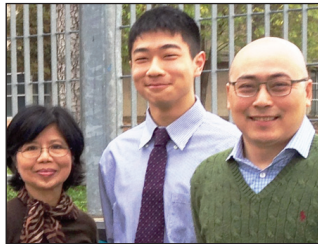


**LOS ALAMITOS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GREEN TEAM CELEBRATES
THE EARTH ALL YEAR
'ROUND - PAGE 4**



**ANTON CAO VISITS
WASHINGTON DC
TO ATTEND WHITE
HOUSE SCIENCE
FAIR - PAGE 14**



**ASHRITHA ESWARAN
COMPETES IN U.S.
WOMEN'S CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP -
PAGE 17**



APRIL 22-MAY 5, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 9

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A PLACE TO TURN TO



Scott Nessel (far right) and youth shared with AVCA members their difficult experiences with addiction and how Teen Challenge helped them to overcome it. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

LOCAL SPORTS

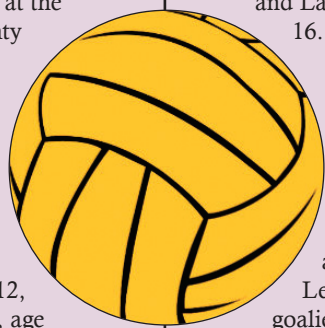
San Jose Almaden Water Polo Team earn gold

Almaden Valley's water polo team, San Jose Almaden (SJA), recently competed at the Washington State tournament, at the indoor King County Aquatic Center where they took home the gold in both the U16 and the U18 divisions.

The U16 team comprised of Jenna Flynn, age 12, Arrington McGee, age 14, Nina Flynn, age 14, Zoe King, age 14, Carson Rampelberg, age 14, goalie

Georgia Stebbins, age 14, Mia Johnson, age 15, Kaylie Mendoza, age 15, Ashlee Hammer, age 16, Ailish Hutchings, age 16, and Lauren Jufiar, age 16.

The U18 team had the U16 players plus Anna Fry, age 16, Sanam Ghazvini, age 18, Elise Trudeau, age 18, goalie Aria Leone, age 18, and goalie Myranda Wieners, age 18. 11 of our 16 girls played 10 games over the
See WATER POLO, page 8



ELECTION '16

CALIF. STATE CANDIDATES FORUM SET FOR MAY 9

Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) is hosting a 2016 State Candidates Forum on May 9.

The Forum is an opportunity for residents to ask questions and hear from those who
See FORUM, page 8

Teen Challenge: Rescuing kids, others from addiction

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

When there's nowhere else to turn for those suffering from addiction, Teen Challenge is there.

Scott Nessel, Development Coordinator for Teen Challenge South Bay, spoke at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting. Speaking with him and sharing their experiences were young people that have been helped by the program.

Teen Challenge provides recovery not only for teens, but for men, women, children and families struggling with destructive,

addictive and abusive lifestyles, including drug abuse, alcoholism and behavioral reactions to sexual and physical abuse. Many of those helped might otherwise be homeless.

"If there's a girl who needs help, we'll put her on a couch if that's all we have," said Nessel. "Because, if that's all we have, the couch is better than one more night on the street."

Teen Challenge was founded in 1958 by David Wilkerson, a pastor from West Virginia. Upon hearing a story about troubled youth in New York City,
See TEEN CHALLENGE, page 10

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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This Week:

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Leland, Pioneer share collegiate accomplishments of alumni : **PAGE 14**

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Math Olympics celebrates 18th year at Castillero: **PAGE 15**

ADVICE

A subpoena to testify in court may be handled informally: **PAGE 19**



↑ GOVERNMENT

Safe Communities Pilot Program moves ahead: **PAGE 20**

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Realtor Guide: **PAGE 22**

Worship Guide: **PAGE 18**

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Valley Currents

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

Los Alamitos Elementary School Green Team celebrates the earth year round

By Denise Styerwalt
Special to the Times

The Los Alamitos Green Team includes more than 145 student volunteers from grades 3-5, who work in crews to monitor recycling during their grade's lunch period on one assigned day per week.

Crew members stand outside the cafeteria while exiting students file past to dispose of their refuse, sorting it into receptacles for trash, liquid and recycle. At the end of their shifts, the crews remove the bags from the recycle bins, carry them to the school recycle dumpster, and re-line the bins with new bags for the next lunch period.

The Los Alamitos Green Team typically recovers approximately 30 bags of recycle items per week (over 1,000 bags in a school year), as well as removing plastics and other pollutants from the school blacktop.

Helping with lunchtime recycling had been a parent volunteer endeavor since the program's inception. In the past, the recycle bins would quickly overflow, with cardboard and plastic spilling all over and often blowing away into other parts of the campus.

When Green Team Chairperson Colleen Hamilton first created the structure that enables students to manage this, she started with 40 student volunteers and then added the "blacktop brigade" and "textile task force" in subsequent years because so many more students wanted to be involved.

"Through hands on training, along with extracurricular field trips to the Almaden Savers thrift store and a local San Jose recycling facility, Green Team members become experts in the recyclability of different materials," said Colleen Hamilton, Green Team chairperson at Los Alamitos Elementary. "During their shifts, another top priority is for the students to share



(L-R) Crew members Chad Spence, Sydney Fong, Julia Cannon and Samantha Hoyt hard at work sorting items for recycling.

their expertise with the general student body by answering questions about what items are recyclable, modeling the sorting process for those who are unsure and monitoring the recycle bins for non-recyclable contaminants."

"Now in its fourth year under Colleen Hamilton's guidance, the Los Alamitos Green Team not only positively contributes to the environment and cleanliness of our campus, but truly fosters a spirit of volunteerism among the student body at school," said Thomas Rousseau, principal at Los Alamitos Elementary. "The Green Team volunteers develop a great sense of camaraderie; they know they have a job to do and must work

together to accomplish it."

