

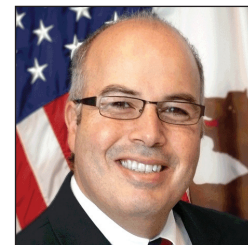
**ALMADEN ATHLETE
REPEATS CCCAA
CHAMPIONSHIP WITH
2016 GOLD MEDAL
AWARD - PAGE 4**



**RUTVIK GANDHASRI
TO COMPETE IN
SCRIPPS NATIONAL
SPELLING BEE ON
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**JOHNNY KHAMIS:
HELP STOP GRAFFITI
AND ILLEGAL DUMPING
IN ALMADEN VALLEY'S
DISTRICT 10 - PAGE 17**



MAY 20-JUNE 2, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 11

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Harry Freitas, City of San Jose Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, promised to be honest when informing the audience. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

State Senate and Assembly candidates weigh in on the issues

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Preparing for the June Primary, State Senate and Assembly members faced off at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) forum about education, small business and the future of California.

Incumbent State Senator Jim Beall was challenged by candidates Anthony Macias and Chuck Page. State Assembly candidate Nicholas Sclavos also shared his perspective.

Starting out the evening, the candidates introduced themselves. Senator Beall was raised in San Jose, the second of ten children. "My dad was a Republican and my mother a Democrat, so we had a very interesting family with a lot of



Senator Jim Beall, Chuck Page, Nicholas Sclavos and Anthony Macias: State Senate and Assembly members discussed education, small business and the future of California at a recent AVCA forum. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

discussions," he says. At 28, he was San Jose's youngest city councilmember. Beall says he is most interested in transportation, land use, urban planning, open space and healthcare. However, his top goal is to have a fiscally responsible,

balanced budget with reserves.

The state's business climate is a major concern of Macias'. "Businesses leave this state in droves because of the policies coming out of Sacramento," he says.

See FORUM, page 20

Almaden residents outraged with Milpitas' plans to dump garbage at Guadalupe Mines Landfill

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

"More dumping at Guadalupe Mines? No! No! No!" announced signage held by the standing-room only crowd at Almaden Community Center on Monday night.

Almaden residents turned out in force for a community meeting protesting the City of Milpitas' plan to truck their residential garbage to the Guadalupe Mines Landfill.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis says he's shocked by the City of

Milpitas' plan and dismayed that they didn't notify the City of San Jose, his office, or the neighbors of Guadalupe Mines Landfill. Khamis says he received hundreds of emails and phone calls from residents concerned with this issue. "That's what I feel like right now," he said after a child in the audience cried out in frustration.

As their current contract for services will expire in Sept. 2017, the City of Milpitas released a Request for Proposal, asking landfills to bid for a contract to accept its solid waste. In Oct. 2015,

See LANDFILL, page 8

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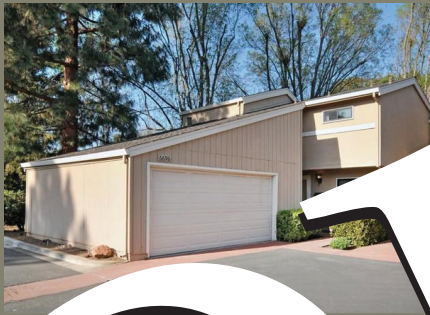
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This Week:

LOCAL SPORTS

Dermer and Leland
Chargers spoil Leigh's
Senior Night: **PAGE 10**

ADVICE

A privilege may govern
your communication in
the courtroom: **PAGE 14**

COMMUNITY

Rutvik Gandhasri to
compete in Scripps
National Spelling Bee
May 22: **PAGE 15**



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Almaden Library hosts
classical concert with
guitarist Christopher
Mann : **PAGE 15**

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AlmadenTimes

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PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: BRIGITTE JONES
brigitte@timesmediainc.com

STAFF WRITERS: MARSALI HANCOCK,
FRANK SHORTT, GINA TSOURIS,
NIRBAN SINGH, SEAN EASTWOOD,
SAMANTHA SMECKENSTOCK

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Valley Currents

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

Almaden athlete repeats CCCAA Championship with 2016 gold medal award

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Almaden athlete Layna Auchard, a 9-time college 2016 All American, is making news again with her repeat as a state champion in the women's 200 yard breast-stroke with a race time of 2:25:96.

Auchard received a gold medal at the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) State Swimming and Diving Championships which was held in Los Angeles May 5-7.

Last year, Auchard broke the state record at the same meet, coming from behind in the final 50 yards to touch the wall first in 2:24.24.

This year, she was determined to finish on top again, not just as a capstone to her swimming career, but for her Foothill College coach, Jeff Bissell. "200 Breast is my best event," said Layna, "and I wanted to win State Champs again for Jeff."

Coach Bissell said, "Layna was an elite swimmer in high school, but the competition throughout the state is pretty tough." However, as this year's State Championships approached, Auchard's 200 breast qualifying time (2:22.99), a new Coast Conference record she broke on April 23, was 1.25 seconds faster than the record she set last year, and no other athletes at the State Championships were seeded within five seconds of her. But, as Bissell said, the competition was tough.

During the finals of the race "It was like déjà vu from last year," said Bissell. "The girl from Orange Coast College, Hannah Veseth, took it out real fast and Layna swam her race. Going into the last 50, Layna was a good two and a half to three seconds behind. She came back four seconds faster and made up at least a body length and a half on the last lap to touch out Veseth by almost a second." Layna's father Bob recalls "This years' race was more gut wrenching than last year. My stomach was churning as my wife Bernadette and I watched her come from almost two body lengths behind in the last two laps to pass the leader and win the race. It was intense."

Toward the end of the race "I definitely hit a zone," said Layna. "It was painful...I just put everything I could into that last 50 yards. Last year it took me a while to realize that I had won. I think I'm still going through that right now, especially because it's the second time."

