built-in wardrobe, granite vanity, natural stone shower with glass tile detailing
- ◆ Bedroom 3 & 4 have overhead lighting and deep closets with built in shelving
- ◆ Guest bath with granite slab counter, tile floors and shower with dual shower heads
- ◆ Powder room
- ◆ Utility room
- ◆ Entertainers dream backyard with solar heated pool, outdoor kitchen equipped with refrigerator, 30 thousand BTU gas grill, sink with hot water and outdoor speakers. The spacious bar seats 12 of your favorite friends, built-in fire pit and roomy side yard would be perfect for bocce ball

#### Additional features:

- ◆ Solar panel system generates electricity during peak daylight hours to be used all day with Solid panels heating built in pool
- ◆ Fireplaces with remote controlled electronic ignition inserts with blower
- ◆ Copper plumbing & water filtration system
- ◆ Wide plank Hardwood floors
- ◆ Raised panel doors
- ◆ R-13 Insulation
- ◆ Dual pane Windows
- ◆ Central A/C
- ◆ 2 car garage

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**Spring Forward**  
Skip ahead one hour Sunday, March 13



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## California Republican Party issues statement on the passing of Nancy Reagan

The California Republican Party Chairman Jim Brulte issued a statement following the passing of former First Lady Nancy Reagan. Mrs. Reagan passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

"America has lost one of the truly great First Ladies today. Nancy Reagan was a full partner of President Reagan in all his endeavors. Her elegance, love of husband and family, and devotion to our country will be remembered by all."



Former First Lady Nancy Reagan

## Almaden trip to Thunder Valley Casino March 15

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 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.

## LOCAL ARTS

### A DAY COMES TO A CLOSE!

A teal-blue sky begins to darken  
As clouds, tinged by the sun, creep above  
And the lights of the sky begin to darken  
As the day comes to a close.

A soft wind silently whispers across the land  
While the cricket gives its nightly serenade to the earth  
And the birds in the sycamore close their eyes  
As the sun disappears below the horizon.

The leaves rustle in the breeze  
As the stag lifts its head to look around  
And the moon gazes down on the sleeping land  
As the day turns to night.

A pair of eyelids begins to close.  
A sleeping boy rolls over in bed,  
Dreaming happy dreams throughout the night  
Off in the land of Sleep.

The stars glisten throughout the night  
While the land sleeps on and on  
And slowly, slowly  
The Earth turns on its celestial course  
Forevermore.

—Amith Vasantha

## Bee brothers

*Continued from page 1*

per state. The 2016 California National Geographic State Bee will be held in Fresno in April 2016.

Amith Vasantha is participating as a semi-finalist in the CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Championship finals San Francisco. Amith is a second time participant in the CBS Championships. The CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Championships event will be televised live by KPIX5 TV.

The twin brothers enjoy Squash, Piano, and Reading.

**About the 2016 California National Geographic State**

Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to inspire students to be curious about the world. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging competition.

**About the 2016 CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Championships**

The CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Championships 2016

Event is co-hosted by KPIX 5 and KCBS radio, along with sponsors Comcast. The final event will be held in Washington D.C. in May. Competing Bay Area schools include San Francisco, Marin, Napa, Mendocino, Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

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**7121 Echo Loop, Almaden**

Beautiful newer estate property in Almaden Country Club. Spectacular 4,490 +/- square foot home on a 21,344 +/- square foot lot. Four generous bedrooms and 5 ½ bathrooms, including 2 first floor Master Bedroom suites, one with a kitchenette. Two additional bedrooms are both en-suite. Private setting with pool and spa.

Offered at \$3,198,000



**6509 Camelia Drive, Almaden**

Wonderful location in the Almaden Country Club neighborhood with a spectacular view overlooking the 7th fairway, Quicksilver Park and beyond! Enjoy the sprawling ranch style design of this spacious 4 bedroom, 2 ½ bathroom on an expansive 14,000 +/- square foot lot. Ideal for comfortable living and great for entertaining.

Offered at \$1,698,000



**6793 Elwood Road, Almaden**

Beautiful estate property located in the Almaden Country Club neighborhood. Spectacular 5,300 +/- sq ft home on ½ acre +/- level lot. Five generous bedrooms, including an office, plus a workout room and five full bathrooms and one half bath. Fabulous pool with fountains, spa and sport court.

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**20715 Mountain Drive, Almaden**

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## Times Features

## YMCA partners with National Inclusion Project to create opportunities for children with disabilities

The National Inclusion Project has partnered with YMCA of Silicon Valley to further the creation of an environment where children with and without disabilities can play, learn and laugh together.

As part of the partnership, the National Inclusion Project has awarded the YMCA a grant to implement the *Let's ALL Play* program model throughout its Day Camp and After School programs.