Textile Task Force

In addition to capturing recyclables from the school cafeteria and on the blacktop, Green Team members help to reunite lost items with their owners. The huge amount of abandoned jackets and other clothing that accumulates at the school each year represents not only lost dollars but also wasted natural resources.

This textile task force of fifth-grade Green Teamers will routinely sweep the campus for any stray items and place them in the lost and found. They will even deliver labeled items to the owners' classrooms. When lost items get

See *GREEN TEAM*, page 8

Mailbox

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Economy requires reality check

Dear Editor,

Time for a reality check

It's time for everyone to get a reality check, because we've got "trouble in River City" everywhere in our economic realm.

Our administration says unemployment is 5 percent, yet sadly, half of the U.S. population is not working. Wall Street says earnings are healthy, while each year they have to drop estimates so that companies can beat their earnings by a penny. Goldman Sachs says it did no wrong in the 2008 mortgage debacle, but just paid 5 billion dollars in fines for "misleading" investors. Obama guaranteed that our health-care costs go down \$2,000 dollars, and instead, mine went up \$980! Our dollar is not backed by anything, while other countries, like China, are

getting ready to back their currency with gold. Deutsche Bank just settled a \$5 billion dollar fine, because it was involved in a scheme to suppress the price of gold and silver. In the settlement, the bank has agreed to reveal all of the U.S. banks, including the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury, that were involved in a worldwide scheme to suppress the precious metals market. Bank of America and Wells Fargo also saw their contingency plans rejected. All three banks have now had their wind-down plans rejected by the Federal agency insuring bank deposits (FDIC) and the Federal agency (Federal Reserve) that secretly sluiced \$13 trillion in rollover loans to the insolvent or teetering banks in the last epic crisis that continues to cripple the country's economic growth prospects.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta just revised US GDP growth for the first quarter at 0.1%. Unfortunately, most Americans are so

wrapped up in the next TV drama, that they have no time to find out just how bad things are. Gold is about to skyrocket and so will the prices of our American made goods and services.

Richard J. Allen
Almaden Valley

Local news needed now more than ever

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the article about the new District 10 candidate. I would not have known without your newspaper coming to us. With the KLIV Radio shutting down soon, I would say that your paper is needed more than ever. Thank you for doing the best for our community.

Margaret Johnson
Almaden



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Pictured: **Zoe King** (front with black sweats); Second row behind Zoe kneeling (from left to right) - **Aria Leone, Chrissy Flynn, Nina Flynn** (towel around her neck), **Jenna Flynn, and Kaylie Mendoza**; Third row (from left to right) - **Ailish Hutchings, Carson Rampelberg, Mia Johnson, Arrington McGee, Annalisse Rise, Georgia Stebbins** (orange shirt), **Sanam Ghazvini, Elise Trudeau, Lauren Jufiar, and Anna Fry**; Back Row - **Coach Eric Rise, Ashlee Hammer, Myranda Wienkers, and Coach Tony Samson.**

Water Polo

Continued from page 1
 3 days competing in both divisions.

The U16 team went undefeated playing in the high school division. The girls went 5-0 against teams with graduating seniors and players going on to play college ball next year. They defeated Puget Sound on Friday. Then, Saturday, they went 3-0 with wins over T-Hills from Oregon, Mercer Island from Washington, and then Roosevelt. The girls were trailing 1-4 early in the Roosevelt game. They showed great composure as they came back and won the game 14-7. Most impressive was that it was the 6th game of the day for the girls, as they also competed in the U18 division. Then on Sunday, they won the championship game 14-4.

The U18 team went 3-1-1. They opened the tournament with an 8-8 tie against Narrows, an all-star team with players from

some of the top high schools including the Washington State champion, Gig Harbor. Saturday morning, the girls opened play by defeating Washington State runner up, Curtis, 9-3.

Although the U18 lost a close 12-13 game against Empire, an all-star team from Oregon, the girls came back with a big 14-1 win over T-Hills from Oregon. The next morning the girls defeated Mercer Island 16-4. Their standing in the tournament allowed the girls to finish bracket play 2nd with a rematch against the only team in the tournament that had beaten them, Empire. The girls dominated the game from start to finish, winning the championship game 15-11.

“Bringing home first place in two divisions with 10 games over three days was an impressive feat for such a young team,” said Eric Rise, team coach. “Many of these girls have been playing together for years now, since they were 10 and 11 years old. Our club is looking forward to a strong summer season.”

Green Team

Continued from page 4
 returned, the Green Team saves families money and gives the Earth a break as well.

“Through classroom presentations to the lower grades and direct interactions at the recycle bins throughout the year, Green Team volunteers build bridges of communication and cooperation,” said Hamilton. “It is heartwarming to see a fifth grade Green Teamer explaining to a kindergartener, for example, about emptying a milk carton so

that it can be recycled.”

Los Alamitos Elementary will be partnering with Almaden Savers to promote reuse by serving as a donation site on Friday, May 6. A previous clothing drive collected 1, 860 pounds of clothing, along with 624 pounds of other goods. A collection truck will be parked in the school parking lot from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. that day to collect donations of reusable clothing, shoes, books, linens and other household items. Anyone is welcome to drop off donations.

For a complete list of items that will be accepted please visit <http://www.savers.com/donate>.

Forum

Continued from page 1
 seek to represent them. Senator Jim Beall of Senate District 15, and Assemblymember Evan Low of Assembly District 28, are both up for re-election.

Over the years AVCA has influenced many positive changes through the efforts and support of our members.