Layna's father said, "She has always been so humble about her accomplishments, which is a



Layna Auchard with Coach Jeff Bissell

good quality. I want her to embrace what she has done and be proud of it. There aren't many athletes who can claim two state titles in a row. If she chooses to stop swimming competitively, then this is a great way to conclude it."

Auchard, a dual sport athlete at Foothill, had 37 goals and 36 assists on the women's water polo team in the fall of 2015 where they went on to win their Coast Conference Championships. She was honored with the *Scholar Athlete of the Year Award* by Foothill College in 2015 with a GPA of 3.92. "Layna is the most decorated female swimmer Foothill College has ever had, an 11-time college All American," said Bissell. "And it couldn't happen to a better kid."

Auchard will transfer to UC Davis in the fall. She hasn't decided if she will swim there, and is considering swimming in a masters program.

"These two years at Foothill have taught me so much about myself," said Layna, "Just how to work hard and pursue my goals and I will carry that with me for the rest of my life."

Photos by Jason Liu, Foothill College

Mailbox



Guadalupe Dump will impact roads

Dear Editor,

Regarding the article on the citizens of San Jose having to take on the garbage from the

City of Milpitas: One thing that hasn't been talked about is the impact of all those extra truck loads travelling on our city streets to reach the Guadalupe Dump.

It would only seem fair, in my mind, for the burden to repair those roads to be placed upon the shoulders of the fine folks of Milpitas,

instead of the citizens of San Jose. By raising their garbage rates to rectify this problem, may cause the Milpitas decision makers to take pause and come up with another solution. And, I'm not talking about a slurry-seal, I'm talking about asphalt paving.

David Byers

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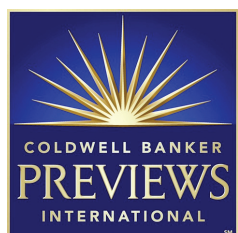
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San Jose Mercury News

Mercury News Editorial

05/02/2016

...Khamis is very engaged and in tune with District 10.... He's supportive of citywide nonprofits. And he made good on a campaign promise we'd been hearing from candidates for years: Improving the city permitting system. A policy he worked on substantially reduced costs and processing time for permits for small additions and remodels. (Khamis' opponent) told a Bay Area News Group reporter in March: "I like the guy in there now." ... but it's true, "the guy in there now" is doing a good job for Almaden. We recommend Khamis.



Re-Elect Johnny Khamis

Public Safety

Spearheaded the effort to allocate money in the budget necessary to open the southern police substation, saving our city more than \$542,000 per year.

Supported the hiring of 54 Community Service Officers to carry out non-sworn duties, freeing up fully sworn officers to respond to emergencies.

Initiated and hosted several District 10 community safety events to educate attendees how to protect themselves, their families and their neighborhoods.

Implemented crossing guards & speed bumps in school neighborhoods.

Collaborated with the Department of Transportation to improve the safety of major walkways such as Meridian, Blossom Hill Road, Choctaw, and McAbee.

Installed more than 150 new ADA ramps at intersections in District 10.

Community Pride

Established the new District 10 leadership Coalition to educate and activate neighborhood leaders.

Established and hosted the inaugural and second District 10 July 4th Fun Festival at Almaden Lake with tens of thousands in attendance.

Partnered with fellow Councilmembers to host the Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair.

Collaborated with non-profit service clubs to develop and unveil the "Welcome to Almaden Valley" sign.

Organized the community to conduct clean-ups for weed and brush control at the Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, which will be adopted by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority saving thousands in park maintenance annually.

Encouraged the adoption of Parma Park, Almaden Lake Park, Greystone and Almaden Meadows Park by community groups.

Collaborated with Councilmembers to budget \$500,000 in City capital funds

from the Parks Department to complete the Guadalupe-Los Alamitos Trails Master Plan, which will eventually connect the two trails.

Supported the YMCA after-school program for Del Roble and Almaden Elementary Schools.

Pushed for the successful implementation of pornography filters for the children's section at the San Jose Public Libraries.

Successfully advocated to fund needed paving projects and lobbied to pave Trinidad, Vista Park, Coleman and Camden roads with more to come.

Fiscal Responsibility

Guided the contract with OpenGov.com to increase the City's financial transparency by allowing for the online release of City financial data.

Provided more scrutiny over potentially costly lease revenue bonds, and changed the city ordinance requiring a 2/3 vote to pass the bonds; also required that staff provide a worst-case scenario to avoid negative situations like the costly City-owned golf courses.

Reduced the cost of permit fees by up to 40% for all small additions and home remodels and pushed to streamline the process.

www.johnnykhamis.com



A Record of Accomplishments

Paid for by Re-Elect Johnny Khamis for Sj City Council D10 2016 • 1308 Addiewell Place, San Jose, CA 95120 • FPPC ID# 1380270



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100K Price Reduction

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17211 Lakeview Drive, Morgan Hill
Beautiful Foothill Views

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1367 Phelps Avenue #2
San Thomas Estates

This ground floor unit is sunny and bright and the green-belt area offering 870 square feet of living space, 2 bedrooms and 1 full bath with a spacious rear patio perfect for entertaining. Offered at \$398,000.



3497 Piccadilly Drive

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Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** shares Almaden resident's frustration with Milpitas' plan to dump at Guadalupe Mines Landfill. *Photos by Lorraine Gabbert*

Landfill

Continued from page 1

Milpitas received two proposals for disposal: one from Waste Management, which owns the Guadalupe Mines Landfill, and another from GreenWaste Recovery, which owns a facility in North San Jose. On March 15, 2016, the Milpitas city council awarded the new disposal agreement to Waste Management.

The second part of Milpitas' Request for Proposal focuses on selecting a hauler. "They're tentatively scheduled to award that contract in August," says Harry Freitas, San Jose Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement. "I wouldn't be surprised if it was delayed." The contract is for 180 to 200 tons of solid waste per day, five days per week; a 20 percent increase in the current level of disposal at Guadalupe Mines Landfill. It would require 22 to 37 trucks daily.