In addition to the program model, the National Inclusion Project provides training and expertise, with a network of inclusion experts ready to problem-solve and share best practices on ensuring that no child sits on the sidelines.

YMCA of Silicon Valley is one of just 12 new organizations that the National Inclusion Project has chosen to partner with this year. "We are excited to work with the Y to provide more inclusive opportunities for the children of San Mateo and Santa Clara County," says Nick Leisey, National Inclusion Project Executive Director.

Research shows overwhelming evidence that the *Let's ALL Play* model helps children with disabilities improve self-esteem, social skills and confidence, while those without disabilities improved their leadership, problem solving and empathy skills.

The model makes it possible for children to come together and succeed, while participating in recreational activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, community service, physical fitness and more. More



Children with disabilities participate in all programs and activities at the Y, where they find encouragement and support in overcoming any initial hesitation, so they can simply have fun and learn alongside other children. Photo: North Charleston (Flickr.com)

importantly, it allows children with and without disabilities to create friendships that may not have been possible in other parts of their lives.

"We believe that all children have the right and ability to achieve their full potential," said Jennifer Puthoff, Director of Child Care & After School programs at YMCA of Silicon Valley. "Our primary goal for Youth Development programs at the Y is to continually raise the quality and positive impact for ALL participants, while incorporating the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility."

Children with disabilities participate in all programs and activities at the Y, where they find encouragement and support in overcoming any initial hesitation, so they can simply have fun and learn alongside other children.

During the year, the Y works with schools and parents to run inclusive after-school programs. To ensure success, the Y actively engages a diverse group of students in creating a supportive peer network that welcomes and accepts all students, regardless of their individual circumstances, challenges or abilities. And when the school year ends, children are successfully included in summer camps and programs, receiving one-to-one support when needed.

*The Y offers hundreds of unique summer camps and programs for youth of all ages, abilities and interests at 30 different locations throughout Silicon Valley. To learn more visit: [www.ymcasv.org/summer](http://www.ymcasv.org/summer).*

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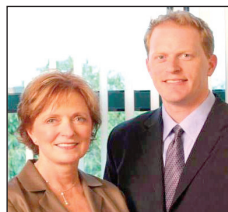
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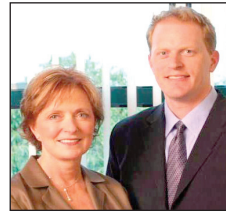
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4 BR 3 BA Excellent open flowing floorplan with large attractive bonus room. Outstanding schools!  
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**ALMADEN VALLEY** **\$1,388,000**  
4 BR 3 BA Beautifully appointed Almaden Country Club Area home offers spacious interior and updated finishes!  
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## Times Cover Story



Khamis photo caption here

## Address

*Continued from page 1*

spirit—one shard by our immigrant community and by our forebears—to make decisions today for the benefit of future generations.”

Liccardo said in his first year as mayor he learned to listen more, talk less and laugh more. “I want to thank my incredible wife, Jessica,” he said, “for her unfailing love and patience...and for laughing at most of my bad jokes.”

He praised the Council and city workforce for rising above the acrimony of the past to work collaboratively. “Many members of our city workforce inspire me daily with their passion to improve services, even in a time of

diminished resources,” he said. In addition to unanimously passing a balanced budget, they reached pension reform settlements with eleven unions, saving taxpayers \$3 billion and paving the way to retaining and recruiting police officers.

Although new initiatives are being launched to recruit former San Jose Police Department officers, as well as new cadets and military veterans, restoring staffing will take several years. In the meantime, 14 fire-fighters will be restored this year to improve emergency and fire response and the number of Community Service Officers will double to better address burglaries and other property crimes.

The Council will be voting this Tuesday on a tax measure to provide revenue to restore

fire and police staffing, along with other critical services. “We have the opportunity to ensure that we never again see families lose their homes to fire only a few yards away from a browned out fire station, as we saw last week on Auzerais Ave.,” he said.

The city is investing in technology to improve public safety; from upgrading patrol car computer terminals to expanding data analytics to identify property crime hot spots and registering residential and business’ security cameras. In addition, body-worn cameras are being installed on all patrolling officer’s uniforms.

San Jose Works—a jobs program for hundreds of teens living in gang-impacted neighborhoods—is another crime deterrent and the one thing Liccardo says he is proudest of. Through this program, Home Depot, Jabil, Microsoft and Target provided about 700 youth with their first jobs last summer. “We witnessed extraordinary strength of character in these kids,” said Liccardo. “One teen used his first paycheck to buy groceries for his family. Another young woman started her job the day she was released from Juvenile Hall, and by the fall, she was hired full-time. This summer, let’s give 1,000 kids a path to building a resume rather than a rap sheet!”