AVCA has hosted many candidate forums, and continues to provide valuable education-

al sessions to inform the citizens of Almaden Valley through presentations, audience Q & A's and networking.

The forum will be focused on questions from our neighbors about issues of interest to our community.

The location of the Forum will be held at WestGate Church - South Hills Campus, 6601 Camden Ave., Building B, San Jose, CA. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the event begins at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Shiraz Kotadia at skotadia@msn.com or 408.234.2955.

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Times Sports Scene

Teen Challenge

Continued from page 1

Wilkerson was so moved by the problems; he went there to help and discovered a calling.

“Wilkerson started the Teen Challenge program to help teens with a reckless lifestyle, whether drug addiction, homelessness, dishonesty...anything that can hamper your potential to live a fulfilling life,” says Nessel.

“When my parents got divorced a few years ago, it was a very traumatic experience for me,” says Nate. “I felt abandoned, unloved, depressed and full of anxiety. I began using sex, drugs and fighting to mask the pain. Thoughts of suicide put me into rehab at 13.” Then Nate found Teen Challenge. “Today...all of the anxiety and depression has been wiped away,” he says. “My family is being mended and my education is now back on track, thanks to Teen Challenge.”

Through mentoring, education, training and spiritual direction, residents work to overcome self-destructive behavior associated with substance abuse and develop positive life-skills.

Students receive counseling and work through personal and family issues that may have led to addiction. By tackling emotional damage such as low self-esteem, depression and anger, they seek to heal. Throughout the program, students receive training and education including Bible study classes, character development courses and school curricula. They are also guided in transitioning back into their community through focusing on relationship issues, employment skills and financial management.

What started with a boys center has grown to more than 809 programs and 25,000 beds in 83 countries, serving people of all ages. Teen Challenge is currently in the process of expanding to include an Adolescent Center for Girls, ages 12 to 18 that will rescue and rebuild the lives of homeless teens coming from the sex trafficking trade, drugs and street life.

Teen Challenge came to San Jose in 1971 with the Alum Rock Women and Children's Center. The Center allows women to keep their children with them as they receive the help they need through a 12 to 18 month residential program. Pregnant women are also welcome. “It helps them to not only kick the addiction, but to rebuild themselves from the inside out,” says Nessel. “They learn life skills, responsibility for raising a child, how to work hard and work as a team.” The program follows a military timescale, with all of the residents getting up, eating breakfast and doing chores together at certain times. In 1984, Teen Challenge South Bay opened the Asbury Family Center, which allows a husband, wife and children to live together as a family.

Nessel became involved in Teen Challenge when he was 32 years old. A college graduate who came from a good home, he had a passion for sports, and received a college scholarship for football. Unfortunately, he fell into a pattern of irresponsibility. He drank



Scott Nessel says that Teen Challenge helps people rebuild themselves and lead a fulfilling life.

in high school and later started taking cocaine and meth, managing to hide it from his family for years. He squandered jobs, lost opportunities and eventually his family gave up on him. When he hit rock bottom, a friend told him about Teen Challenge.

“I'd burned all my bridges and had no money,” says Nessel. “I called them and all they said was, ‘Do you want help?’ Teen Challenge provided a resource for me and a place to go when I had nothing but a desire to change my life.” He spent a year at their Oakland Men's Center. “I no longer was this angry, selfish, dishonest, heartless person,” he says. “I started to see the person I was when I was young and had a new perspective on life.” He left the program to start his dream job, coaching a high school football

team in Sacramento. However, his addictions got the better of him, and once again, he was homeless. “I had all my possessions in my car,” he says. “Then I called Teen Challenge and they took me back, finding me space at their San Jose facility, and all they asked for was my heart and my will.”

Along the way, he realized that Teen Challenge and San Jose were where he was meant to be. He's been sober for more than 1,000 days. “In this journey, it's about finding the strength from within,” says Nessel. He recently married and has a 3-month-old son as well as a 13-year-old stepdaughter. “Staying committed in recovery and helping others is what Teen Challenge has done for me,” he says.

Savannah (20) struggled with heroin addiction since age 15. “My parents divorced when I was young and I started drinking and doing drugs,” she says. “I was naive and didn't know what I was getting into. I didn't have any concept of addiction, but before I knew it, the drug was controlling me. My addiction led me to do things I never imagined I'd do like stealing. I didn't want to live the life I was living. I reached out to Teen Challenge, which has a 86 percent success rate measured after 5 years of completing the program. It built

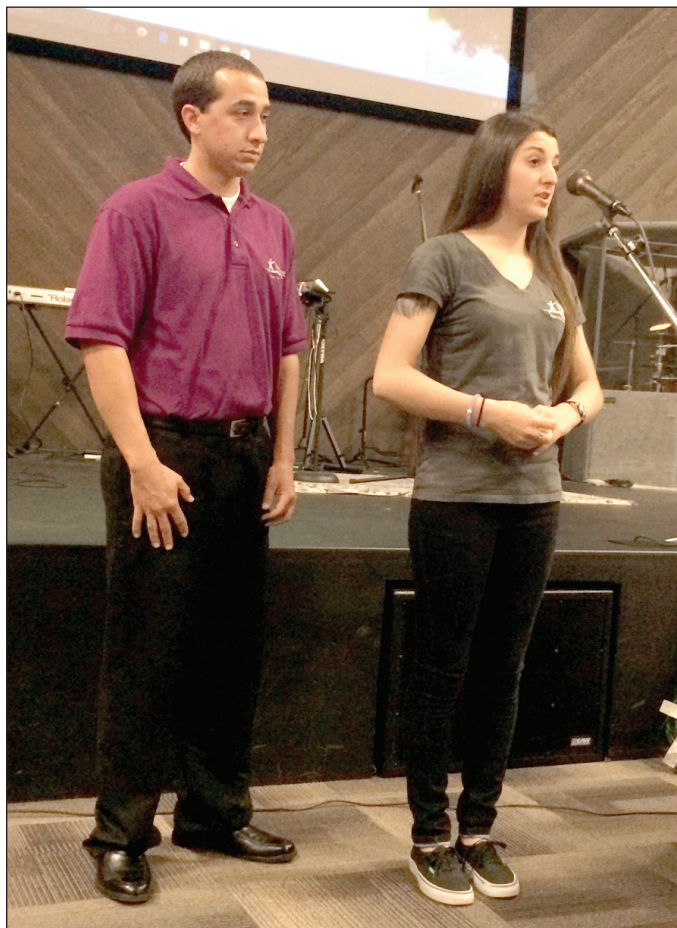
a structure for my life I never had and a community that cares. It makes you get out of yourself.”