"Choosing their hauler rests solely with the City of Milpitas," says Freitas. "It has the ability to select the landfill it wants to sell its waste to." On May 17, the Milpitas city council could cancel their contract with Guadalupe Mines or put it on the ballot, allowing the voters of the City of Milpitas to decide where to send their waste. "People in Milpitas may not want to pay much higher garbage rates due to higher trucking costs," says Freitas. "There's going to be a vigorous campaign around this. It's worth paying attention to what's going on."

The Guadalupe Mines Landfill, which is a former quarry, has been in operation since 1929. About 150 of its 411 acres are used for landfill. Although the landfill is permitted to receive up to 3,650 tons per day of material, it currently accepts about 1,000 tons per day from Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, and parts of San Jose. In 2006/2007 it accepted 531,000 tons of municipal solid waste. In 2014/2015 it accepted 280,000 tons. "They've lost a lot of contracts," says Freitas.

Waste Management has a permit of operations from the City of San Jose, as well as a land use permit. Several times a day, they're required by their permit to sweep the streets on Guadalupe Mines Road and Camden Ave., and do a litter inspection/pickup twice a day on Guadalupe Mines Road. Their Regional Water Quality Control Board waste permit requires them to monitor ground and surface water, as well as submit leachate reports and prevent storm-water pollution. They must also maintain a 100-foot setback from Guadalupe Creek Corridor. To maintain air quality, they must control dust and odors and cover the open face of the landfill each night. No odors from the landfill should be detectable beyond its borders. If odors are a problem, Waste

Management's 24-hour hotline is: 408-268-1694. Residents may also call the Bay Area Air Quality Management District at: 800-334-ODOR.

Some residents raised concerns as to whether the landfill can harm drinking water. "The landfill has a lined, impervious base, and a leachate collection system," says Freitas. Almaden Valley's drinking water comes from local and imported surface water and is supplemented during the drought with water from wells.

Applause filled the room when an audience member asked why there isn't a plan in place to close Guadalupe Mines Landfill, since it's so close to residential zones. "It's a legally operating business in the City of San Jose with permits to operate," says Freitas. The landfill is required to have a closure management plan and may continue to operate until it reaches capacity. At today's rate, it will close in 2056.

Heated debate

The crowd grew unruly at this point. "I ask everyone to be respectful and I will close this meeting down if it's not," says Khamis. "I will not tolerate the staff being yelled at. I care about what you think...we're giving you as much information as we can." Khamis' request was met with applause.

Other San Jose landfills include Kirby Canyon, Newby Island and Zanker Road. A public hearing regarding the expansion of the Newby Island Landfill, which borders Milpitas, will take place in August.

"Landfills unfortunately in urban areas are necessary," says Freitas, "and they operate as a business. Milpitas' decision to send their municipal solid waste to Guadalupe Mines Landfill is not a decision for the City of San Jose. We can't tell them how to operate their business. They were pulling in about 500,000 tons ten years ago and now they're doing 300,000 tons."

"Can the City of San Jose place a tax on out-of-town garbage?" asked an audience member. Applause rang out. "The city does have a tax on the landfill," says San Jose City Attorney Richard Doyle. "We tax based on tonnage. Can the city increase the tax? Yes, but it would have to go to the voters."

"I know that these things make you feel powerless," says Freitas. "Councilmember Khamis has come under criticism for something he can't affect."

"I'm very frustrated. I'm doing my best," says Khamis. "I'm still listening to your concerns and there is still an opportunity for you to be heard."

Documents pertaining to the Guadalupe Landfill are on the City of San Jose website at: www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=5085. Contact councilmember Johnny Khamis at: johnny.khamis@sanjoseca.gov.



The capacity crowd was anxious to hear what **Harry Freitas** had to say about Milpitas' plans.



Amy McCafferty

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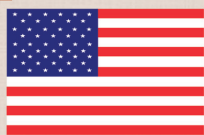
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Times **Local Sports**

SJ DISTRICT 10 CANDIDATES & JUNE BALLOT MEASURES FORUM



Almaden Valley Community Association invites you to meet your District 10 candidates for a Q&A session

Candidates for San Jose City Council District 10
Johnny Khamis Michael Sodergren

We will also hear Pro and Con arguments on the following measures that will appear on your June ballot:

- Measure AA (Property Tax Increase to Benefit San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority)
- Measure B (San Jose Sales Tax Increase)
- Measure C (San Jose Marijuana Collectives Zoning Changes)

Venue: Westgate Church – South Hills Campus
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San Jose, CA 95120

Date: Monday, May 23, 2016

Time: Doors open at 6:30 P.M.
Forum begins at 7:00 P.M.



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NUMBER ONE (AGAIN)

The **Leland Chargers Roller Hockey Team** rolled over Santa Teresa in the semi-finals and Los Gatos in the finals on Saturday, May 14 at the Silver Creek Sportsplex in San Jose. The Chargers are elated with their impressive record as the undefeated champions for the second year in a row. High School roller hockey teams, especially the Chargers, are seeing an increase in popularity with a increasing fan base. The Silver Creek Sportsplex is located at 800 Embedded Way.

Dermer and Leland Chargers spoil Leigh's Senior Night

By Bily Braker, Leigh High School
Prep2Prep.com

Every senior class has their story to tell, and yesterday Leigh High School's seniors were so close to making history.

With a chance to clinch second place in the BVAL-Mt. Hamilton, and receive a bye in the league tournament, the Longhorns fell short to the Leland Chargers, 5-4 in a nail-biter May 11.