Celebrating the city’s economic success, Liccardo said that last year, San Jose boasted among the highest job growth rates of any major metro area in the country. “The economic winds moved from the front to our back and that’s helped tremendously,” he said. “We welcomed titans like Apple and Google, cut the ribbon on Samsung’s new headquarters and announced the arrival of fast-growing companies like Dice, Silver Spring Networks and Splunk. Naturally, like any other Mayor, I’d like to take credit for all of this good news...but the thanks really goes to our incredible tech employers.”

Liccardo hailed downtown’s transformation into a ‘vibrant urban center’ through reduced fees and accelerated permitting. “Thousands of new apartments and dozens of tech employers have emerged downtown, reshaping our skyline and revitalizing our streetscape,” he said. “Thank you to all of our partners for making 2015 the biggest year in San Jose’s economic history!”

Noting that for small businesses to succeed in San Jose there needs to be a reduction in red tape and regulations, Liccardo said a task force is exploring creating a process of self-certification for inspection and permit approvals. “We’re also broadening opportunities for minority and women-led small businesses to bid on city projects,” he said.

The city is ensuring that more members of the community benefit from the valley’s economic growth. “We have to do more to get thousands of our homeless residents housed,” said Liccardo. “This year the city is rehabilitating two deteriorating motels as apartments and building a 150-unit micro-housing village on city land. Through Downtown Streets Team, homeless residents remove graffiti and trash in exchange for housing and job training. Liccardo is also co-leading a campaign to house homeless veterans in the region by the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day in 2018. “We’re going to bring all of our valley’s 700 homeless veterans ‘All the Way Home,’” he said.

In addition, Liccardo seeks to help families struggling financially. “We must do more to enable their boats to rise with our valley’s extraordinary prosperity,” he said. “This year the city is imposing inclusionary and housing impact fees on new builders to create reserve funds for affordable housing for teachers, nurses and others struggling with housing prices. The city is also working with developers to build more densely in urban corridors,



San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo focused on public safety, innovation and inclusivity in his State of the City Address to a receptive audience of about 1,500 at Overfelt High School on Saturday.



Times **Cover Story**

because we know that smaller units and higher density are both in demand, and they're more affordable, particularly near mass transit."

As manufacturing jobs provide a pathway to the middle class, the city is boosting tech manufacturing by accelerating permits, waiving fees and assisting employers with workforce training. Through a TechHire partnership, 1,000 young adults will receive job training and digital skills needed for technology-related careers. In April, the city will take up a proposal to strengthen rent control. Liccardo is also leading a regional effort to increase the minimum wage for all Santa Clara County residents.

Engaging the immigrant community, the city has launched an Office of Immigrant Affairs to create pathways to achieve citizenship and expand access to city business opportunities and services. "Half of our small businesses are immigrant-led," said Liccardo. "Let's make the American Dream more accessible to our many immigrant entrepreneurs."

Liccardo endorsed investing in transportation and especially in road maintenance. "We must reverse the decades of deterioration of our roads and basic infrastructure," he said. "For every \$1 we decline to spend today in basic street maintenance, we'll spend another \$5 in road rehabilitation." He also noted that BART will open in San Jose's Berryessa neighborhood next year ahead of schedule and tens of millions under budget. "We need to keep it going," Liccardo said. "In November, we must pass a measure to make critical investments in street maintenance, CalTrain, freeways,

expressways, bikeways and trails, and to finally finish the job of bringing BART to Alum Rock, downtown and on to Santa Clara."

Looking to the future, Liccardo said that the city cannot afford to do the same things the same way, and must find innovative solutions to problems. "Fortunately, we benefit from living in the most limit-defying community on the planet: Silicon Valley," he said. "We are empowered to catalyze change globally through our creativity, innovative passion and our inner geek!"

The city has engaged tech companies, national foundations and local universities for their expertise and resources. Liccardo hopes residents will join them in reimagining San Jose's future. For instance, finding opportunities for retail in struggling neighborhoods and envisioning new uses for public spaces by transforming empty lots into community gardens and underutilized streets into public parks. "We'll explore these ideas together," he said, "so join us and unleash your geek!"

To make San Jose 'the most innovative city in the nation by 2020,' a series of new initiatives is being launched including using sensors to make the transportation infrastructure smarter and improve energy efficiency in buildings. A competition has been initiated for San Jose State and Santa Clara University students to design a mechanical device to paint over graffiti and high-speed internet is being provided for low-income families and small businesses at no or reduced cost. The city is also utilizing technology to be more transparent with more robust data portals.