Husband and wife John (24) and Talia (22) are currently sharing in the Teen Challenge program at Asbury Family Center. Talia says that after her parents divorced, it was hard for her to get a clear idea of who she was. She ended up drinking when she was 11-years-old. When she was 13, she lost her grandmother to sudden drug overdose, which she says triggered her addiction to pills. “I tried to numb myself through high school,” she says. At 19, she met John, who started drinking when he was 14. John had a college scholarship, but became addicted to opiates and heroin. He tried a 15-day programs and going cold turkey, but nothing worked. Early in their marriage, John and Talia held it together. They had a house and vehicles and everything seemed fine, but soon their addictions took over their lives. They couldn't keep her car, had to rent out the house and were left sleeping in the back of John's truck. “It got out of control extremely fast. Family members, friends, parents, anybody we didn't want to hurt, we hurt. Since coming to Teen Challenge, our lives have changed completely,” says John. “I no longer rely on a drug to get up every morning; I feel good without having to get high. I appreciate the little things in life. The family center is teaching us how to live together as a couple cleanly and work through our problems in a safe, healthy environment. I appreciate that it's an 18-month program; that makes a huge difference.” Talia agrees. “In other programs, you just talk about your problems,” she says. “Here, you work through them.”

“When you build yourself back up and have been given so much, you learn the art of giving back,” says Nessel. Teen Challenge residents work at community events and sports venues as well as Teen Challenge's Southbay Thrift Store and Rescued Treasures Boutique in San Jose. The girls learn management skills in running the stores. Teen Challenge members also offer inexpensive lawn care, painting and moving services.

Nessel says that Teen Challenge taught him that, ‘A person's attitude, not their aptitude, determines their altitude.’ “Teen Challenge has given me the attitude to keep moving forward,” he says. “It gave me hope and perspective and helped me choose to be a positive influence in my community and amongst my peers.”

For more information, or to donate, please visit Teen Challenge online at: www.teenchallenge.net.



Through Teen Challenge, husband and wife, **John** and **Talia** are learning how to live together drug-free as a couple. The organization offers a new lease on life for addicts and alcoholics through a wide range of educational and spiritual programs. Photos by Lorraine Gabbert



californiamoves.com

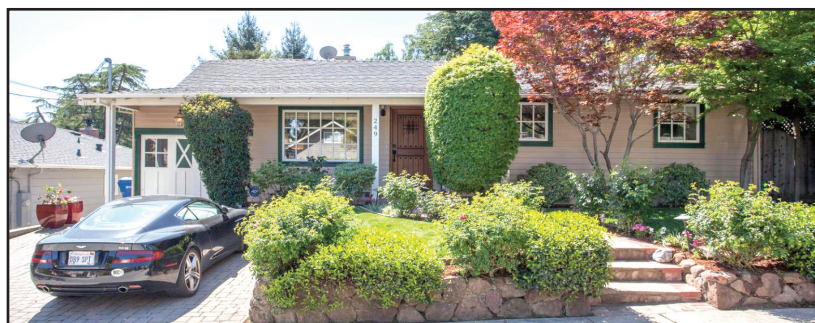
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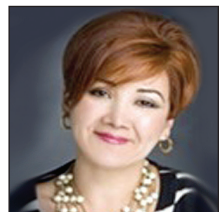
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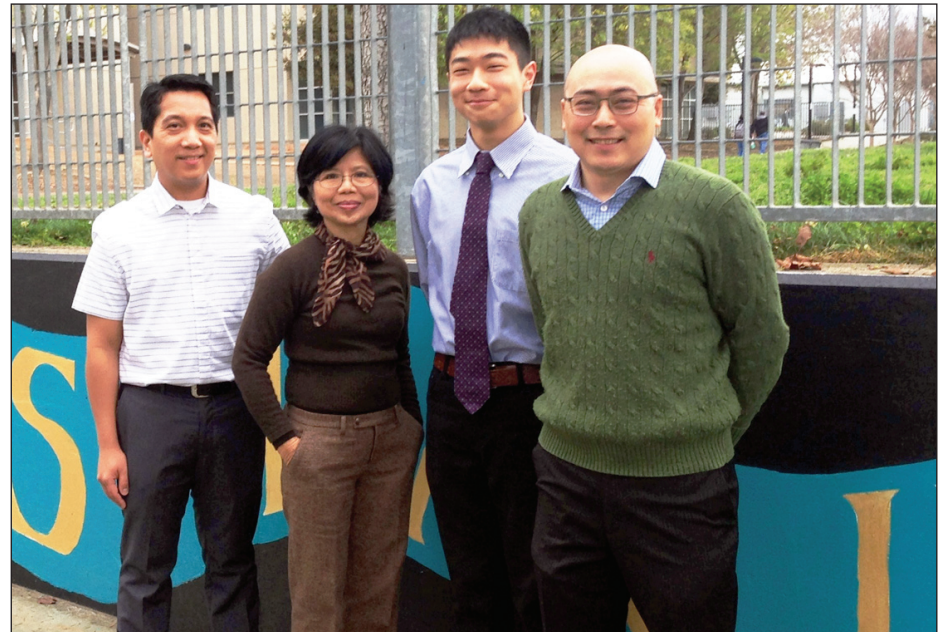
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Anton Cao (third from left) earned a perfect score on the AP Calculus AB exam in 2015 and was among of only twelve students in the world to earn every point possible on the exam.