With the Longhorns down 4-1 after 5, Leigh's bats got hot in the bottom of the sixth. The inning began with a Matt Rimmel walk, followed by a double down the line by junior Jake Pao to move Rimmel to third. With Kyle Johnson coming to the plate and a chance to tie the game with one swing of the bat, Leland coach Mike Sparrer pulled their starter, inserting Andrew Meggs in relief. Johnson laced a single up the middle, plating Rimmel and moving Pao to third. Senior Andrew Cabri came to the plate and hit a sacrifice fly, scoring Pao and making the score 4-3 with a man on first and one out. The Longhorns loaded the bases on a Jon Parkman single and an error with senior Matt Kersman at the dish. Kersman turned on a fastball and it squeezed past the outstretched arm of the Charger third base man to tie the game.

"I wanted to come out clutch to help my team because I was having a rough game," said Kersman. "I saw a gap between shortstop and third base because the shortstop was guarding second and I poked one through there."

Meggs struck out Bower to end the jam.

The Chargers were not done fighting yet, though. After Logan Roberts walked two, coach Craig Constantino pulled Roberts and put Bryce Finocchio in for relief. Finocchio walked the bases loaded and then left a fastball above the letters and Chris Kim hit a bloop single into left field to give the Chargers the lead.

With the Leigh fans on their feet, the Longhorns looked confident as they got ready to send their fans home in walk-off fashion. The inning began with two consecutive singles by Rimmel and Pao off Jake Dermer. Kyle Johnson then flew out to center field, but Pao



Leland's **Jake Dermer** heads for home plate.
Photo by Christine Bertacini

and Rimmel took advantage of the center fielder's lackadaisical effort and both tagged up, putting the winning run in scoring position. Dermer then intentionally walked Andrew Cabri to put a force out at every base, bringing senior Jonny Parkman to the plate. As the parents began to take out their phones to record the walk off hit by a senior on senior night, Dermer threw a low off speed pitch and Parkman grounded into the double play to end the game by a final score of 5-4.

"(I was) a little nervous" said Dermer, "But I was just trying to throw strikes and pound the ball low in the zone and get a groundball."

Pioneer girls softball league champions 3rd straight year

Pioneer girls softball team won their third consecutive Blossom Valley Athletic League Mt. Hamilton Division beating the Leigh Longhorns 4-3.

This was the Mustangs' 11th straight win in league play since opening the season with a 4-3 loss to Mt. Pleasant.

Makaylah Garcia, Lauryn Garcia and Brooke Niewoehner each drove in runs. There were a total of seven hits, three were doubles—one each by Niewoehner, freshman Sydney Solis and M. Garcia.

Pioneer is now ready for their fifth consecutive trip to the Central Coast Section playoffs, looking forward to working forward to their third softball championship.

The Mustangs have been the CCS Division II runner-ups in each of the last two seasons.

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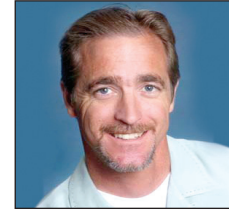
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Times Feature

ALMADEN SENIOR ASSOCIATION EVENTS



Filoli Mansion and Gardens tour planned June 14

The Almaden Senior Association is sponsoring a day bus trip to the Filoli Mansion and Gardens (pictured above) on Tuesday, June 14. The bus departs at 9 a.m.

The trip will include a two hour guided tour, and a box lunch. The box lunch includes three sandwich choices, Caesar salad, brownie, iced tea or lemonade.

Meet at Almaden Community Center at 8:45 a.m. Register by June 3 at the Almaden Community Center lobby on weekday mornings. The price is \$65.

For more information contact the trip

directors: Call Sally (408) 826-9619, or Bea (408) 761-4002.

Polynesian Gala set for June 11

Come and join the fun at a Polynesian Gala with the Almaden Senior Association at the Almaden Community Center on Saturday, June 11 from 2-4 p.m.

Polynesian singers and dancers will provide the entertainment, and a delicious tropical feast will be served including rum punch.

Tickets are \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets sales begin on May 23 and will be sold on MWF from 8:40-10:00 a.m. in the Almaden Center lobby.

A privilege may govern your communication in the courtroom

By Donald J. DeVries
Special to the Times

This week's question:

I have watched enough TV crime dramas to tell me that there is a constitutional right or privilege against self-incrimination. I have a hunch that there might be a few other privileges that keep certain communications private in the courtroom. Just how many are there and what is the purpose of each one?

Jack B.

Almaden Valley

Dear Jack,

There are many privileges that keep certain communications private and confidential in the courtroom, Jack. Of course, the reason for each constitutional privilege is that it is public policy that certain topics remain private or outside of the courtroom.

Many of these privileges have been declared so by our state legislature in Sacramento. Others have been declared so by various courts in their decisions governing certain cases in our state, other states, and federal system.

Privileges vary a bit from state to state, but the basic most important ones will be *constitutional* and will essentially be the same in all 50 states and in our federal system.

You and our other *Almaden Times* readers can head for your computer and bring up the California Evidence Code with the help of your favorite search engine. (Not so many years ago you would need to make a trip to the County Law Library.) Retrieve the section starting with §900, Division 8, entitled "Privileges".

After several general provisions, you will see that particular privileges are listed in the various sections:

Article 1 provides for the Privilege of a Defendant in a Criminal Case. Article 2 provides for the Privilege Against Self-Incrimination. Article 3 provides for the Lawyer-Client Privilege. Article 4 provides for the Privilege Not to Testify against a Spouse.

Article 5 provides for the Privilege for Confidential Marital Communications. Article 6 provides for the Physician-Patient privilege. Article 7 provides for the Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege. Article 8 provides for the Clergy Penitent Privileges. Article 8.5 provides for the Sexual Assault Counselor-Victim Privilege. Article 8.7 provides for the Domestic Violence Counselor-Victim Privilege. Article 8.8 provides for the Human Trafficking Caseworker-Victim Privilege.

Article 9 provides for Official Information and Identity of Informer. Article 10 makes our Political Vote essentially privileged where the voting was by secret ballot. Article 11 essentially makes Trade Secrets confidential or privileged.

Chapter 5, §1070, is somewhat similar to a privilege in providing for Immunity of Newsman from Citation for Contempt.