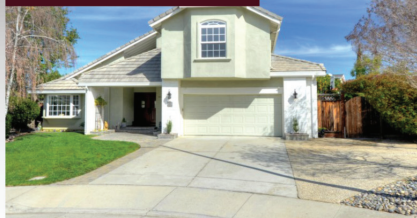
"We're blessed to live in a place where we have the opportunity to benefit from ideas, creativity and traditions brought to us from around the world," said Liccardo. "So many immigrants and families like my grandparents first set foot in San Jose when we were the 'Valley of Heart's Delight.' They fell in love with a city in which people of any ethnicity or income could forge extraordinary lives. They shared a unique optimism, faith and passion for our future. It was our heart that defined us—our city is

still defined by our heart. And while our city motto describes us as the 'Capital of Silicon Valley,' I think we are more truly the 'Heart of Silicon Valley.' Together, we'll reclaim our neighborhoods, re-engage our communities, restore the hopes of the struggling and re-imagine our collective future. We'll fall in love with our city again and inspire others to follow our lead."

*Additional information came from a one-on-one interview with the Mayor following his State of the City Address.*

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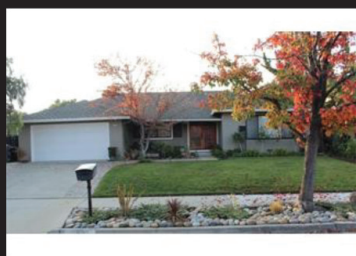


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Times Feature

# Volunteer to serve with the County; many opportunities available

By Supervisor Ken Yeager  
*Special to the Times*

The County of Santa Clara prides itself on the vast range of services it provides to residents. From basic resources like birth certificates and tax information to groundbreaking work in areas such as HIV prevention outreach, the County strives to offer all residents the tools they need to thrive in our community and beyond. None of this work would be possible, however, without the dedication of local volunteers.

For residents interested in offering input on important issues facing our region, there are a number of great volunteer opportunities available on various County boards and commissions as well as on the Civil Grand Jury.

Among the County's boards and commissions, there are currently 15 vacancies for residents in District 4 or at-large. Certain vacancies have specific requirements for appointees, such as particular backgrounds or necessary skills. For example, the open seat on the Board of Plumbing Examiners requires that an appointee "be a licensed plumbing contractor actively engaged in the contract business." Likewise, many of the

open seats are available to any qualified resident of District 4 or member of the public at-large.

One such commission is the Advisory Commission on Consumer Affairs. Established in 1974, this nine-member commission serves to assist and advise County administration on matters of interest to consumers, prevent duplication of efforts in the field of consumer protection, and receive complaints and inquiries from consumers regarding deceptive or unfair trade practices. There is currently an opening for a member of the public at-large to take over the remaining term ending in June.

For those interested in playing a role in the County's global relationships, there are several positions open with Sister-County Commissions. The Moscow City and Region Sister-County Commission has a vacancy for a term ending in June, while the Hsinchu County, Taiwan Sister-County Commission has vacancies for one term ending



**County Report**

Ken Yeager,  
County Supervisor

in 2017 and another ending in 2018. Appointees for each of these commissions must be County residents who have previously demonstrated interest or participation in matters pertaining to the countries of their respective sister-countries.

The Homeless Healthcare Advisory Board, the 12 members of which advise the Board of Supervisors on matters

relating to the operation of County health care clinics, is also seeking a new member. Applicants for this role should possess expertise in community affairs, finance and banking, legal affairs, trade unions, commercial and industrial concerns, or social services agencies within the county. This appointee will serve the remainder of a four-year term ending in 2017.

For the entire list of vacancies, visit the "Resources" section at [www.supervisoryeager.org](http://www.supervisoryeager.org).

The County Superior Court Civil Grand Jury is another invaluable opportunity for those looking to



The Moscow City and Region Sister-County Commission has a vacancy for a term ending in June. Photo: Mariusz Kluzniak (Flickr.com)

make a difference locally. This investigatory body serves as a civil watchdog examining all aspects of county and city government and special districts, including school districts. Applicants for this role must have lived in the County for at least one year and have a working fluency in English.

The Civil Grand Jury has statutory authority to inspect and audit juvenile detention facilities. Civil Grand Jury service requires a significant amount of time over the course of a one-year term, but it also offers residents a unique vol-

unteer opportunity to contribute to the efficiency and integrity of local government.

The online application deadline is April 1. To apply or learn more, call (408) 882-2721 or email [CGJ@scscourt.org](mailto:CGJ@scscourt.org).

The County is stronger, more successful, and more able to serve when residents take an active role in its operations. I encourage you to explore the many opportunities available and see how you can get involved. The County and you as well, will be better for it.



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# Attorney fee arbitration may work for you

By Donald J. DeVries  
*Special to the Times*

This week's question:

I have a current disagreement with my former attorney about some of his charges. Outrageous is an understatement. We got along fine during my case but when I got his bill, I was floored. What can I do about this?