Cao attends White House Science Fair

Anton Cao of San Jose attended the 2016 White House Science Fair held last week in the White House East Room.

Cao earned a perfect score on the AP Calculus AB Exam in 2015 and was among of only twelve students in the world to earn every point possible on the exam.

President Obama is hosting the final White House Science Fair of his administration, celebrating students in a board range of STEM fields.

As an honored guest, Cao is interacting with other students, professional scientists, high-level senior government officials, and private sector representatives.

The President will also announce new commitments in support of the Administration's "Computer Science for All" initiative announced earlier this year, as well as the "Educate to Innovate" campaign to ensure that all students are engaged and prepared in STEM subjects.

Leland, Pioneer share collegiate accomplishments of alumni

Merit expands platform to provide free Merit pages for all high schools in the U.S.

Merit, whose platform "connects the dots" between high school, college, and career for millions of students and hundreds of institutions, has announced the rollout of free Merit accounts for Leland and Pioneer High Schools.

Leland High School and Pioneer High School is among the local high schools that now have access to a free Merit account, showing them which alumni are succeeding in college by making the dean's list, studying abroad, participating in clubs, or earning scholarships.

Both Leland and Pioneer have a public Merit page that showcases alumni outcomes (view them here: Pioneer High School: <http://pioneer-high-school.sanjose.912.ca.meritpages.com> Leland High School: <http://leland-high-school.sanjose.912.ca.meritpages.com>)

"Most high schools are left in the dark about alumni outcomes after graduation, with — at best — only general information about admissions and progress available at a high price," said Colin Mathews, founder and president of Merit. "That makes it impossible to help current students see role models for college success and for high schools to track outcomes in real time," he said.

Merit solves those issues by partnering with colleges and universities — more than 250 currently — that use the company's platform to promote, document and share the everyday activities, achievements, and outcomes of each one of their students.

The free high school Merit accounts include regular, real-time updates added by colleges and universities about each school's alumni; a directory of every college in the Merit network with analytical tools to discover alumni based on their interests and accomplishments; a customizable public Merit page for each high school that they can use as a landing page for students, families, and friends to discover stories about alumni; and more.

"These high school accounts are the next step in our mission to connect the dots between high school, college and career for every student — not just the lucky or the privileged," said Mathews. "Every student at our partner institutions helps to chart a journey of success, and sharing those stories helps those students stay on course while marking the path for younger people to learn from and follow themselves."

About Merit

Merit connects every student's story to the people and organizations that care deeply about their success, thus making the big picture of what it means to move along the path from high school to college to career clearer for millions of people. Additional information is available at www.meritpages.com

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Times Features

Math Olympics celebrates 18th year at Castillero

Castillero Middle School held the 18th Annual afterschool Math Olympics recently.

More than 270 students stayed on campus from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. competing in teams of four.

Castillero students competed in categories dependent upon the Math course they were enrolled: sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth

grade Algebra, and high school level Geometry.

"The Math Olympics at Castillero recognizes math and the joy that comes with it. It brings out the best in everyone and there is a happy attitude all around.

"Math Olympics is something I look forward to every year," said student Kalin Charagez. "It is competition at its best."

Math Olympics Individual Winners – 2016

6th grade

1st Place: Jason Greene
2nd Place: Armin Bozorgi
3rd place: Paul Lin

6th Grade Accelerated

1st Place: Samuel Zhu
2nd Place: Yubin Lee
3rd place: Ethan Burrill

7th Grade

1st Place: Elijah Orque
2nd Place: Nicholas Teixeira
3rd place: Jake Lemberger

7th Grade Accelerated

1st Place: Tala Broadwell
2nd Place: Caroline Fales
3rd place: Arissa Ventura

Math 8

1st Place: Salim Keshek
2nd Place: Alex Marquez
3rd place: Arissa Ventura

Algebra

1st Place: Nicole Kim
2nd Place: Eric Penunuri
3rd place: Katherine Horng

Geometry

1st Place: Matthew Cheung
2nd Place: Ryan Dunker
3rd place: Maxwell Moiseff

Math Olympics Team Winners – 2016

6th grade Teams

1st Place: Alex Subedar, Oliver Smith, Jason Greene
2nd Place: Nolan Foles, Wilson Klaben
3rd place: Alex Khamis, Emiliano Hansen, Gael Atriano, Claire Wei

6th Grade Accelerated Teams

1st Place: Alex Sullivan, Courtney Yick, Victor Hu
2nd Place: Aaron Park, Ethan Burrill, Noy Fisher
3rd Place: Sydney Sick, Yubin Lee, Rachel Qian, Xuanyi Chen

7th Grade Teams

1st Place: Jake Lemberger, Josiah Wilcots
2nd Place: Arian Khorsand, Nicholas Teixeira, Elijah Orque
3rd place: Nelson Campos, Fidel Bobadilla

7th Grade Accelerated Teams

1st Place: Tala Broadwell, Kat Haddad, Renee Boissier, Alexa

Higdon

2nd Place: Caroline Fales, Corbin Yates, Miguel De La Torre
3rd place: Arissa Ventura, Aimee Toney, Eliana Chang, Ana Matavulj