Among the various general provisions alluded to above are §902 that defines a "Civil Proceeding" and §903 that defines a "Criminal Proceeding". Of course, different rules may apply to different types of proceedings since different interests are at stake.

§911 is interesting in providing general provisions relating to privileges in that it provides as follows:

Except as otherwise provided by statute:

No person has a privilege to refuse to be a witness.

No person has a privilege to refuse to disclose any matter or to refuse to produce any writing, object, or other thing.

No person has a privilege that another shall not be a witness or shall not disclose any matter or shall not produce any writing, object, or other thing.

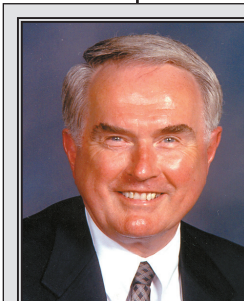
Another interesting provision is §913 entitled, Comment on Exercise of Privilege Prohibited—No Presumption or Inference. It basically states in (a) that if a privilege is or was exercised not to testify with respect to any matter, neither the presiding officer nor counsel may comment thereon, and no presumption shall arise because of the exercise of the privilege, and the trier of fact may not draw any inference therefrom as to the credibility of the witness or as to any matter at issue in the proceeding.

And §913(b) covers the situation in a jury trial that the court, at the request of a party who may be adversely affected because of an unfavorable inference that may be drawn by the jury because of a privilege has been exercised, shall instruct the jury that no presumption arises because of the exercise of the privilege and that the jury may not draw any inference therefrom as to the credibility of the witness or as to any matter at issue in the proceeding.

So, there you go, Jack. A few words from yours truly about legal privileges in a court of law. You will find as you delve deeper into this subject that privileges make sense, along with all of the exceptions and explanatory comments. I like to think that this is just another part of the best system of justice on planet earth.

Donald J. DeVries
Almaden Valley

You can reach Mr. DeVries with your questions by email at don@almadenvalleylawyers.com, with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, fax at (408)268-6502, telephone at (408)268-9500, or mail at DeVries Law Office 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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Planning Commission gives green light for homeless project

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

The controversial plan to re-designate a 6-acre site on Evans Lane in San Jose for temporary dwellings for more than 200 homeless people got a green light on May 4.

The San Jose Planning Commission voted 4-1 to support changing the property from neighborhood/community commercial to mixed-used neighborhood. The proposal is expected to go to the San Jose City Council on June 14.

While some residents believe something needs to be done address the homeless problem, others expressed fears that the site may result in more crime and result in lower property values. A few recommend using one of the more than 30 city-

owned surplus properties that are not being used.

Some homeowners believe they were not given full disclosure about the rezoning change from commercial to mixed use which most of the time results in office buildings, apartments, retail shops, etc. But when nearby homeowners were told about the homeless community they were disappointed that the homeless plan would transfer homeless into a highly populated area.

Destination Home executive Director, Jennifer Loving, explained that Silicon Valley's homelessness epidemic has traumatized communities. She says we need to "provide for those living outside all around me to have more opportunities for places for them to live," she said. "We can't end homelessness without creating more housing."

Times Feature

Rutvik Gandhasri to compete in Scripps National Spelling Bee May 22

By Sandhya Iyer
Times staff writer

Rutvik Gandhasri of San Jose will represent the Bay Area in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. on May 22.

Rutvik, a seventh grader, won 2016 CBS Bay Area Spelling Bee after competing with 49 spellers in 14 rounds that took nearly 4 hours and received a gold medal and a dictionary. Rutvik won second place last year.

The winning word? Jarabe — it's a Mexican dance.

"I feel really awesome about representing the Bay Area at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, especially after placing second last year," said Rutvik. "It makes me feel a lot better."

The winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee will receive \$30,000 in cash, \$2,500 for online study and a free online subscription to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

KCBS radio anchor Stan Bunker gave the 9 to 14-year-olds easier words at first, but they got progressively harder.

Rutvik's favorite book series is the popular *Fable Haven* by Brandon Mull. He loves to work with Lego Robotics.

Rutvik Gandhasri was born with an innate talent to spell. At five years old, he entered his first spelling bee and garnered third place. Even though that competition was informal, and simply encouraged young children to develop speaking skills, it set a trend for Rutvik's success.

From second grade onwards, the young champion participated in spelling bees



Bruno Cohen, President & General Manager at KPIX TV (left), presented a gold medal to Chaboya School student **Rutvik Gandhasri**. Also pictured is KCBS radio morning co-anchor **Stan Bunker**, who served as the official pronouncer.

organized by the North South Foundation, consistently performing with excellence.

Being selected to the Scripps bee (the ultimate honor for any speller) has been a dream for Rutvik ever since he was seven years old.

His current success has inspired his younger brother, Rishik, a fourth grader at Silver Oak Elementary, to follow in his footsteps. At only 10 years old, Rishik came in 9th place at the CBS Bee this year.

Both brothers are voracious readers and enjoy browsing through both fiction and nonfiction stories. Their mother, Usha Gandhasri, says that reading a variety of books is what helps them develop their vocabulary the most. Every week, Rutvik spends one to two hours studying words, but the time devoted to review is cranked up to four hours before competition.

To prepare for Scripps in particular, Rutvik is planning to focus more on the origins of

obscure words. His favorite word, 'omphaloskepsis,' means meditating while looking at one's own bellybutton, and is derived from Greek roots.

And while Rutvik masters new spelling techniques, he continues to be involved at Chaboya and in the community. He frequently participates in Math Olympiad competitions and helps underprivileged children gain a grasp on Lego Robotics, another thing he's extremely passionate about.

Almaden Library hosts classical guitar concert

Classical guitarist Christopher Mann will play a free concert May 21, 2-3 p.m., at the Almaden Library. The concert is sponsored by the South Bay Guitar Society.