Allan A.

*Almaden Valley*

Dear Allen:

Sorry to hear about your fee dispute with your former attorney, Allan, but with a little luck and hard work maybe the two of you can work it out.

The last thing you want to do right away is to think about some kind law suit—by either one of you against the other. All too often that just makes matters worse and each of you has better things to do.

The first thing I would try would be to just talk it over, plain and simple. Give him a telephone call or send him an email to point out the various problems and offer to talk it over. Try to keep the tone pleasant, civil, and business-like. Shouting matches and name-calling seldom result in a settlement.

If talking it over works, fine. If it does not, you as a client are entitled to go to attorney fee arbitration. This is mandatory for the attorney but optional for you, the client. It seems to me that you would have nothing to lose by going through the fee arbitration

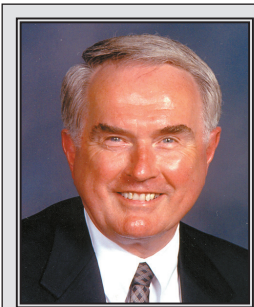
process.

Fee arbitration is not binding unless both of you agree to make it binding. It usually is non-binding, so that the non-prevailing party on either side reserves all rights to proceed with a law suit in court after the fee arbitration.

As a client, you have the right under §§6200-6206 of the California Business and Professions Code to request arbitration of the subject fees or costs by an independent, impartial arbitrator or panel of arbitrators through a bar association program created solely to resolve fee disputes between lawyers and clients.

If this dispute arose in Santa Clara County, there is a fee arbitration program administered by the Santa Clara County Bar Association. If the dispute arose in another county, you can see if there is an approved fee arbitration program in that county by heading for the State Bar of California web site and checking it out there.

Chances are that your non-binding fee arbitration will be heard by an experienced attorney in his or her office at a mutually agreeable time. Please do not be afraid that the arbitrator will be biased against you because you are a non-attorney. He or she



## Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,  
Attorney at Law

For past articles,  
visit our web site at  
[www.almadenvalleylawyers.com](http://www.almadenvalleylawyers.com)

will be as fair as possible for both sides.

It is possible for you to lose your right to have a fee arbitration.

You will lose your right to fee arbitration if you do not request fee arbitration within 30 days from receipt of Notice of Client's Right to Fee Arbitration that the attorney is required to send to you. This is a state-mandated form. You need to file your response on a form the bar association sends to you after you contact them for such a form.

You will also lose your right to fee arbitration if you file an answer to a complaint that the attorney has filed against you in

court.

Another way you can lose your right to fee arbitration is if you file a law suit or a pleading in any law suit which seeks a court decision on the dispute or which seeks damages for any alleged legal malpractice or professional misconduct.

A non-client of the attorney may also proceed with fee arbitration if that person is liable for or entitled to a refund of attorney's fees or costs.

*Almaden Times* readers can learn more about fee arbitration by going online with

**As a client, you have the right to request arbitration of the subject fees or costs by an independent, impartial arbitrator or panel of arbitrators through a bar association program**

their favorite search engine and by entering California Business and Professions Code Section 6200-6206.

So, Allan, those are a few words as to how you might be able to work out your misunderstanding with your former attorney. I'm sure it is safe to say that each of you would like to have this settled and put behind you. Best wishes in that effort—and it is indeed effort.

Donald J. DeVries

*Almaden Valley*

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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 We are a welcoming Church engaged in progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local Invision Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.  
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 Community-Life Pastor (Youth/College & Career) – Pastor Pat Boyd, Community Life Pastor (Small Groups/Christian Education) – Pastor Alvin Lin, Children's Ministry Director – Julie Garcia, Celebrate Recovery Leader – Anne Friend. We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail [info@eastvalleychurch.com](mailto:info@eastvalleychurch.com) We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.convergeworldwide.org](http://www.convergeworldwide.org)

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 6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector. Phone:408-268-0243  
 Web:[www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)  
 At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in

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

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

**FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN**  
 Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) [firstchurchdowntown.com](http://firstchurchdowntown.com)  
 Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include

Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

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

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 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

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 Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road: Sunday 9:30 AM  
 The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium):  
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 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!

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## Times Feature



## FILM REVIEW

## Eddie the Eagle

By Steven Leonard  
Times Movie Reviewer

The story of Eddie Edwards, the notoriously tenacious British underdog ski jumper who charmed the world at the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Eddie the Eagle has an amiable sweetness and offbeat charm turning him into an Asperger's afflicted champion.

Inspired by true events, Eddie the Eagle is a feel-good story about Michael "Eddie" Edwards (Taron Egerton), an unlikely but courageous British ski-jumper who never stopped believing in himself - even as an entire nation was counting him out.