Math 8 Teams

1st Place: Marina Padilla, Bella Astorga, Gracie Gonzalez, Michaela Roverso
2nd Place: Braulio Alberdin, David Callejas, Salim Keshak, Heriberto Hinojosa
3rd place: Angela Anderson, Ashley Alvarado

Algebra Teams

1st Place: Katherine Horng, Nicole Kim, Yoonseo Lee
2nd Place: Annalisa Tilmant, Jason Bump, Ethan Brook
3rd place: Johnny Houk, Bobak Pourrahimi, Eric Penunuri

Geometry Teams

1st Place: Sean Huang, Ethan Lin, Megan Hetzel
2nd Place: Jessie Zhu, Yasmeen Farid
3rd place: Ryan Dunker, Maxwell Moiseff, Travis Hill, Abi Simanjuntak

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ALMADEN SENIOR ASSOCIATION NOTEBOOK

Almaden Senior Association offers a Cache Creek trip May 10

The Almaden Senior Association is offering a day trip to Cache Creek Casino on Tuesday May 10th.

The bus departs the Almaden Community Center at 8 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

The price is \$35 and includes \$15 slot play or \$20 table play. Also included is a \$5 for food credit (not valid for buffet).

Sign up weekday mornings at the Almaden Community Center. For more information, call Sally at 408.826.0619 or Bea at 408.761.4002.

Almaden Senior Association presents its Fashion Show, Afternoon Tea May 17

A Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea will be presented at the Almaden Community Center on Tuesday, May 17th from 2-4 p.m.

Fashions will be from The Dress Barn at the Almaden Plaza location.

Tickets will be on sale in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center M-W-F from 8:40- 10 a.m.

Ticket price is \$7 for both members and non-members.

Gas prices on the rise

Average retail gasoline prices in San Jose have risen 3.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.78/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 427 gas outlets in San Jose.

Current local pricing compare with the national average that has increased 6.9 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.11/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in San Jose during the past week, prices yesterday were 33.9 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 16.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The nation-

al average has increased 13.7 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 33.0 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

Areas nearby San Jose and their current gas price climate:

Oakland- \$2.76/g, up 2.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.74/g.

San Francisco- \$2.88/g, up 3.6 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.84/g.

Salinas- \$2.76/g, up 2.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.74/g.

GasBuddy is the premiere source for real-time local gas prices. Through the GasBuddy.com website and the free GasBuddy mobile app, users can find and share gas prices with fellow drivers, saving big money at the pump. GasBuddy.com



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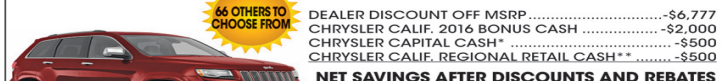
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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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

\$21,977

3 AT THIS NET PRICE #208234, 208230, 208236

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MSRP \$38,880
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SALE PRICE \$33,227
RAM 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH -\$1,000
RAM TRUCK ENGINE BONUS CASH -\$1,000
RAM TRUCK MONTH RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$1,000
RAM CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL CASH -\$750
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Ashritha Eswaran of Evergreen competes in U.S. Women's Chess Championship

By William Bellou
Publisher

Chess champion Ashritha Eswaran, 15, has been invited to the invitation-only 2016 U.S. Women's Chess Championship in St. Louis for the second year in a row last week.

Eswaran, a sophomore at Notre Dame High School in San Jose, is among only 12 of the nation's best female chess players invited to participate in the prestigious event. In 2014, she was the youngest player and won a prize for the Best Game of the Tournament, had three wins, and was the youngest and lowest-rated player in the tournament.

Eswaran began playing chess when she turned seven, and at 13, she received her National Master title. Her ratings have risen rapidly, in January 2010, she had a rating of 650 and by Feb. 2014, she became Candidate Master. She received



Ashritha Eswaran of Evergreen Valley is pictured here with "Young Star" teammates (left to right) Jeffery Xiong, Kayden Troff, Samuel Sevia and, of course, Garry Kasparov. The first-ever Congressional Chess Match at the Rayburn House Office Building on June 18, 2014 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Paul Morigi/Invision for Invision for Saint Louis Chess Club/AP Images). Above, right photo: Eswaran won the All Girls National "under twelve" with an excellent score 5.5/6. Ashritha is pictured here with her trophy as USA champion in April 2012.

National Rating and Rank from USCHESS.org

- Current Rating USCF: 2235
- # 2 in Top Age 15 Girls in the Nation
- # 21 Women Category in the Nation
- # 8 Top Girls Under 21 Category in the Nation (Updated March '16)

training first at the NorCal House of Chess and then with Bulgarian GM Dejan Bojkov.

In June 2015, Eswaran won first place in the U.S. Girls Junior Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma despite being lowest seed. She won with a 6.5/9 and qualified to play in the 2016 US Women's Championship. The very next day,

she flew to Cali, Colombia for the 2015 Pan American Youth Chess Championship, where she tied for first place, but ended up getting the Bronze through a tie break in Girls Under 18 section.

In August of 2015, Eswaran won first place at the Pam Am in El Salvador, and received title of Woman International Master. This

year in February, Eswaran played and came in an impressive third in the incredibly competitive American Continental Women's Championship in Lima, Peru, for the second time.

Eswaran is also a part of the "Young Stars - Team USA" program which is sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) and the

Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL). Other accomplishments throughout her career: All-Girls National Championship U12 (2012) and again in 2013 in U14 section. She played in the World Youth Championships four times from 2012-2015.

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

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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!