Mann is scheduled to play "Douze Etudes pour Guitare No. 5, 7 and 9" by Heitor Villa-Lobos, "25 Etudes op. 38 No. 6, 9, 10, 15, 17, 23" by Napoleon Coste, "Study in E-Minor" by Augustin Barrios-Mangore and Fernando Sor's Op. 6, No. 11 and Op. 29, No. 1, 10 and 13.

About Christopher Mann

Christopher Mann, born 1985 in Berlin, Germany, received his first guitar instruction at age 3. At age 7, he won first place in the solo guitar competition "Jugend



Classical guitarist
Christopher Mann

Musiziert". In following years he won various local competitions in Berlin.

At age 12 he was admitted to the Julius-Stern-Institute, the program for young musicians at the University of the Arts in Berlin. 1999-2003 he continued lessons as a high school student, and also participated in solo and ensemble performances on his second instrument, cello.

After returning to Germany in 2003, he resumed studies with Professor Rennert in Berlin as well as with Professor Thomas Mueller-Pering in Weimar. While obtaining his artist diploma, Chris discovered his love for teaching.

Chris lives in the Bay area where he teaches - specifically in the Palo Alto/Mountain View area. Anyone interested in lessons can contact him at chris@chrismannguitar.com.

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Help STOP graffiti and illegal dumping

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

I am sure all of you are as frustrated as I am when you drive around our scenic district and take in the natural beauty of it, only to be disturbed by un-sightly graffiti or a sofa lying on the side of the road. We need to put an end to this blight!

To that end, on May 3rd, my colleagues unanimously approved my recommendation that we begin the Report and Reward program to deter graffiti and illegal dumping.

Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Herrera, and Councilmembers Carrasco and Perez joined me in authoring a memo that focused on ways to prevent the scourge of illegal dumping and graffiti vandalism in our neighborhoods, such as by offering rewards of up to \$1,000.00 for each tip that leads to arrests or fines against graffiti vandals and those dumping illegally within San Jose. We also want to expand the use of technology to make it as easy to report illegal dumping as it is to report graffiti and to help catch people who despoil our community.

Aside from offering rewards for those who turn in graffiti vandals and dumpers, the action we took this week authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a shared data agreement with Graffiti Protective Coatings (GPC) to make it easier for businesses and private property to easily report vandals to GPC for clean-up and to SJPD for investigative follow-up. When it comes to illegal dumping there will also be a shared data agreement that will ultimately convey reports to Code Enforcement.

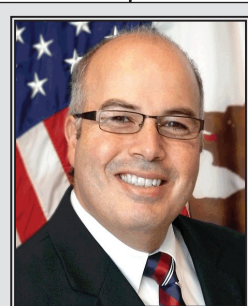
City staff will report back on progress toward the objectives spelled out in our memo in winter 2016. In the meantime, I want to

insure that all District 10 residents are aware of the tools available to us to fight this blight. The City relies on each of us to report graffiti that we see and it is easy to do so if you have a smart phone! Just search the Android or Apple

app store for the San Jose Clean app. Once you've downloaded the free app, it is extremely easy to photograph and report the graffiti, which generates a work order to get the graffiti cleaned up within 48 hours.

You will even receive a message after the clean-up is completed with a photo of the clean surface (fence, wall, tree, etc.). If you don't have a smart phone, you can instead call in the location and details about the graffiti to 1-866-249-0543 or send email the information (with photos, if you have them) to antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov.

When it comes to illegal dumping, calls are made to the City's Environmental Services Department. We are trying to bring the same efficiencies that exist in reporting graffiti to the reporting of illegal dumping, but, in the meantime, please visit this link to report any illegal dumping found in your neighborhood or anywhere else your travels may take you: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=606#graffiti>



District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

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New location for 2016 Annual Italian Family Festa

The 2016 36th Annual Italian Family Festa, sponsored by the Italian-American Heritage Cultural Foundation (IAHF) of San Jose has a new location, which is History Park San Jose, to be held on August 27-28.

This new venue for the Festa will feature a new and exciting contained area to feature all of the Festa's activities, making it a well-positioned location for the food booths, stages, Italian cultural displays, and family gatherings.

"Many factors were considered when choosing our new location at History Park," said Joe Rizzi, Festa Director. "We chose this venue for its beauty, shade and space but it was the historic buildings surrounded by cozy tree-lined streets that really sealed the deal for us," he said.

History San Jose is delighted to host the Italian Family Festa. "We look forward to having the sights, sounds and smells of

Italy right here on our main street." said Alida Bray, History San Jose President and CEO. "We see this as an opportunity to be long time partners of the Italian American Heritage Foundation and its Italian Family Festa," she said.

Mark your calendars:

Italian Family Festa will be held Saturday, August 27 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM and Sunday, August 28 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM at History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. Free admission. For more information, visit www.ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org.

About Italian Family Festa

The Italian Family Festa is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). The Festa brings to the Santa Clara Valley all things Italian. Through our food, music, crafts, bocce, grape stomp, cultural offerings and wine tasting garden we share our Italian culture and heritage.

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Pastor, Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham
408 268-0243
www.AlmadenCongregational.org
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1st Sundays in Worship: Holy Communion
2nd Sunday in Worship: Folk Choir
3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round Table Disc.
4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy" Occasions
Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM.
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men, Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery (Please see website for details and meeting times www.eastvalleychurch.com)
VBS: June 13th – 17th (5:45-8:30pm) & Sports Camp: July 18th – 22nd (9am -12:30pm) For more details or to register please visit our website
Senior Pastor – Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor - Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson
We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalley-church.com
We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

The Episcopal Church in Almaden
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.

Evergreen Valley Church
Visit our Web Site at 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 9am and High School students meet at 11am. Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en espanol, Domingo 4pm.

First Church Downtown
Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) 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, worshiping, 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
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Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty 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.

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www.ThePoint.Church
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10:30 AM English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Cambodian.
Spanish at 1:00 PM.