With the help of a rebellious and charismatic coach (played by Hugh Jackman), Eddie takes on the establishment and wins the hearts of sports fans around the world by making an improbable and historic showing at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. From producers of Kingsman: The Secret Service, Eddie the Eagle stars Taron Egerton as Eddie, the loveable underdog with a never say die attitude.

The characters are extremely likable and the movie will have you rooting for 'Eddie' in no time.

There are heroes who inspire us because they win, showing indomitable determination and courage, like Jesse Owens in Race. And then there are heroes who inspire us when they lose. They also have indomitable determination and courage. They just do not have any talent. But they go farther than anyone thinks they can. Think of "Rudy," or "Cool Runnings," or even the original "Rocky" movie. And now add Eddie the Eagle. He was a boy born with Asperger with a dream of competing in the Olympics.

When Eddie was bumped from the British ski team, partly for being clumsy and lower class (at least in this film), he switches to ski jumping. There is one advantage: Great Britain does not have a ski jump team and has not competed in the event in 60 years. The rules had not been updated since then, so, unbelievably, anyone who competed successfully (meaning jumped without falling) could qualify. And since no one else was trying, all Eddie had to do was enter one competition and land on his feet.

The bad news was that he had to land on his feet after skiing down a 70-meter slide. The real Eddie won hearts with his unpretentiousness and enthusiasm, the nickname

dubbed in response to his waving his arms in glee and relief after making it down from the jump in one piece. He was refreshing in an era of product-ized athletes groomed from elementary school for endorsement deals and "Up Close and Personal" segments. At the end of the Games, he was singled out for "soaring like an eagle," the only athlete mentioned.

What I enjoyed most about the movie were the inspirational quotes and principles from "Eddie The Eagle. Searching for meaning and significance his entire life, Eddie overcame all odds, obstacles, physical limitations, doubters and the British establishment to become the most beloved athlete in the '88 games. This movie is for anyone who feels unimportant, marginalized and invisible. With enough determination and creative thought, you too can have your own shining moment.

**The following are 22 Quotes and Principles from Eddie the Eagle:**

Great Books Inspire People – Charlie Tremendous Jones once said, "You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for the people you meet and the books you read." As a young boy, Eddie was inspired by a book entitled *Moments of Glory*. He wanted his own moment of glory.

Leaders Give People A Sense Of Direction And Purpose – Eddie's father Terry said, "Name me one British ski jumper." To which Eddie answered, "Me."

Great Leaders Tell the Story of Others and Give Them A Platform – Terry, trying to be realistic but certainly not supportive, said, "It's a world that doesn't want to know you."

Leadership Is Marked By Your Courage – As Eddie would look up at the height of the ski jumps and then at the distance below, his drive for significance eclipsed his fear of failure...and death.

If You're Not Dead You're Not Done – Most Olympic ski jumpers began when they were 6 years old. Eddie began at 22 years old.

Everyone Gets Better With Coaching – Eddie told his potential coach Bronson Peary, played by Hugh Jackman, "I've plateaued. Without your help I'm not going to get any better."

Leaders Never Have To Recover From A Good Start – Peary told him, "The foundation of any jump is the takeoff."

The Life Cycle Of A Ski-Jumper – Love – Bruises – Breaking Bones – Coffin. I just found this interesting from a leadership perspective.

Great Leaders Never Quit – Peary's  
See EDDIE, next page

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Times Feature



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**Eddie**

*Continued from previous page*

former coach, Warren Sharp played by Christopher Walken, wrote in his book, "A true Olympian is not a God-given skill set. It is never giving up."

Smart Leaders Develop A Funding Strategy – Dreams die because of a lack of funding. Sponsorships often make the financial difference between the success and failure of an Olympic athlete.

Parents Make An Incredible Financial Investment In The Future Success Of Their Child(ren) – Edwards's wonderful mother Janette was a continual source of encouragement and often sold everything for Eddie to pursue his dream of making the Olympic team.

Great Leaders Always Have Something To Prove – Eddie said, "I needed my own moment. A moment to prove them all wrong."

Great Leaders Pay A Price Others Are Unwilling To Pay – Peary said, "I can get you your moment but it's going to hurt."

The Comparison Game Is One You Will Never Win – In defiance to the fellow jumpers and their coaches, Peary shouted after a jump of over 40 meters, "Personal best and we're a disgrace."

Great Leaders Have Proper Focus – Peary taught Eddie to remain "focused, not tense."

Smart Leaders Make Good Choices – Eddie told his doubting coach, "I'd rather be a sober fool than a drunken coward."