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Times **Feature**

A subpoena to testify in court may be handled informally

By Donald J. DeVries
Special to the Times

This week's question:

I saw a very bad auto accident in San Jose about a year ago and now one of the attorneys has called me on the telephone to testify in court about it when the case comes up for trial. He said he could have me served with a subpoena to testify in court or I could just sign a paper to agree to be there. Is it possible to just sign a piece of paper to be there? That sounds too fishy to me.

Victor V.
Almaden Valley

Dear Victor:

Although it may sound fishy for you to just sign a piece of paper to confirm that you will be in court for the trial, it is possible, Victor, for you to do just that.

Let's back up just a little bit. The surest way for the attorney to make sure that you will be there, so to speak, is by having you subpoenaed by a professional process server to be there on the day and at the time the trial is scheduled to begin.

That document would ordinarily be called a "Civil Subpoena for Personal Appearance at Trial or Hearing". Of course, it adds up in cost when all of the cost is considered, including paying the process server the proper fee for having it delivered to you personally, i.e., "served".

The Civil Subpoena for Personal Appearance at Trial or Hearing" would be issued in the name of the People of the State of California and it would have your name filled in one of the blank areas. It would set out the date and time to be at the courthouse, and, of course, the address of the courthouse. It would also state that you are entitled to the standard witness fee set by law plus mileage both ways.

The Subpoena form would also state that assistive listening systems, computer-assisted real-time captioning, or sign language interpreter services are available if you ask at least 5 days before the date on which you are to appear.

The subpoena form also states that it is OK to make an agreement with the issuer of the form to appear at a different time. This is especially nice so that you do not need to sit around the courthouse for hours or days at a time and wait until your turn comes up to testify.

And, very importantly, the sub-

poena would state that if a disobedience of the subpoena occurs, you could be punished by contempt of court and liable for the sum of \$500 and all damages resulting from your failure to obey.

Personal delivery or "service of process" as described above is one way to do it, but it is usually OK for the attorney to send the civil subpoena to the person by U.S. mail.

If the subpoena document is sent by U.S. mail, it would be accompanied by another court document called a "Notice and Acknowledgment of Receipt — Civil". This form would also have your name on it where you would be signing a receipt for the civil subpoena for personal appearance at the trial in question.

The Notice and Acknowledgment of Receipt would have your name typed on it near your signature so that the reader could verify that you actually signed it.

You would then return the signed Notice and Acknowledgment of Receipt to the attorney's office by U.S. mail. He or she would then have that document filed at the courthouse. The effect of that filing would be that "service" or delivery of the civil subpoena for your personal appearance would be complete, i.e. just as effective as if you had been served personally by a process server.

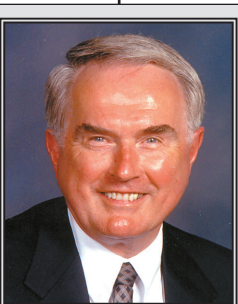
You can see that the "mail service" is attractive to the attorney since it saves the cost of a process server while being just as effective in most situations.

If you are curious as to what those two forms look like, go online with your favorite search engine and enter "California Superior Court Forms" or something close to that, followed by the name of the form.

This does not guarantee that any form of "service of process" is always 100% effective, of course, Victor. But it is one way to possibly economize a bit to save expense.

Donald J. DeVries
Almaden Valley

You can reach Mr. DeVries with your questions by email at don@almadenvall-lawyers.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.



Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,
Attorney at Law

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Times **Local News**

Safe Communities Pilot Program moves ahead

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

Last September, I introduced a memo with my colleague, Councilmember Tam Nguyen, requesting that the City look into a Crime Free Multi Housing Program for the Hoffman Via Monte neighborhood.

The San Jose Police Department (SYPD) and the Housing Department embarked on several community outreach meetings throughout the City to introduce the program and obtain feedback from residents living in multi-housing units.

After listening to residents, advocates and other stakeholders, Police Chief Eddie Garcia is ready to roll out San Jose's own version of Crime Free – the Safe Communities Multi-Housing Pilot Program. Mayor Liccardo and our colleagues on the City Council Rules Committee unanimously agreed to move this new program forward and it will soon be heard by the Council's Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee.

The San Jose version of a crime free program will entail community-oriented policing and problem solving through partnerships between property owners, property managers, management staff, residents, police, and other government and community-based service providers. It will be a voluntary, solution-oriented and educational program used to address crime and quality of life issues in multi-housing communities. The program will expand the San Jose Police Department's, and other participants, knowledge and experience in meeting the challenges specific to high density living within San Jose. These challenges include, but are not limited to, population density, mixed public/private-use spaces, resident turnover, inconsistent property oversight, and resident fear of community involvement.

The goals of the program are to improve the quality of life for residents, decrease police calls for service, and provide crime prevention education and support for property owners, managers, and residents. Topics that will be addressed will include Neighborhood Watch, child safety, senior safety, identity theft, mail theft, gangs, drugs, home security, vehicle security, and on-line safety. Crime prevention specialists will assess the properties through a crime prevention environmental design lens and make recommendations on how to make the neighborhood safer.

Upon completion of the pilot program plan, the multi-unit community will be considered an active *Safe Communities* location. Crime prevention staff will provide appropriate signs designating the property as part of the *Safe Communities* program and will stay engaged with the residents into the future. Patrol officers will patrol and/or walk the multi-housing community as a team beat assignment and proactively develop solutions to immediate underlying conditions threatening the neighborhood's public safety. They

will also engage and develop positive relationships with residents in an effort to build trust with one another.

The target for implementing the program will be June 2016 with a pilot program evaluation scheduled for the summer of 2017.

My staff – Jose Salcido in particular – and I have been working diligently to improve the quality of life for the residents in Hoffman Via Monte through coordination between owners and organizing residents. I am looking forward to seeing the positive, transformative effects that this new police partnership will have in the Hoffman Via Monte neighborhood and hope that we are developing a model that can be replicated in other areas that have challenges similar to those experienced in this neighborhood.