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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.church-santhony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

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St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com
www.stfrancisofassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel
Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium)
Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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Times **Local News**

Forum

Continued from page 1

"Every year we get new taxes and mandates on businesses," Macias says that the state government wants to remove Prop 13 property tax protections on commercial property, which will hurt small businesses that create jobs. Macias is also concerned about education. "In the nation, California is near dead last in education," he says. "If we need to have a world class workforce in the future, we need to be able to give our children a world class education."

Page served as Saratoga's city councilmember for 8 years and was mayor twice. He believes that as the eighth largest economy in the world, California is one of the greatest states in the nation, but is crying out for change. "Education needs to be reformed," he says, "We need to change the way businesses are treated." He also has environmental concerns, especially regarding water. "We passed a multi-billion dollar bond. Do we have a new infrastructure? No," he says, "There are things that have to be done."

Regarding business, Sclavos says he plans to remove bureaucratic barriers that make it difficult for businesses to create jobs. "I'll work to simplify our tax system to make California more competitive," he says. To make neighborhoods safer, he wants to repeal early prison release programs like Prop 47. "Politicians call it realignment. I call it dangerous," he says. Regarding housing, Sclavos says he plans to introduce legislation to make housing more affordable by cutting fees and regulations, rather than by forcing builders to create Section 8 housing or high density housing, and to eliminate state mandates that prevent local governments from innovating. "We need to work beyond party and caucus to restore education, bring hope for a better future and create better paying jobs here in California,"

he says. "I believe we need new ideas, new vision and an honest discussion about the complex issues facing California. We can get California back on track by helping businesses grow."

AVCA Director Bob Strain posed six questions to the panel. The first question focused on education: On average, California public K-12 schools are not performing well, compared to other U.S. school systems. What must the state of California change to address the root causes of school dysfunction?

All of the candidates agree that reforms are needed in education, including teacher tenure and investing more in charter schools and vocational training. "I think we need to fundamentally reform how we do teacher tenure in this state," says Macias. "In the private sector, I cannot use the excuse that I worked 'x' number of years if I screw up on my job; I would be disciplined or terminated. If you are performing your job poorly, you need to be held accountable. It's very important because it directly affects our children and our children's futures." Macias also says he would create scholarships for students to attend private schools and do away with Common Core and other state-wide mandates on education.

In addition to more vocational education and school of choice, Sclavos wants to improve teacher evaluations, make schools better and safer, and fight for better pay for the best teachers. Page believes that a focus is needed on inner city students from a very early age to help them and their parents understand that education is the path to success. Beall says that reducing classroom size, making housing affordable for teachers and providing mental health and special education programs for kids is essential. He would like to see less teaching to the test and feels that the two-year cycle of tenure evaluation is too short and should be three years.

The second question focused on infrastructure: Most surveys place California as second only to New York in terms of total tax burden, but our infrastructure is becoming second rate. What can you do to make this situation better as a legislator?

When he joined the city council, Page says Saratoga's streets and roads were in terrible condition, so the first thing he did was increase the budget in that area. Beall, chairman of the Senate's Committee on Transportation, says he introduced a bill to finance transportation maintenance and transit needs in California. "We have a proposal that would give local cities, counties and state highways funds to repair their roads," Beall says.

Macias noted that he was aware of a plan going through the state legislature that replaced the gas tax with a mileage tax. "It's very expensive to live here and a lot of people commute to work," he says, "I think it's very punitive to people working and trying to feed their families, to tax them by the miles they drive." Macias believes the government should rethink what it's spending on high-speed rail rather than raising taxes on vehicles. Sclavos agrees that the bullet train isn't worth its expense. "It's not going to be built on time and the cost is going to be way more than what they said: \$68 billion more," he says. "The same amount we need to fix and upgrade all of our roads and bridges."

The third question focused on water: Statewide, there are competing needs for water, from salmon to agriculture, to industry, to lawns. How can the state manage this conflict in a way that will preserve the growth and prosperity of Silicon Valley?

"Our water infrastructure hasn't been improved in half a century," says Sclavos. "The rain has washed the issue out of the news, but it's not washed away the drought, or the failings of our water system. Water feeds California farms, which feed the world, and are the cornerstone of our economy. We need to invest in infrastructure and better operations." Page agrees. "It's about prioritization," he says. "Where does water and life come in on your budget? I think it's pretty important."

Beall noted that in 2014, the state legislature passed a \$7 billion water bond proposal focused on conservation, recycling, repairing facilities and setting aside funds for future storage. "We should repair what we have," says Beall. "Lake Anderson's dam is seismically unsound; rebuilding it will cost hundreds of millions of dollars." Macias is concerned that water's being diverted from the Central Valley to the ocean to save the delta smelt. "We need to be getting water to feed our farms," he says. "Groceries are more expensive when farmers don't get the water they

need."

The fourth question focused on homelessness: There is a very high correlation of chronic homelessness with mental illness, but California has eliminated state-run residential care for the mentally ill. What would you do to help communities cope with the mentally ill, particularly those living on the streets?

"If we don't spend money on early prevention, we'll end up spending more money on health care, homeless, social services, police and incarceration costs," says Beall, chairman of the Senate's Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. "We now spend \$70,000 per inmate in state prison and more than half are mentally ill or with substance abuse problems." Beall says he introduced dozens of bills fighting for improved treatment, prevention and stronger mental health programs in the schools. "We have a 'No Place like Home' initiative for the homeless and a \$3 billion proposal for housing," he says.

Macias is in favor of public-private partnerships to fund more homeless shelters and job training programs. He also considers investing in special education to be very important. Sclavos believes that 'Nanny flats' could solve some of the affordable housing problems, allowing the elderly to live with and be cared for by their children, while maintaining some independence and dignity. Page recommends applying Laura's Law—court ordered assisted outpatient treatment for people with a serious mental illness—universally to get them off the streets and the treatment they need to get back on their feet.