Leaders Worth Remembering Bring People Joy – After completing his first

jump, Eddie's impromptu celebration won over the crowd. Many leaders can make money, increase shareholder value, or meet a monthly number. Few bring people joy.

There Is A Difference Between Sensing Opportunity And Seizing It – The stodgy British Olympic Association wanted to squash the media frenzy surrounding Eddie The Eagle. Meanwhile, their press secretary had enough sense to capitalize on it.

Don't Be Fooled. Great Leaders Have A Chip On Their Shoulder – Eddie said, "I love jumping nearly as much as I love proving people wrong."

There Is A Difference Between Activity And Accomplishment – Eddie told the media, "I did not come here as a novelty act and I will not be going home as one."

Smart Leaders Always Maintain A Healthy Sense Of Respect – Sharp said, "You're never bigger than the hill."

Leaders Get The Job Done – A British announcer concluded his broadcast of Eddie's final jump by proclaiming, "The Eagle has landed."

The best quote and principle within the film was by Pierre de Coubertin, Olympic Founder.

"The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part; the important thing in Life is not triumph, but the struggle; the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well. To spread these principles is to build up a strong and more valiant and, above all, more scrupulous and more generous humanity."

Once again, *Eddie the Eagle* is a wonderfully, inspirational movie. Go see it with your whole family this weekend.

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Times **Local Sports**



Pictured with championship trophy: kneeling in front: **Armaan Khoser, Kyle Bardel, Jordan Klapper, Quinn Denker, Connor McCahan and Logan Bauman**; Standing: Assistant coach **Tom Short, Carson Yates, Mason Ryan, Ryan Wahl, Conner Murtha, Nick Rohde, Lucas Mirizzi, Zach Blozan** and head coach **Christian Murtha**.

**Castillero Cobras 8th grade boys basketball team undefeated**

The Castillero Cobras 8th grade boys basketball team completed their dream season on with a dominant win in the middle school championship game against Willow Glen.

Castillero went undefeated in the regular season and in the playoffs capturing their first middle school title in 11 years. Castillero routed River Glen in the first round 53-18, crushed Bret Harte in the semi-final 63-30 and controlled Willow Glen in the championship game 53-38.

Christian Murtha has been the head coach for the Castillero boys team for the past years. "This was truly a special group of young men who were both great athletes and great friends," said Murtha. "Their level of conditioning and intensity allowed them to run every team in the league out of every game."

The Cobras offense was run by point guard

Quinn Denker, sharp shooters Mason Ryan and Lucas Mirizzi and the boards were controlled by Carson Yates, Zach Blozan and Ryan Wahl.

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Times **Features**



## Easter Passion Play set to be performed at six engagements at Cathedral of Faith

In *The Name of Love, From Creation to the Cross* is the title of this year's Easter passion play produced by the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose.

The renowned free theatrical musical will be performed at 7 p.m. on Wed., March 16, Thurs., March 17, Friday, March 18, Wed., March 23, Thurs., March 24 and Good Friday, March 25. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"This year's presentation is inspiring," said Senior Pastor Ken Foreman. "We want to celebrate Easter in an exciting way. This theatrical production will literally take you back in time to experience the life, death and resurrection of Christ."

The Cathedral of Faith has a long history of performing Passion Plays, dating back more than 40 years. More than 25,000 people attend the performances each year, travelling from all across the Bay Area for the experience. This year's production begins at the time of Creation and ends with Jesus on the Cross."

"We've included music by U2, Imagine Dragons and Evanescence," said Cathedral's Worship Pastor Vaughn Thompson. "This is a great chance to invite friends or neighbors who may never come to church, but would enjoy a Broadway-style musical production." The free event will feature aerialists, special lighting and sound effects, a live orchestra and over 300 in the cast and crew.

The public is invited to see the conclusion to the presentation upon return for Easter services, Saturday, March 26 at 5 and 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 27 at 7:30, 9 p.m., and 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon. They will watch Jesus burst forth from the tomb, overcoming death and thousands will be blessed by an inspiring Easter message by Pastor Ken during each service. For more information about Cathedral of Faith, log onto [www.cathedraloffaith.org](http://www.cathedraloffaith.org), or contact Kurt Foreman, Director of Operations, at 408.204.8088 or [kforeman@cathedraloffaith.org](mailto:kforeman@cathedraloffaith.org).

*Photos by Daniel Hon Photography*





Times **News**

**Accused cat killer pleads not guilty to 10 felony counts of animal cruelty**

Robert Farmer, accused of stealing, maiming, and killing cats in the Cambrian Park neighborhood last year has pleaded not guilty to 10 felony counts of animal cruelty.

His plea, entered in Santa Clara County Superior Court, prompted a mix of anger and emotional reactions a number of lovers attending the court appearance of 24-year-old transient Farmer. Martinez has been incarcerated since Oct. 8.