Extinguishing Illegal Fireworks in San Jose

This past week the City Council acted on one of my public safety initiatives - to help end the scourge of illegal fireworks in our community. My colleagues and I took action on a plan to reduce the harm that has come to children and adults in our community and the threats to our property from

illegal fireworks.

City staff presented the new plan to issue administrative fines to those who use illegal fireworks and Assistant Fire Chief Dellinger and Police Captain Schroder outlined the efforts the SYPD and SJPD will undertake to curtail their use.

The plans include:

□ Administrative fines of \$500 for the first offense, \$700 for the second offense and \$1,000 for subsequent offenses involving illegal firework use.

□ Allowing code enforcement, fire inspectors, and park rangers to issue administrative citations

□ Criminal citations to be issued by police officers, park rangers, and arson investigators.

Other efforts include an online reporting pilot program from July 1st through the 5th. Residents will be able to submit a form from the City's homepage reporting illegal fireworks. Code Enforcement officers and Fire Prevention inspectors will be deployed to address those complaints.

Please encourage your neighbors to participate in the public fireworks displays which have returned to our community. Fireworks can be viewed at the Fourth of July Family Fun Fest at Almaden Lake Park hosted by my District 10 office, the Rotary fireworks in downtown San Jose, and the San Jose Giants stadium fireworks. There are many options to celebrate Independence Day without disturbing your neighbors and panicking their pets with illegal displays. Not only can you be a part of these great public celebrations, or just watch from a distance, you can have a hand in presenting the Fourth of July Fun Festival by donating or volunteering. Please contact Denelle Fedor in my office at denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov or 408-535-4910.



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember



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Times **Local News**



Holy Spirit team at the State's Award Ceremony in Riverside with Dr. Samuel Micklus, founder of Odyssey of the Mind.

Holy Spirit School competing at 'Odyssey of the Mind' World Finals in Iowa May 25-28

After placing first at the Silicon Valley Tournament, the Holy Spirit Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) team, of Almaden Valley, competed in the State Tournament at University of California Riverside on April 2 and placed second among other teams from all over California.

This victory earned Holy Spirit an invitation to represent the State of California at the World Finals, where they will compete against teams from almost every US state and 24 countries such as China, India, Poland, Mexico and Canada.

The 37th Odyssey of the Mind World Finals will take place at Iowa State University May 25-28, 2016 and more than 800 teams will be there representing the best solutions to five unique problems. This competition, which emphasizes creativity and teamwork, has grown into the largest international creative problem-solving competition worldwide.

Millions of kids have been working hard all year perfecting their solutions to OotM problems and competing within their regions and states. Only a few will advance to World Finals — these teams represent the best of the best creative minds. While the competition is fierce, there is also a feeling of camaraderie among competitors.

Many students form life-long friendships that span the globe. At World Finals, teams have the chance to learn about other cultures through a common goal, to be as creative as they can.

Team members Hannah Votaw, Andy Apodaca, Mateo Scipioni, Ellen Duncan, Mia Apodaca and Bianca Scipioni are very excited about the opportunity to learn from other teams. They feel honored to represent Holy Spirit School and the State of California at this international competition.

What is their next creative problem-solving opportunity? They say it's raising funds to make the trip. When their coaches ask how they plan to do it they say, "We will just have to think outside the box."

About Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from more than 25 other countries participate in the program.

WASC visits Branham High School; goal to provide Chromebook to all students

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Branham High School students and faculty are celebrating the positive comments following a three-day visit of representatives of the Western Association of Schools (WASC) and Colleges.

Members of the WASC visiting committee praised Branham's staff and teachers for their dedication to students and for their integration of technology into the curriculum.

The positive assessment appears to clear the way for re-accreditation by WASC when the visiting com-

mittee files its final report in May. The WASC is considered the professional standard for academic accreditation.

Branham's staff and faculty spend hours poring over school operations, including observing classes and interviewing students to prepare for the committee.

It has been six years since the Branham High School was last re-accredited and Principal David Putney expects the school to be re-accredited for a six-year period, just like last time.

See BRANHAM, next page

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Times **Feature**

Branham

Continued from previous page

The state mandates that all public high schools and colleges must be accredited, and the process of renewing that status holds them accountable to their communities and provides educators with valuable insight for improvement.

Putney said the school's goal is provide every student with their own Chromebook. Teachers are also increasingly using Google Classroom for online collaboration. Several

middle schools in Morgan Hill began using Chromebooks last year.

We're very pleased that Branham High appears set to attain WASC accreditation again," said Tanya Krause, interim superintendent of Campbell Union High School District (CUHSD). "David Putney and the staff and teachers at Branham have all worked together to ensure that every student has opportunities to succeed."

Branham High School has previously been recognized as a California Distinguished School.



Representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) recently concluded a three-day visit to Branham High with a positive assessment of the school. Branham High School Principal **David Putney** is pictured far left. *Photo courtesy of Branham High School.*

AlmadenTimes Real Estate Guide



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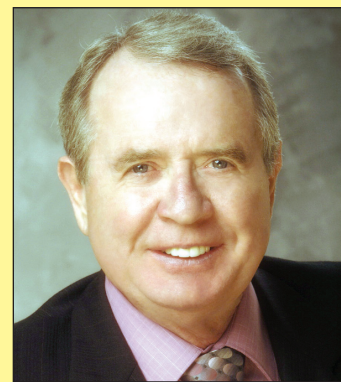
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Thursday, April 21, from 4pm to 7pm

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6457 Cranbrook Court

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1589 Pam Lane

Open Saturday and Sunday 1:30pm to 4:30pm

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