The fifth question focused on retiree benefits: California's major retirement programs CALPERS and CALSTRS have large and growing unfunded liabilities, in spite of some reasonable investment returns in 2013 and 2014. For the most part, retiree healthcare has not been prefunded to cut costs. Many economists believe that these burdens, if unmanaged, could affect the ability of California to remain solvent. How would you, as a legislator, address this long-term problem?

Regarding pension reform, Macias says he would learn from what was done in San Jose and use it as a model statewide. "Some employees make six-figure salaries, work until they're 50 years old and retire with 90 percent of their salary," he says. "I don't know where you can do that in the private sector. I think that's a little excessive to be doing on the tax payer's dime." Sclavos says we need reform and a system we can afford. "Our budget should prioritize core services like public safety," he says, "and work on a compromise that keeps our police force strong and our budget intact." Page is in favor of

Continued on next page



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Times Local News

paying off our debts and not doing long-term things with a short-term gain. Beall says he supports Governor Brown in reducing debt through pension reform.

The sixth question focused on a multitude of issues: California fails from high taxation, crumbling infrastructure and poor performing public schools to the high cost of college, overcrowding prisons and a lack of housing. What needs to be done to address this list of problems?

"We've been failed by the two-party system," says Page. "Partisanship has polarized our communities and the legislature. We need people to work together to solve problems to get things done in the state of California." Beall believes a balanced budget, economic development plans, early prevention strategies and long-term visions will reduce costs and make a healthier state.

Macias says realignment doesn't address the problem of overcrowding in prisons, but merely shifts the populations from state prisons to county jails. "What we really need is true criminal justice reform," he says. "We need to rethink mandatory minimum sentencing, the War on Drugs, things that cause us to put people in prison and throw away the key for minor offenses. We need to put that money into schools instead." Macias would also reinstate a program which guaranteed admission to San Jose State University for all San Jose high school graduates who met their admission requirements. Sclavos is against new taxes. "We need to give people a break and attract jobs, not chase them away," he says. "I want to make sure we're funding services that make real differences in people's lives."

The audience posed questions to the candidates as well.

Fracking was the focus of the first question.

"The process of fracking does provide us with energy resources and help us move towards energy independence," says Macias. "However, there are concerns with the way it's being carried out; that there aren't enough regulations to make sure it's done safely. We need to have the right amount of regulations to avoid ground water contamination and polluting our environment, while taking advantage of these very valuable resources." Sclavos agrees but believes that being independent of foreign oil is important. Page and Beall both expressed concerns with fracking possibly causing negative long-term effects and believe more scientific research needs to be done. Beall says he voted for a moratorium on fracking until the results of groundwater impact and seismic studies are known. Transporting fracked oil, which is flammable is also an issue, he says.

Another question focused on the candidate's opinions of Laura's Law.

"There are people who have been diagnosed with mental illness," says Page, "who got hold of a gun and shot up a school. It would have been nice if that kid's mom couldn't handle him, he would've been able to come in and get some treatment." Beall, who has a stepson with schizophrenia, says he would like to see Laura's

Law supplemented. "My wife and I feel as parents that Laura's Law is a good law," he says. "But, there has to be better involvement of the family; if a law is broken, local family and loved ones should be notified. Right now, there are a lot of restrictions and you can't be notified. It's been proven that if you can have a connection with someone who loves you, your health will improve."

Macias would like to extend Laura's Law to drug and alcohol addicts, putting them in treatment programs instead of prisons. "We should do anything we can do to assist families care for their loved ones," says Sclavos, "from Laura's Law to credits for caregivers, because people suffer."

The candidates were also asked for their opinions on Proposition 47, the ballot initiative which reduces some drug possession felonies to misdemeanors. It also requires misdemeanor sentencing for petty theft, receiving stolen property and writing bad checks when the amount involved is \$950 or less.

Beall says that although Prop 47 reduced the state's prison population by 10,000, it has problems and should be changed. He favors mental health and substance abuse treatment for all who need it. "I think we're way underfunded for that," says Beall. Sclavos says he believes that Prop 47 reduces felonies for far too many crimes including stealing a gun, which leads to other crimes. "We need to get repeat criminals off our streets," he says.

Wrapping up the evening, the candidates restated their positions and their differences.

"I know Senator Beall supported Prop 30, which raised your income taxes," says Macias. "I oppose that." Macias says that while Beall doesn't support extensive reforms in teacher tenure, lower taxes and less spending, he does. "He's voted for every anti-Second Amendment bill," says Macias. "I would've voted against every single one of them." Page says he has some fundamental differences from Beall. "I don't believe that the answer to every problem in the state of California is the 40 million Californians," he says. Beall says that he spends an incredible amount of time listening to people. "My values are towards prevention and strategic thinking as a way to save money and achieve a goal," he says. "Whether water, roads, healthcare or education, we have to focus on early intervention. Applying money towards education is the best investment we can make."

Sclavos focused on change. "My generation will be the first to see fewer opportunities and a lower quality of life than our parents," he says. "Our healthcare, housing and education costs continue to rise. We need new leaders with fresh ideas to create opportunities for a better future. We need tough leaders who can stand up to special interests. We need optimistic leaders who will protect our liberty, rebuild California's fumbling schools, stumbling economy and crumbling infrastructure. I have the energy, ideas and commitment to fight for a better future."

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The package arrives in a reusable canvas tote bag with a commemorative 60th Anniversary ranger cap and other assorted gifts. A complete list and pictures of items are available at www.parkhere.org.

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To purchase the 60th Anniversary package call the County Parks office at 408.355.2201.



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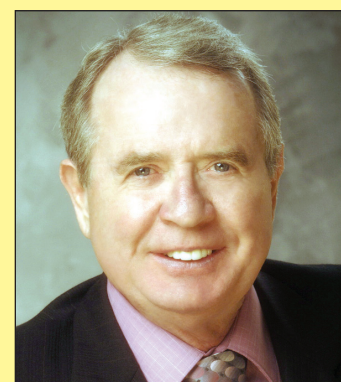
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