Police found Farmer sleeping in a car near Hillsdale and Leigh avenues with a dead cat hidden inside when he was subsequently arrested. A report from the San Jose Animal Care/Services division said the female cat died of "blunt force trauma in the car and may have also been sexually abused."

Alexandra Ellis, County prosecutor for the case, said new charges may be filed, and that the investigation is ongoing.

The next court appearance is schedule for May 6.



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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](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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### 2015 DODGE CHARGER W/9-SPEED AUTOMATIC

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MSRP	\$29,985
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,208
SALE PRICE	\$25,777
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER SELECT INVENTORY RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,500


**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

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2 AT THIS NET PRICE VIN #890087 & 925707  
\*ON SELECT UNITS IN DEALER STOCK.

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41 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM



MSRP	\$34,890
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$6,113
SALE PRICE	\$28,777
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$500
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BONUS CASH	-\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$26,777

HURRY, 1 AT THIS NET PRICE #165291

### 2015 CHRYSLER 300C PLATINUM



DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$4,777
CHRYSLER V6 RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$3,500
CHRYSLER SELECT INVENTORY RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,500

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**


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118 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM



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DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$5,383
SALE PRICE	\$27,027
RAM CALIF. 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$750
RAM TRUCK MONTH RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
RAM TRUCK ENGINE BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
RAM CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*	-\$500


**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$22,777

3 AT THIS NET PRICE VINS #208229, 188186, 208234  
\*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

### 2016 RAM 2500 CREW CAB AUTOMATIC, AIR CONDITIONING

30 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM



DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$5,777
RAM CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$2,500
RAM TRUCK ENGINE BONUS CASH	-\$1,500
RAM CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL CASH	-\$1,000

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

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Times **Local News**



# Greene Irish dance troupe to appear at Britannia Arms

The Greene Academy of Irish Dance, founded in 1993, will be appearing March 13 and March 17 at Almaden Britannia Arms.

The Dance troupe is under the direction of Sondra Greene, a first generation Irish American. The dancers compete all of the United States and Canada.

Sondra has been dancing since the age of four, when her parent's enrolled her in an Irish Dance School off Bascom Avenue so that she could keep in touch with her Irish roots. Sondra competed all over the United States, Canada and Ireland.

Sondra put dancing on the back burner while she obtained a B.S. from San Jose State and a law degree from Santa Clara University. Sondra is an attorney by day and dance teacher by evening.

When the Greene Academy first opened, there were only a handful of students and Sondra was teaching the children out of her garage in her home in Willow Glen.

The school quickly grew and is now being taught at her studio at 1585 North Fourth Street in San Jose. The Greene Academy classes are also taught in Los Altos and Palo Alto. The Greene Academy students are from all over the Bay area, Almaden, Willow Glen, Cambrian, Morgan Hill, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Menlo Park.

Irish step dancing is not just for the Irish anymore. Sondra teaches children of all ethnicities. Irish dancing has evolved and is truly an athletic sport.

If you would like to see some of the dancers kicking up their heels around the here is a list of local

locations and times:  
 Almaden: Almaden Britain Arms, March 13th 7 p.m. and March 17th 1 p.m., 4:30 pm, and 8 p.m.  
 Los Gatos: C.B. Hannighens, March 17th 3 pm.



The dancers above performed last year at C.B Hennighans.

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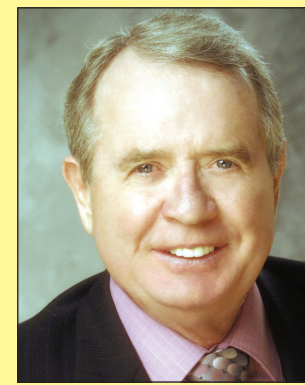
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Times **Features**



**Rotary speech contest winner named**

Last Thursday, March 3 the Rotary Clubs District 5170 in the Bay Area held its Youth Speech Contest. The high school contestants represented Almaden Valley, Gilroy and as far away as Hollister.

This year's theme for speeches was "Be a Gift to the World." It is the objective of the Rotary to allow these students an opportunity to compete for prize money as the top public speaker in Distict 5170, with no strings attached. The hope is to build public knowledge of what Rotary Clubs are about and what they do around the world, especially with young people in mind.

Pictured above: Center is winner **Nikhita Gopisetty**. On the left of the winner is Almaden President **Ray Wong**, and on the right is **Marco Renella**. Pictured above to the right are the other winners. Among them, second place is **Phoebe Yin**, Almaden Valley; third place is **Hernan Chavez**, Hollister; fourth place **Steven Porter**, Gilroy; and fifth place **Monica Zuchelli**, Gilroy Sunrise.

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